

Governance Workshop

Held at Wallenberg Research Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

On Thursday, 14th October 2010.

Introduction

Immediately following the IRF/SARF conference in Cape Town in mid-October (where the governance theme champion presented a paper on how governance could be measured, a copy of which will soon be available on the gTKP governance website), gTKP held a governance workshop in the nearby historic town of Stellenbosch, facilitated by the governance theme champion, together with Dr Malcolm Mitchell from SARF.

The objectives of this workshop were:

- To raise awareness and understanding of how poor governance impacts on the delivery of road services to users.
- To discuss how the governance capacity could be assessed in the sector, in an objective and meaningful way.
- To obtain feedback and ideas on how the methodology could be improved.
- To assess whether this initiative is worthwhile and what should be the next steps in the process.

A total of 19 delegates attended, with one or more representatives from the following organisations:

- Department of Transport & Public Works, Western Cape
- Namibian Roads Authority
- Ghana Road Fund
- Development Bank of Southern Africa
- CSIR, South Africa
- South African Local Government Association
- Private Consultants
- South African Road Federation
- Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport
- TanT² Centre, Tanzania.

Conclusions to Discussions

There was a good level of discussion and interaction between those attending, on the governance issues raised and the level of support for the objectives of the workshop was encouragingly high. However, there was also recognition of the challenges that such an initiative faces and the need to test the approach widely.

Much of the discussions centred around the key areas of road transport considered to be important in deriving any overall indicator. The general conclusion was that these needed to include the following areas:

- Public Sector Institutions;
- Funding & Financing;
- Legislation & Policy;
- National Road Management;

- Local/Rural Road Management;
- Urban Transport Management;
- Private Sector Suppliers;
- Road Safety;
- Road Users & the General Public.

Other conclusions from the discussions were:

1. That measures for corruption are very important and that any indices developed should highlight progress against this scourge in the sector.
2. That the questions posed should not just have all-or-nothing, yes/no response options but graded options from 1 (being wholly inadequate or none existing) through to 5 (being excellent).
3. That it was also considered to be very important that the indices reflected the adequacy of leadership in the sector. This aspect will need to be included in many of the key areas shown above.
4. That all the questions should have the same weighting. Attempting to make some questions carry more importance than others was viewed as introducing too much subjectivity into the already significant challenge of ensuring objectivity.
5. That effective communications are important and should be reflected in the indices.

What Happens Next?

All the presentations / notes from the governance workshop will shortly be available via the gTKP Governance website. Discussions have already been held with SSATP on this initiative and related governance matters and the governance theme champion will continue to develop draft indicators in each of the key areas identified above, which will be posted on the website for feedback and comment from users.

Users are encouraged to consider the issues raised by the workshop and to contact the governance theme champion with any ideas on how this initiative could be developed further, or if they would like to assist in any way with this initiative.