

Research and Development



LAO PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
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SEACAP 17

SEACAP is a DFID (UK) funded rural transport research, dissemination and uptake programme with the objective of supporting low cost, sustainable solutions for rural access. The SEACAP 17 Project will aim to identify cost-effective community orientated approaches for improving all year access to remote rural areas through a low-cost and local resource based improvement of roads in Lao PDR.

Recent research in Cambodia, Vietnam and worldwide has demonstrated that other local-resource based low-cost durable surfacing is appropriate in some circumstances. These include handpicked stone, cobbles or dressed stone where such materials are readily available.

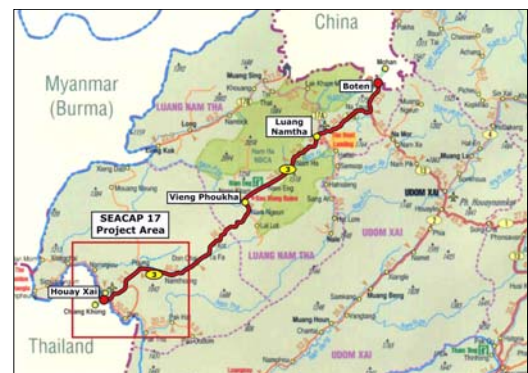
Roughton International in association with LTEC have been appointed by DfID to carry out the research and supervise the construction. The trials will be conducted as part of the NEC project on the access roads in Houay Xai district. Construction is expected to commence later this year.

Trials will be conducted on different pavement types, which were presented at the Knowledge Exchange Workshop held at MCTPC in December 2004. From the options presented at the workshop pavements have been selected to provide a suitable range of alternatives that could be tested under local conditions. In general the pavement options maximise the use of local materials, in particular cement produced in Lao PDR. Two options utilise imported materials, however these options have great potential which justifies their inclusion in the trials.

The outcome of the trials will be added to the regional knowledge base of appropriate technology in the region.



Access Road in the Rain Season



For further information on SEACAP 17 please contact Somnuk Mektakul, Deputy Director Local Road Division at somnuk@laopdr.com or Mike James, SEACAP 17 Team Leader at roughton@laotel.com

DISTRIBUTION

Research and Development will be distributed in electronic and printed versions within MCTPC and the DCTPC offices. If you wish to be included in the distribution list, please contact Mike James on roughton@laotel.com, giving your name position and contact details.

LSRSP3

The LSRSP3 Basic Access Component commenced in October 2005. The objective is improved and sustained basic access within the poorest districts in the project provinces.

Capacity in basic access management will be developed to improve cooperation with relevant sectors involved in rural development as well as working in a participatory manner with the rural population, taking into consideration cross-cutting issues, such as gender, HIV/Aids aspects and other social and environmental issues. Apart from internal training in systems and tools developed, a course to educate Rural Engineers will be established within the local university.

1000 km of basic access will be constructed over the project period. In addition upgrading of



parts of roads, minor structures, etc will get a high priority in the CRM-process, leading to substantial improvements in terms of accessibility for a large number of people.

CRM will be fully implemented in twenty-six selected poor districts in northern Lao PDR. The project will provide funds and technical assistance for construction of prioritised basic access projects through cost-sharing with the Provincial government and the

For further information on LSRSP3 please contact Somnuk Mektakul, Deputy Director Local Road Division (somnuk@laopdr.com)

The SEACAP Coordination Committee

The SEACAP Steering Committee was formed under the Ministerial decree ref. 6651/MCTPC dated 4th July 2005.

The composition of the committee is as follows:

- Chairman: Somnuk Mektakul, Deputy Director LRD
- Member: Dr Maisy Viengvilay, Head of Research and Development Committee
- Member: Oudon Phitsalath, Deputy Head of Road Office, DCTPC Bokeo

The objectives of the committee are to:

1. Follow up the construction of the SEACAP access roads, compile lessons learnt and construction methods and coordinate with concerned parties to accomplish the task
2. Promote the exchange and transfer of knowledge
3. Promote and facilitate the mainstreaming of best practices in rural road engineering
4. Provide a national platform of knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practice and research outputs
5. Act as focal point for research

New SEACAP Projects for Lao PDR

Following the inception of SEACAP 17, the Department for International Development (DfID) have announced two further SEACAP projects for Lao PDR.

SEACAP 21 will investigate the use of community based methods of improving all year round access through low cost local resource based techniques to reduce/eliminate land slips. This will include the use of bio engineering techniques which have been successfully used in the region. The trials are expected to take place on the national road network in the northern provinces.

SEACAP 22 is a time and distance study to be carried out in Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia. The work is primarily aimed at improving the quality of statistics used by various international development initiatives. The purpose is to

improve the quality of data collected through household surveys as they relate to time and distance travelled.



For further information on SEACAP projects please contact Somnuk Mektakul, Deputy Director Local Road Division (somnuk@laopdr.com) or Mike James, SEACAP 17 Team Leader (roughton@laotel.com)

Rural Road Gravel Assessment Programme Vietnam

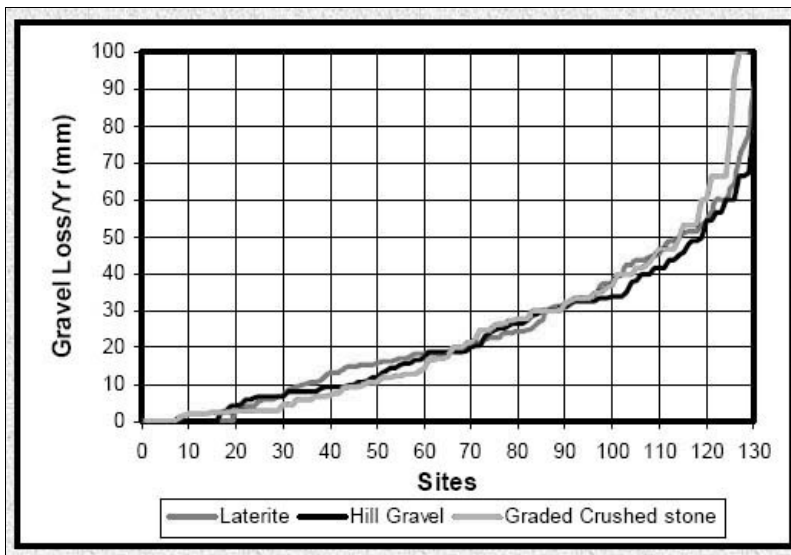
DFID and World Bank are funding the Ministry of Transport (MoT) Second Rural Transport Project (RT2) in Vietnam that is providing basic access roads for communities in 40 provinces of Vietnam (2001 – 2005). Gravel has been the surface usually provided for the project roads. Because of increasing recognition

that gravel surfacing is not always the best solution for rural roads in all circumstances in Vietnam, the Government of Vietnam, MoT requested studies of alternative surfacings for Rural (District and Commune) Roads in Vietnam under the World Bank and DFID RT2 support.

The Rural Road Gravel Assessment Programme (RRGAP) investigations carried out by Intech Associates and TRL at 766 road sites, found serious constraints to the use of gravel in most of the studied 16 programme provinces due to factors relating to material quality, material availability, climate, terrain, drainage provision and maintenance. Overall gravel loss figures indicate that around 58% of the surveyed sites are suffering unsustainable deterioration, while 28% are losing material at twice the sustainable rate.

Application of the RRGAP recommended guidelines will substantially reduce the future use of gravel rural road surfacing in Vietnam, in favour of increased use of other surface types.

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



Road Safety Research in Cambodia

At the recent SEACAP workshop in Phnom Penh, Handicap International gave a presentation on their research into road safety in Cambodia.

Their research has produced some very depressing statistics that show the issues facing Cambodia, but are also relevant to Lao PDR, which also has rapidly increasing traffic volumes on the urban and rural roads.

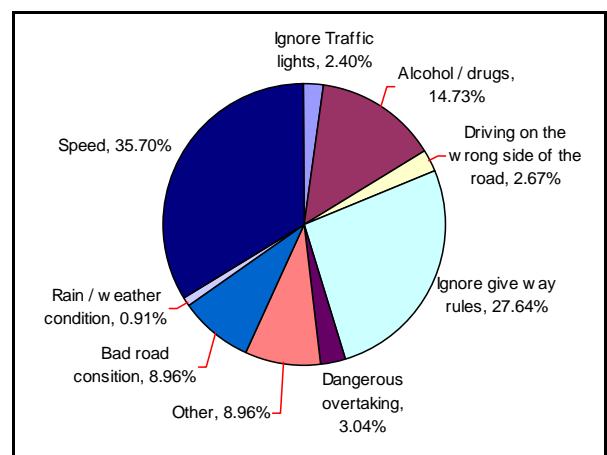
In Cambodia the number of vehicles in use increases by more than 10% every year. However over the last three years, the number of deaths on the roads has doubled.

One of the main reasons for the increase in accidents is the

improved quality of the roads which encourages people to drive at higher speeds. Every day, 3 people die and more than 100 are injured on the roads. The annual cost to the country is estimated at US\$130 million (source ADB).

48% of casualties are people aged between 15 and 24 years; and 76% of casualties are motorcycle riders. As can be seen from the chart, human error is responsible for about 90% of casualties and the accident injuries are largely preventable.

To overcome this problem, the government of Cambodia is implementing a 15 point action plan, incorporating, data collection, education, enforcement and road design improvements.



source:RTAVIS Annual Report 2004, Phnom Penh only

Global Transport Knowledge Partnership



What is gTKP?

'Making more effective use of available knowledge, with greater participation in the management and application of knowledge'

The global Transport Knowledge Partnership is an initiative to promote and disseminate sustainable transport knowledge, whilst encouraging greater participation from the developing world. The primary objectives of the global Transport Knowledge Partnership are to:

- To make more efficient and effective use of available poor transport knowledge through improved knowledge management and transfer, networking and peer-to-peer support.
- To develop the community and to 'deepen' and 'widen' knowledge and networking in

response to developing and transition countries requirements.

- To deliver this through an independent organisational and governance structure, enabling a diverse but self-sustaining funding programme to be realised within 2 years.

There are four overarching themes to underline the gTKP initiative.

- ⇒ Transport and health
- ⇒ Transport and exclusion
- ⇒ Demand management
- ⇒ Employment and income opportunities

In addition, there will be a cross-cutting emphasis on roads (safety & maintenance).

The SEACAP projects in Lao PDR will use gTKP to disseminate information on the research activities and to access data on other research projects relevant to Lao PDR.

More details can be found on the gTKP website at www.gtkp.org

USEFUL WEB SITES

GOVERNMENT
Department for International Development
www.dfid.gov.uk

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

Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA)
www.ciria.org.uk

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.uk

International Forum for Rural Transport and Development
www.ifrtd.gn.apc.org

ABOUT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FOCUS

Research and Development is a new newsletter developed by Roughton International 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.

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