



DEPARTMENT OF WORKS BULLETIN



23 June, 2016

Second Plant and Transport Division Conference



WEWAK, 23 June, 2016 – Officials and staff from the Department of Works' (DoW) Plant and Transport Division (PTD) gathered in the DoW East Sepik conference room for the second PTD conference related to the Project for Capacity Development on Road Maintenance in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (CDRM), which is a Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project.

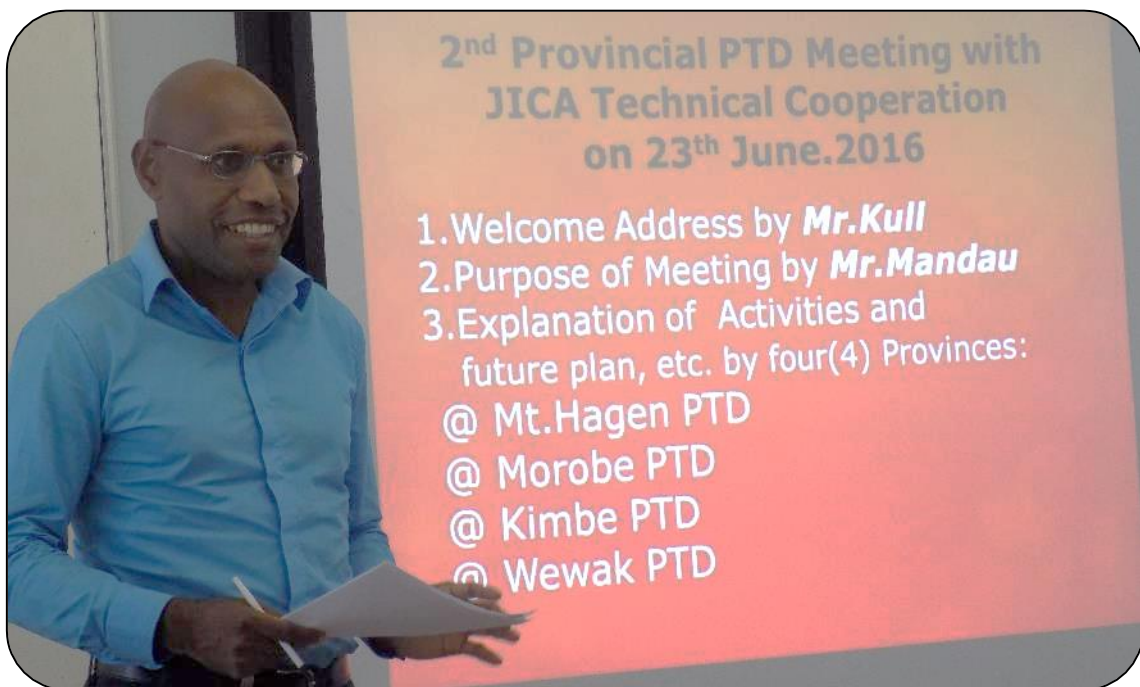
The meeting was chaired by the Support Services Manager of the PTD and attended by provincial plant managers and team leaders from DoW Morobe, DoW Western Highlands, DoW East Sepik and DoW West New Britain, and JICA Experts. The second PTD conference was held to discuss issues affecting the operation and maintenance of class A plant, which are heavy equipment used for road maintenance.



From left: Konopa Kana, PTD staff, Steven Kafang, Rodney Richard, Bernard Popi, Jerry Lomoto, Dika Korema, John Ranga, Bernard Kull, Davery Tageno, Jeffrey Mandau, Paul Balen, Allan Mandui, Savanat Butinga, Naime Dai, Takefumi Mayumi

Support Services Manager (Mr Bernard Kull) gave the welcome speech and stated the purpose of the meeting, and DoW Morobe's Provincial Plant Manager (Mr Steven Kafang) commenced the meeting and summarised the agenda. The Senior Coordinator for Apprentice Training (Mr Naime Dai) commented on the plans for improvement and the status of the apprenticeship programme, and the meeting was concluded by Team Leader for JICA CDRM Project (Mr Jeffrey Mandau).

During the meeting, the current status of plant operation and maintenance for the above provinces was discussed and technical knowledge exchanged in order to identify potential countermeasures for plant management issues. The condition of equipment databases and staff training was reviewed in order to plan future progress and development.



Team Leader for JICA CDRM & PTD CC Projects (Mr Jeffrey Mandau)

Key points that were made at the meeting included the following:

- It was agreed that more interaction, cooperation and peer support between provincial offices is beneficial to skill transfer and in-house capacity development.
- Maintenance crews and operators alike should support and understand the importance of improving maintenance databases of spare parts, equipment and operational statistics.
- Economic viability of equipment and operations can only be assessed by work statistics and that senior technical officers (STOs) should support staff in accurately recording these figures.
- There is a growing need for special services tools (SST), such as pressure gauges, for provincial workshops to be able to provide in-house diagnostics of heavy equipment and identify appropriate maintenance.

Following the meeting, the attendees had a tour of the DoW East Sepik plant workshop and the Kreer Heights pilot project to see how plant are being managed and an example of a successful road maintenance project. The JICA expert team and counterpart members of the DoW will be closely working together based on these discussions and agreed plans in 2016.

Messages from participants at the Second Plant and Transport Division Conference



Mr Bernard Kull
(Support Services Manager):
“Very good and informative meeting with many issues that we as a team can address.”

Mr Naime Dai
(Senior Coordinator – Apprentice Training):
“Need to identify training need areas in:

1. Equipment database;
2. Technical areas, repair and maintenance;
3. Use of special service tools (SSTs), usage and operation.”



Mr Allan Mandui
(Manager, New Rebuild Centre):
“Information gathering and sharing amongst all stakeholders in the pilot program. There is a lot of room for improvement in how we are handling the pilot program so far. At least, we are finding common ground and plotting a way forward.”

Mr Steven Kafang
(Provincial Project Manager, Morobe):
“Meetings of such a nature must be compulsory for exchange and sharing of ideas. At least two days is appropriate [for this kind of meeting]. Have meetings at pilot project provinces and allow for demonstration and site seeing.”



Mr Savanat Butinga
(Provincial Project Manager, East Sepik)
“Meeting has been successful and clearly defined amongst the four provincial project managers of the four pilot provinces. Emphasis has been on further training for officers on special service tools (SSTs), e.g. I.T. testers, etc. Also elaboration of status of projects across each provinces. Very excellent discussions achieved.”