

United Nations ESCAP / The World Bank in Vietnam
Expert Group Meeting on Road Maintenance and Management
29 – 31 May, 2013, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Background and objectives:

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, the need to promote sustainable transport was explicitly mentioned in the outcome document “The future we want.” One important but often neglected issue, which is fundamental to the debate on the sustainability of transport infrastructure, is the issue of road maintenance.

In this context, ESCAP is planning to organize an Expert Group Meeting on Road Maintenance and Management to 1) share innovations, good practices and successful value-for-money systems in road maintenance in the Asia-Pacific region; and 2) discuss ways of revitalizing interest in road maintenance and management issues as part of the international development agenda. On the final day of the meeting (31 May 2013), the Ministry of Transport, Viet Nam, will invite participants to visit a rural road development project.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Current policies and practices in road maintenance in the region

This session will feature an overview of the status of road and rural road maintenance in the region, including the major issues and challenges in implementing effective road maintenance systems.

3. Innovative approaches to financing and contracting road maintenance

Changing institutional arrangements to manage and implement road maintenance has also led to new and innovative financing and contracting mechanisms. However, experience has shown that different types of contracts are suitable for different types of maintenance needs. This session will consider different institutional and contracting arrangements for road maintenance at the national and subnational levels.

4. Technological and engineering aspects

The choice of pavement and construction material affects the maintenance needs of a road in both the short term and long term. There seems to be a gap in knowledge about the most cost-effective construction methods for roads which take into account future maintenance costs. This session will look at the technological and engineering aspects of roads construction and maintenance, including training and human resource development practices in the public sector.

5. Development and maintenance of rural roads

Rural roads are vital for rural development and poverty reduction, and yet governments do not allocate sufficient resources or attention to their maintenance. Opportunities to raise the quality of rural roads abound because maintenance work can provide employment and income generating opportunities for local communities. This session will discuss different approaches to rural road maintenance, drawing on specific projects from different countries.

6. The way forward and consideration of the establishment of a community of practice on road and rural road maintenance

The meeting will consider the pros and cons of establishing a community of practice on road maintenance, including a review of existing knowledge sharing frameworks and initiatives.

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