

## gTKP Rural Transport Rural Roads and Accessibility- Case Study No. 5

### COMMUNITY ROAD INITIATIVE, VIETNAM

*Source: Vietnam News 11 October 2004.*

#### RESIDENTS SELF-FUND PROPER ACCESS ROAD

PHU YEN PROVINCE, Central Vietnam – Nguyen Thi Do, a 76 year old resident of An Ninh Dong commune's Bai Bang village, still can't believe her eyes when she walks down the new concrete road between the town's fields.

Only a month ago, Bai Bang residents in south Phu Yen province were forced to use a bumpy footpath – dusty in the dry season and muddy during the rainy season. Now Do's grandchildren can attend school even on rainy days. The new concrete road, which is 500 metres long and 4 metres wide, stretches all the way through the village.

Bai Hai is one of four villages in An Ninh Dong and An Ninh Tay communes to pay for their own construction of roads. The total project cost VND60million (US\$4,000), so each household contributed VND600,000 (US\$40) and some of their working days.

Nguyen Van Tap, the village head, said previously the poor road affected the villagers' daily living and hindered economic development, so local officials surveyed residents to determine if they were willing to help fund a new road.

Even though many villagers had financial difficulties, most agreed with the plan, said Tap, adding Bai Bang residents had learned of their neighbours' successful road project in An Ninh Tay Commune.

A management committee was established to complete the necessary procedures for construction and to monitor the progress. "I was amazed to receive the proposal from Bai Bang residents to build a road with their own money," said Nguyen Kim Long, An Ninh Dong People's Committee chairman. Long's staff supported the local resident's plan.

"Though the provincial budget covers expenditures for the district-commune level transport system, we have no financial resources for inner village roads," said Le Ba Cong, An Ninh Tay Commune People's Committee Chairman. "It is up to the residents to make improvements,"

Phu Hanh Village residents in An Ninh Tay Commune also volunteered to improve their local transport system. Nguyen Duc Tinh, the village head, said very poor households did not have to contribute money. They still donated working days and the prosperous families contributed more money.

Under the village's plan, residents can keep an eye on their investment and watch the work progress. Now, public construction is completed on deadline, and there has been no corruption.



#### Key Data:

**Length of Road: 500metres**

**Surface Type: Concrete**

**Surface width: 4 metres**

**Cost per Km (construction): US\$8,000**

**Community involvement: capital and labour**