



DEPARTMENT OF WORKS BULLETIN



5 July, 2016

Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) for the Project for Capacity Development on Road Maintenance in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea



PORT MORESBY, 5th July, 2016 – Officials and staff from the Department of Works (DoW) gathered in the DoW headquarters conference room for the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting for the Project for Capacity Development on Road Maintenance in the Independent State of Papua New Guinea (CDRM), which is a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project.

The meeting was chaired by the Secretary for the Department of Works & Implementation (pictured above), moderated by the First Assistant Secretary of the Plant & Transport Division (FAS PTD) and attended by JICA representatives and experts, an Embassy of Japan representative, and top management from DoW headquarters, DoW Morobe, DoW Western Highlands, DoW East Sepik and DoW West New Britain. The JCC was held to discuss issues affecting the CDRM project, including trainers and training, pilot projects, and operation and maintenance of heavy equipment used for road maintenance.

The CDRM project was started in 2014 following the completion of the Project for Improvement of Road Maintenance Equipment, which procured 48 pieces of heavy equipment for the DoW under grant aid from the Government of Japan via JICA. The purpose of the CDRM project is to strengthen the DoW's organisational, managerial and technical capacity for implementing gravel road maintenance with its in-house workforce and equipment in four target provinces: Morobe, Western Highlands, East Sepik and West New Britain.



Presentation by the JICA expert team

The Secretary (Mr David Wereh) gave the welcome speech and stated the purpose of the meeting, and the FAS PTD (Mr Andrew Ralph Bunu) commenced the meeting and summarised the agenda. The agenda included a progress report on the CDRM project by the JICA expert team, and status reports for pilot projects and plans for 2017 by representatives of the four target provinces.

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

- It was agreed that support for improving the laboratory capacity of DoW provincial offices will be provided.
- It was agreed that equipment for preparatory work for pilot projects, such as surveying and design, will be procured.
- It was agreed that full time civil engineers, surveyors and designers for the pilot projects in the four target provinces will be assigned as soon as possible.
- It was agreed that addition of a bond (or service security) to heavy equipment hire rates will be considered in order to cover any repair or maintenance work and provide security against damage during loan periods.



FAS PTD giving the welcome speech

Provincial Civil Engineer for Morobe (Mr John Pora Ker, below) summarised the details of the 26-km Bukawa Road pilot project in the Nawae District of Morobe, which was started in July 2014. The project was reported to be 49% complete, and notable achievements included installation of various culverts, fabrication of a material screening plant and placement of sub-base material on 10.3 km.



Provincial Works Manager for Western Highlands (Mr Maling Ambranga) summarised the background and details of the 7-km Kuta Road pilot project in Mount Hagen, which was started in October 2014. A challenge encountered by the project this year has been another landslide, which has slowed progress, and notable achievements include assignment of a female graduate engineer and the provincial surveyor as staff trainers.

Provincial Works Manager for East Sepik (Mr Benjamin Haiken) summarised the details of the 3-km Kreer Heights pilot project, which was completed in May 2016, and the proposed 3.2-km Makun–CIS Road, which may be the next pilot project and is part of the scheme to upgrade the Boram Airport to international status.

Provincial Works Manager for West New Britain (Mr Justin Kalau, below) summarised details of the 18-km Kimbe–Kandrian Missing Link Project, which is using donated plant until a pilot project site can be confirmed, and plans for the Talasea Ring Road pilot project in collaboration with the West New Britain Provincial Government in 2017.



In his concluding speech, the Secretary stated that the DoW aims to lift the competitive ability of the department and to provide value for money services throughout the country. He also stressed the importance of sustainability related to having competent trainers in the provinces and to spreading the capacity development concept. The Deputy Secretary for Strategic Planning (Mr Steven Pup) commented on the progress made due to JICA support since the reinstatement of the DoW, stressed the importance of cooperation with related activities and expressed the DoW's sincerest gratitude to JICA.

The JICA expert team and counterpart members of the DoW will be working closely together in 2016 based on these discussions and agreed plans.

Messages from attendees at the Joint Coordination Committee meeting



Mr Maling Ambranga

(Provincial Works Manager for Western Highlands):

“Training aspect is the highlight of the presentation. The background of the program has been understood at last to be able to contribute meaningfully in my capacity as PWM. All stakeholders must be well informed to be able to contribute meaningfully.

DoW HQ to ensure that issues found on the ground level are reasonably addressed with the constraints present.

General public should be made aware of the program. Only then they will appreciate the work and take ownership. It requires a holistic approach and commitment from all stakeholders to ensure that.”

Mr Benjamin Haiken

(Provincial Works Manager for East Sepik):

“The programme is encouraging to have mechanics and civil officers working together.

PTD spare parts needs to be facilitated quickly to cater for projects.”



Mr Allan Mandui

(Manager, National Rebuild Centre):

“Meeting today is critical because program is important to the people of PNG. I realised all stakeholders need to increase their efforts to progress this program given we have 18 months left to successfully complete it.

I believe issues/challenges discussed today can be amicably resolved in the coming weeks or so to improve project delivery.”

Mr Mathew Windi

(Regional Works Manager – Highlands):

“The capacity building concept under the program is very much realised with the partnership of JICA / PTD and civil engineering branch.

Progress of pilot projects are good progress with full input by JICA Expert Team.”



Mr Alex Gebia

(Assistant Secretary of Human Resource Management):

“Project is making a big difference in accessibility to essential services by locals in project (pilot) areas.

Training and development provided by experts (JICA) is sustainable and hailed as a success - encourage trainers to continue the process into the future.”