

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION TRANSPORT AND
CONSTRUCTION**

**MAINSTREAMING APPROPRIATE LOCAL ROAD
STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND
DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR THE MCTPC
RESEARCH CAPACITY**

**PROGRESS REPORT I
FEBRUARY 2007**

SEACAP 03

UNPUBLISHED PROJECT REPORT



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**PROGRESS REPORT I
February 2007**

**Prepared for: Project Record: SEACAP 03. Mainstreaming Appropriate Local
Road Standards and developing a Strategy for the
MCTPC Research Capacity**

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Appendix A Programme

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACCESS	Microsoft database software
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BRC	Bamboo Reinforced Concrete
CAFEO	Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations
CBR	California Bearing Ratio
CNCTP	Cambodia National Community of Transport Practitioners
CSA	Crushed Stone Aggregate
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa)
DBM	Dry Bound Macadam
DBST	Double Bituminous Surface Treatment
DCP	Dynamic Cone Penetrometer
DFID	Department for International Development
DoR	Department of Roads
EDCs	Economically emerging and Developing Countries
ENS	Engineered Natural Surface
esa	equivalent standard axles
EXCEL	Microsoft spreadsheet software
FHWA	Federal Highways Association (US)
FM	Fines Modulus
FWD	Falling Weight Deflectometer
GMSARN	Greater Mekong Sub-region Academic and Research Network
gTKP	global Transport Knowledge Partnership
HDM4	Highway Development and Management Model
HQ	Headquarters
IFG	International Focus Group
IFRTD	International Forum for Rural Transport Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IRF	International Road Federation
IRI	International Roughness Index
ITS	Indirect Tensile Strength
Km	kilometre
LCS	Low Cost Surfacing
LRD	Local Roads Division (DoR)
m	metre(s)
MCTPC	Ministry of Communication Transport and Construction

mm	Millimetre(s)
MERLIN	M achine for E valuating R oughness using L ow-cost I Nstrumentation
MPa	Mega pascals
NUL	National University of Laos
OM	Operations Manual
ORN	Overseas Road Note
PCU	Passenger Car Unit
Pen Mac	Penetration Macadam
PIARC	World Road Association
PTD	Planning and Technical Division (DoR)
QA	Quality Assurance
RED	Roads Economic Decision Model
Ref.	Reference
RRGAP	Rural Road Gravel Assessment Programme (Vietnam)
RRSR	Rural Road Surfacing Research (Vietnam)
RRST	Rural Road Surfacing Trials (Vietnam)
RTU	Rural Transport Unit
RT1	Rural Transport 1 st Project, Vietnam
RT2	Rural Transport 2 nd Project, Vietnam
RT3	Rural Transport 3 rd Project, Vietnam
SBST	Single Bituminous Surface Treatment
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SEACAP	South East Asia Community Access Programme
SIDA	Swedish International Developments Cooperation Agency
SOE	State Owned Enterprise
TRL	Transport Research Laboratory
UCS	Unconfined Compression Strength
UK	United Kingdom
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VN	Vietnam
VOCs	Vehicle Operating Costs
VPD	Vehicles per day
WAN	Wide Area Network
WBM	Water Bound Macadam
WLC	Whole Life Costs

1 Introduction

1.1 General

The SECAP 3 project is part of the wider South East Asia Community Access Programme (SEACAP), whose strategic theme is 'livelihoods of poor and vulnerable people in SE Asia improved sustainability'. SEACAP 3 will contribute to this overall objective through the development and mainstreaming of local resource-based standards for low volume rural roads. The project seeks to achieve three key outcomes:

- Mainstream appropriate local road standards and specifications into the national road programme
- Develop an affordable and sustainable strategy for attaining the necessary road (all road categories) research capacity
- Increase the awareness of good practice experience from this project by disseminating the outcomes at the national, sub-regional and international levels.

This report outlines the work undertaken on the SEACAP 3 project during February 2007; presents a summary of staff resources used and outlines the anticipated programme for the coming month.

1.2 Contractual Arrangements

The Agreements for the project to be undertaken was established under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction (MCTPC) on behalf of the Government of Lao PDR and the Department for International Development (DfID), UK. The MoU defines The scope of the project, that it will be undertaken by TRL Limited as the Consultant and implemented under Terms of Reference, and that the Consultant will be appointed by DfID. The MoU also expresses certain Exemptions and Facilities to be provided by MCTPC to the Consultant to facilitate implementation of the project. The MoU was signed on the 16th of October 2006.

Thereafter, TRL provided a comprehensive technical proposal and a financial proposal for carrying out the project to DfID and subsequently entered into a contractual arrangement with DfID. TRL were appointed on 21st of November 2006. The duration of the project is 12 calendar months.

TRL is supported in its undertaking of the project by associate firms and by competent and experienced individual consultants. The principal associate firm is Lao Technical Engineering Consultants (LTEC) who are providing comprehensive local consulting services.

TRL have entered into a contractual agreement with LTEC to provide a total of 68 person months of services over the duration of the project. Forty-Eight (44) person months are for engineering and translation services and 24 person months are for administrative, secretarial and coordination services.

The other associate firm is Intec Associates consulting engineers who have worked extensively with TRL on other SEACAP projects in the region. Intec will provide a short-tem specialist role on this project similar to that to be provided by the individual consultants.

The individual consultants are:

Rob Petts (Intech)

Andreas Beusch (Intec)
 Akram Ahmedi (TRL)
 B T Dzung (Vietnam)
 P G Tuan (Vietnam)
 H Kackada (Cambodia)

All the individual consultants are acting within the framework of a review panel for the project as described in the proposal for the project. They will also be expected to contribute their particular expertise to various components of the project and each will undertake a visit to Lao PDR.

2 Work Undertaken

2.1 Mobilisation

Effective mobilisation of SEACAP 3 commenced in week beginning 29th January with the arrival in Vientiane of Dr J Cook and Mr M O'Connell. Prior discussions had already led to agreements that Lao Transport Engineering Consult (LTEC) would work in association with TRL Ltd on SEACAP 3, and these were confirmed formally at this time and mobilisation of LTEC staff commenced also at this time.

Following discussion with DoR and LTEC it was agreed that a Project Office would be set up in the LTC main office at Km 5, Thadeua Road. The option of setting up a Project Office with the Local Roads Division (LRD) was considered and whilst from a working point of view this would have been an ideal situation, there was insufficient readily available space. It was agreed however that close contact would be maintained both with LRD and PTD through counterpart engineers sitting within their respective organisations

The SEACAP 3 office at LTEC was fully mobilised on 1st February with telephone and internet communications.

2.2 Project Work Summary

Apart from mobilisation, project work undertaken during February fell under the following principle groups

1. Developing project working relationships
2. Completed Inception phase activities and drafting report
3. Initiating work on the Task Group 1
4. Detailed project programming

The development of clear working relationships between the various project stakeholders is a fundamental prerequisite for effective project delivery. This entails frank discussions on the various points of that may held as to the project objectives and the means to achieve these objectives. To this end a number of discussions have been held with key stakeholders, including members of the SEACAP Coordination Committee (SCC). This SCC is seen as providing vital strategic guidance to the project. . Table 1 summarises meetings attended up to the end of February

Progress on individual Modules is summarised in Table 2

Date	Stakeholder	Key Personnel	Comment
29/01	SIDA	Belal Hussain	Introductory meeting on SC 3 and 17 with David Salter and LRD
29/01	SIDA	Prof. Nhinxay Visane Ulf Brudfors	Brief discussions on the development of road engineering modules at the NUL and on cooperation with SECAP
30/01	SEACAP 21	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick SC21 Team	Knowledge Exchange workshop on the objectives, progress and technical background to the project
30/01	MCTPC - LRD	Sengadarith Kattignasack Voitto Kuronen	Introduction of M O'Connell to LRD and a brief presentation of the SC3 technical proposal.
30/01	LTEC- SEACAP	Sengthavisay Malivanh, David Salter	Introductory meeting between SEACAP and local consultants
31/01	SEACAP 17	Simon Gillett, David Salter	Discussion of cooperation issues, including monitoring programmes and technical specifications
02/02	PTD	Dr Maysy, Ounheunne Siriamphone	Introduction of M O'Connell to PTD. Discussion of key cooperation issues; training, research and counterpart engineers
02/02	MCTPC Advisor (ADB- funded)	Richard Tomkins	Introduction and discussions on road design from ADB projects aspect
04/02	MCTPC Advisor (ADB- funded)	Richard Tomkins	Discussion and information sharing on historical road prices and unit costs for ADB projects , including access roads
09/02	Deputy Dir General DoR	Laokham Sompeth	Courtesy briefing visit and discussion on administrative support with respect to MoU
26/02	LRD	Sengadarith Kattignasack	Regular briefing meeting on progress. Key issues – inception report; LVRR definitions and summary paper on SEACAP 1
27/02	SEACAP	David Salter	Progress meeting; Issues raised: inception programming; inception workshop; visits to SC1, VOCs; WLC papers from Cambodia

Table 1 Key Meetings

No.	Module Description	Completion	Activity to End February
Task Group I: Develop Standards and Specifications			
1	Review current situation	30%	Over 60 documents accessed. Coordination meetings held. Document database structured. Initial comments drafted for inception report.
2	Research to fill knowledge gaps	5%	Initial identification of some knowledge gaps.
3	Draft technical standards	0%	No activity this month
4	Finalise technical standards	0%	No activity this month
Task Group II: Develop a Relevant Training Programme			
5	Training needs assessment	0%	No activity this month
6	Training programme elaborated	0%	No activity this month
7	Training course tested and trialled	0%	No activity this month
Task Group III: Develop an Appropriate Research Capability:			
8	Gaps in research capacity identified	5%	Initial information accessed on research capacity.
9	Strategy for strengthening research capacity	0%	No activity this month
10	Adoption of strategy by MCTPC	0%	No activity this month
Task Group IV: Initiate Dissemination			
11	Package of materials prepared for dissemination	0%	No activity this month

Table 2 Summary of Module Progress

3 Staff Resources

A summary of the SEACAP 3 staff resources utilised up to the end of February is presented in the following Table 3

Name	Position	Project Time : End January to End February
Dr Jasper Cook (TRL)	Team Leader Geotechnical Specialist	29 th January – 2 nd February 23 rd February – 28 th February
Michael O'Connor (TRL)	Transport and road engineering specialist and Deputy Team Leader	30 th January – 28 th February
Simon Done (TRL)	Training Specialist	No input
Trevor Bradbury (TRL)	Dissemination and IT specialist	No input
Bounta Meksavanh (LTEC)	Local Team Leader and Road Engineer Specialist	29 th January – 28 th February
Saysonkham Manodham (LTEC)	Road engineering specialist	29 th January – 28 th February
Chittakone Maniphan (LTEC)	Training Support	No input
Keithiphan S (LTEC)	IT Support	No input
Ms Chandita Ph (LTEC)	Office Management	29 th January – 28 th February

Table 3 Staff Resources Mobilised

4 Programme

The detailed programming of SEACAP 3 has been a fundamental output from this period and in addition to providing a logical and integrated plan for completion of project modules it also had to take into account a number strategic requirements;

1. Clear continuity with current and previous relevant SEACAP research in the region
2. Active linkage with ongoing SEACAP projects in Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao
3. Continuity of Senior Specialist input to the project

The amended programme is presented as a summary as Figure 1 .and in detail as Appendix A to this report.

Modules	2007											2008
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jly	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
	Project Months											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mob	█											
1	█	█	█	█	█							
2		█	█	█	█	█						
3				█	█	█	█	█	█			
4									█	█	█	█
5								█	█			
6								█	█			
7									█	█	█	
8	█	█	█	█								
9	█	█	█	█	█							
10					█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
11							█	█	█	█	█	█

Figure 1 Summary Module Completion Programme

5 Key Summary Points

- SEACAP 3 has been fully mobilised and a project office set up
- Key coordination meetings have been held
- An Inception Report is being drafted for submission in early March
- Significant progress has been made on Module 1

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