

## **Moscow to Beijing**

By Elly Clarke

As a conference participant, I am interested in the reasons behind people's use of the Trans Siberian train. Whether it is for holding a conference, novelty tourism, the transporting of people and goods for capital gain, or for maintaining long distance relationships.

*Moscow to Beijing* will map out different onward journeys beyond the confines of the carriages through photos and text, conversation and video. There are two components to this project. The first, *Trans Siberian Photo Project* is a series of photographs taken by passengers. The second, *Comments from the Carriage* is a videotape of my efforts to communicate and explain my project and the conference to potential participants.

In the *Trans Siberian Photo Project* travellers are given disposable cameras to record their journeys by taking one photograph a day from moment we meet until they reach their final destination. Each day I will invite one passenger to participate. I will ask them to take photos that represent their journey/experience of travel. In addition they will be required to give titles to their pictures. The subject matter of the photographs is deliberately left open in order to articulate the differences in people's interpretations of the project. From their final destination project participants will mail the camera and form back to me in a pre-paid self-addressed envelope. After processing the photographs an entire set will be sent to every participant.

In the context of a conference taking place on a train, I am interested in creating a bridge between the delegates of *Capturing the Moving Mind* and the passengers. The video *Comments from the Carriage* will document the process of my interactions with travellers. This will be facilitated through the use of cue cards written in whatever language is appropriate. In addition phrase books and maps will act to further the communication. The cue cards will ask questions such as: where the passenger is travelling from and to, for what reasons and whether they have goods to sell. I will also incorporate some discussion about the conference in order to bring the rail user's thoughts and opinions into the conference context.