

Research and Development



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SEACAP 21

The use of bio-engineering has been introduced successfully in many situations similar to the rural hill roads of Lao PDR. Particular success has come from its applications to low traffic, low cost hill roads in Nepal. Research in Vietnam² has also demonstrated significant potential

SEACAP 21 will aim to identify cost-effective approaches for stabilising up-slopes and down-slopes through low-cost and local resource based improvement techniques, so as to improve and extend all year access to remote rural areas in Lao PDR.

The Project will explore the use of techniques to stabilise cut and embankment slopes in problematic areas along the road with the objective of reducing the cost of maintenance. These alternatives will be tested by way of trials along Route No. 7 and Route 13N.

The Project will disseminate the results of the slope stabilisation trials within government organisations and national practitioners.

This is expected to contribute to the mainstreaming of the technology into government standards and specifications.

The slope stabilisation trials are to be conducted along the National Road No.13N (Kasi-PhouKhoung-Luang Prabang) and National Road No.7 (PhouKhoung-Luang Prabang/Xieng Khouang border). The exact locations for the trial will be determined by the Consultant and DoR.

The civil works associated with the conduct of slope stabilisation trials will be funded by the Government of Lao PDR through the WB Credit for Road Maintenance Program 2 (RMP2).



For further information on SEACAP 21 please contact Somnuk Mektakul, Deputy Director Local Road Division at somnuk@laopdr.com

DISTRIBUTION

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SEACAP 17

Construction work on SEACAP 17 commenced in Bokeo province on the 15th January 2006.

The contract was signed on the 27th December 2005 between MCTPC and Guang Dong No.3 Water Conservancy and Hydro Electric Engineering Board. The project will improve 28.8km of access roads in Huay Xai district including 4.5km of trial pavements.

The contractor is now mobilising and the pavement trials will commence shortly.

Information on the trials will be published in future issues of the newsletter.

For further information on SEACAP 17 please contact Mike James at roughon@laotel.com

Visit by Mr Peter O'Neill

In early December, Mr Peter O'Neill, Deputy Head of Central Research Department for DfID, visited Lao PDR.

During his stay, Mr O'Neill visited the sites for the SEACAP 21 trials and held meetings with Sommad Polsena, Vice Minister, and senior officials of DoR.

The discussions focussed on the key issues where DfID can support MCTPC including:

- * Lao Road standards based on the TRL Overseas Road Notes
- * Research into the effects of heavy axle loads on the road network
- * Development of a research institute in Lao PDR
- * Cooperation with other donors

Mr O'Neill advised that SEACAP has a 2 level approach to regional cooperation including a



SEACAP Practitioners workshop to be held shortly in Cambodia.

He also expressed interest in regional meetings at Director General level to exchange information and experience on the SEACAP programme in each country.

For further information on the SEACAP programme please contact Ms Le Minh Nguyet at seacap@crownagents.com.vn

Rural Transport Infrastructure Policy

The study is aimed at providing guidance for the development and management of rural transport infrastructure effectively and efficiently in a sustainable manner, with a harmonised approach. The main policy issues related to the provision and management of transport infrastructure that enhances access to rural areas will be addressed.

The first RTIP Workshop, chaired by Sommad Pholsena, Vice Minister MCTPC, was held in the MCTPC Conference Room in Vientiane on 12 and 13 January 2006.

For further information on RTIP please contact Martin Kerridge, Lane Xang International at martin@lanexang.co.uk

The workshop had two main objectives:

- * Discussion of the Fact-Finding and Issues Report
- * The need to decide the programme for the policy development phase of the study which should be completed by March 2006.

The ideas taken forward from the workshop will be developed into draft policy statements that

can be considered by the Working Group and the Government Committee after the Consultant has departed.

Another workshop will be held in March to discuss these proposals.



REGIONAL RESEARCH

SEACAP 15 (Vietnam)

The main research objective of SEACAP 15 study was to provide a deeper understanding on issues related to contribution and community participation in rural transport.

A consulting team from Mekong Economics Ltd. was commissioned to conduct this study.

Field research was carried out in Loan My and Hoa Hiep communes in Vinh Long province, and Tat Thang and



Vinh Tien communes in Phu Tho province. The study found the following:

- * local people are willing to pay for rural transport and welcome road projects and the manifold benefits rural roads bring.
- * There is a substantial group of poor households that are either unable to pay off their outstanding debts after completion of a village road project or unable to provide cash for the rehabilitation of 2-wheel village roads.
- * With respect to the construction of motorable roads, a small number of project affected households experienced a negative effect on their livelihoods due to loss of property without compensation
- * Community participation is limited in government-funded motorable rural road projects. There are simply no

participation mechanisms. Local people "participate" in the sense that they work as paid labourers these projects. Local people would like to see their role in motorable road projects increased. They want to be particularly involved in the design and supervision stages of the construction of these roads.

- * In contrast to (RT2-funded) motorable roads, there is active participation by local people in the rehabilitation of 2-wheel village roads. But not all people participate equally
- * In both provinces, maintenance of 2-wheel village roads is carried out voluntarily by local people. Each household is allocated a section of the road. In case of poor maintenance, the commune will sanction those responsible by halting any service delivery to them.

For further information on the research projects feature on this page, please contact Mike James Team leader SEACAP 17 (rougton@laotel.com)

SEACAP 11 (Vietnam)

SEACAP 11 is a DFID funded National Training Programme on Rural Road Management which supports the Rural Transport Project No. 2 (RT2) through training and facilitation activities in 43 out of 64 provinces of Vietnam.

SEACAP 11 is aimed at:

Improving the capacity of local authorities in RT2 provinces to manage and maintain their rural road network.

Supporting RT2 provinces to put in place suitable systems to manage and maintain their rural road network.

SEACAP 11 beneficiaries are rural transport staff, commune leaders and local people in 6000 communes, 357 districts and in 43 provinces in Vietnam.

The main activities of SEACAP 11 are:

- ❶ To develop and implement demand-led training program for rural transport leader staff in districts and communes.
- ❷ To develop and implement a series of TOT training workshops for 100 trainers at provincial level and 720 trainers at district level who are capable of conducting and managing the demand-led training courses.
- ❸ To monitor and evaluate the progress of the training programmes.
- ❹ To conduct

handover training and experience sharing activities.

The Project started in November 2004 and will finish in April 2006.

For further information on SEACAP 11 visit their web site www.vietnamtraining.net



DfID Transport Links Web Site



The DfID Transport Links web site presents information about transport-related matters arising out of the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) programme of aid to developing countries.

Its purpose is to give information about DFID's research programme in the transport sector, make publications available online and provide a link to organisations working in similar and related fields.

The aim of the web site is to encourage contact among engineers and development professionals throughout the world, in order to improve the effectiveness of transport research and dissemination

The web site includes news articles and details of upcoming events, including seminars workshops, meetings and training courses relating to the transport sector.

The research page of the site provides information on the Knowledge and Research (KaR) programme, detailing the KaR themes and projects as well as other non-KaR projects

The Publications page offers a wide range of publications available for download in PDF format. This section contains publications relating to transport in the developing world. At present it contains publications produced mostly by or through the Transport Research Laboratory arising out of research supported by the DFID. The list is being expanded to incorporate publications on transport from any source.

The web site also provides links to other sites relating to transport issues and has the facility to submit technical enquiries.

More details can be found on the transport links web site at www.transport-links.org

USEFUL WEB SITES

GOVERNMENT

DfID: Department for International Development (UK)
www.dfid.gov.uk

DfID Transport Links
www.transport-links.org

SEACAP

South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP) web page on www.mt.gov.vn

Roughton International
www.roughton.com

RESEARCH

Global Transport Knowledge Partnership
www.gtkp.org

ID21: Development Research organisation sponsored by DfID.
ID21.org

INSTITUTIONS

World Road Association (PIARC)
www.piarc.org

Institution of Civil Engineers UK (ICE) www.ice.org.uk

Innovation and Research Focus Magazine (published by ICE)

innovationandresearchfocus.org

ABOUT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Research and Development is a newsletter developed under the SEACAP 17 project and will be issued quarterly. The purpose of the newsletter is to disseminate information about ongoing and future research relating to the road network. This will include projects in Lao PDR, the SE Asia region and worldwide. The articles will be both informative and designed to stimulate discussion on topics relevant to rural transport issues in Lao PDR.

The publishers of the newsletter welcome any comments, feedback and contributions to the newsletter. Also let us know if you want to receive regular copies of the newsletter.

Email us at somnuk@laopdr.com or roughton@laotel.com