

Asian Development Bank

INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Technical Assistance - 4697



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Introduction

This is the third Information Newsletter to all members of the PWDs in NE India.

SMEC (www.smec.com.au) is an Australian engineering consultancy working directly for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the NE States. The primary aim of the consultancy is to commence fundamental institutional in each State at the base level by:

- (i) creating awareness of road assets and road asset conditions in the State's road network;
- (ii) standardising priorities in budgeting the annual maintenance/rehabilitation program;
- (iii) simplifying routine reporting to management in both asset management and project management
- (iv) setting standard checklists for data collection, planning, contracting and project management.
- (v) providing supportive software for above actions

The initial work incorporating all above is being trialled in a select 'pilot' area, Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya State and later promoted to all other NE States by central and local 'practical' workshops. An essential part of the consultancy is to prepare select Engineers in 'Train the Trainer' principles to ensure sustainability of the initial development gains and in preparation for future enhanced corporate goals.

Consultancy Program

SMEC commenced work in July 2006. The consultancy involves a staged input of total eleven man months from Foreign Specialists, and eighteen man months from Local Specialists. It is estimated that the project requirements will be operational during March/April 2007 and finalised in May 2007. The foreign and local team comprises Paul Robinson (Team Leader, Asset Management); Peter Hassett (Road Construction, Project Management); Ian Cossens (Maintenance, Training), Srinivas Rao Nayani (IT); Ramesh Anand (Training); A.K.Shukla (Highways, Bridges).

A well-attended and strongly participated workshop was held in November 2006 with approximately 40 persons from all NE States, ADB, NEC and SMEC in attendance.

This workshop was over five days and discussion/feedback from the participants has enabled the Consultant a greater appreciation of each State's requirements.

Meghalaya Pilot Progress

Asset Management System

Site collection of road, bridge and culvert details including the physical condition of each of these assets has been completed on all PWD roads in the pilot Meghalayan district of Ri Bhoi and is currently being prepared for electronic entry into the new Asset Management (AM) software.



Culvert Detailing and Inspection, Umsning, Meghalaya

When operational, the PWD will have a valuable database not only to list and report the physical attributes of their roads, but also to provide a simple analysis tool to prioritise projects for future annual periodic maintenance and rehabilitation programs

Project Management System

Similarly, details of current projects in the pilot area are being collected for entry into the Project Management System. Once loaded, the Executive Engineer will have a simple reporting mechanism to PWD management on the physical/financial status on all or individual funding agency projects.

Each project will have an individual file which will be the 'source' library for that project. External information relating to the project will be either linked or referenced in this file for easy search discovery.

Circulation: Please circulate this Newsletter to all staff interested in Asset Management and Project Management.



Draft Frontpage of Project Management System

To avoid copious 'double handling' of information, base information will be keyed into the PM system database at the start of the project, with only simple physical/financial detail entered on a monthly basis. Because each of the funding agencies has stringent individual reporting requirements, no attempt at this stage will be made to have each agency conform to a single format. These reports will continue to be forwarded to the agency as usual, however copies will be electronically 'hyperlinked' to the individual file in the PM system.

Ideally, all letters, reports, approvals on each project will be electronically linked to the PM System and detail retrieved by the 'click' of a designated button

Consultant Training

It is currently scheduled that training in the AM and PM software and support data collection requirements will commence in the 'pilot' area during March 2007. Mindful of the limitations for external involvement of staff during the 'end of financial year' reconciliations, the further introduction infrastructure training in select States is tentatively proposed mid April 2007 to mid May 2007.

The training is scheduled over three days and will not only introduce the Asset Management and Project Management software packages, but will attempt to strengthen basic road asset maintenance/rehabilitation practices. Select trainers will then be tasked to furthering the technical assistance in each State for the ongoing establishment/maintenance of the software packages.

International Study Tour

Names of key staff from each state have been forwarded for sanction to MDONER to attend a two week study tour to Australia during May/July 2007. The tour will visit several State Government Organisations to witness and participate in modern road management systems and research. Full details of the tour will be publicised shortly.

Second Sectoral Summit (NEC) - Road Sector Review

The above high powered meeting, chaired by the Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Hon. Minister of Development of North Eastern Region, introduced

many important policies for the betterment of the NE Region. A serious concern of the meeting, however, was the NE States' capacity to program a possible 16 times increase in funding to the roads sector over the next 5 years

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Project Specialist Transport and Communications, Hideaki Iwasaki and SMEC Team Leader, Paul Robinson, presented the status of the current project to the meeting, explaining it as a forerunner to more detailed Infrastructure Development of State PWD's. Both presenters were well received, with delegates from Mizoram and Sikkim further adding to some positive outcomes from the consultancy. ADB has been asked to consider assisting in the changes required to properly administer the considerable budget increase proposals.

NE State Contact and/or Nodal Officers

The following PWD Officers are nominated contacts and/or Nodal Officers for the ADB consultancy:

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Please discuss with your local contact or the SMEC Team Leader directly for further information/advice.

States have been requested to consider appropriate locations for initial pilot areas to facilitate the introduction of the Asset Management and Project Management Systems (approx 1,000 kilometres in total length)