



Regional Road Improvement Project (III)

Assisting regional economic development and promotion of economic relations with neighboring countries by widening regional main trunk roads

[External Evaluator]

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Rating

Effectiveness, Impact	b	Overall Rating A
Relevance	a	
Efficiency	a	
Sustainability	a	

Project Objectives

The objectives of this project are to meet the increasing traffic volume, improve velocity and reduce traffic accidents by widening two-lane main trunk national highways connecting Thailand's North-South Corridor and East-West Corridor to four-laned national highways for approximately 343km, thereby contributing to regional economic development and the promotion of economic relations with neighboring countries.

Outline of the Loan Agreement

- Loan amount / Disbursed amount: 19,544 million yen / 17,068 million yen
- Loan agreement: September 2000
- Terms and conditions: 2.2% interest rate; 25-year repayment period (including a 7-year grace period); general untied [Consulting Service: 0.75% interest rate; 40-year repayment period (including a 10-year grace period); bilateral tied]
- Final disbursement date: January 2007
- Executing agency: Department of Highways (DOH), Ministry of Transport



Widened National Highway 403 (Junction with Nakhon Si Thammarat- National Highway 41)

Effects of Project Implementation (Effectiveness, Impact)

The achievement rate for the seven target sections in 2008 regarding the actual traffic volumes against the planned volume is as follows; 37% for the Phitsanulok-Uttaradit section (national highway (NH) 11) , 61% for the Khon Kaen-Nong Ruea section (NH12) , 31% for the BanPhai-Borabue section (NH23), 44% for the Khon Kaen-Chiang Yuen section (NH209), 85% for the Chian Yuen-Yuang Talat section (NH209), 56% for the Mukdahan-Nikhom Kham Soi section (NH212), 54% for the Don Sak-Sichon section (NH401), and 63% for the Nakhon Si Thammarat-NH41 Junction section (NH403).

The above figures indicate that the project has not achieved the targets; however, in all target sections the travel time after implementation was reduced to between 1/4 to 1/2, and average velocity also improved by approximately three times compared to the time before the project implementation. In addition, smoother and more efficient commodity distribution, the promotion of the local economy and regional development, and the promotion of economic relations with neighboring countries have been recognized as positive impacts. This project has produced certain effects, and its effectiveness is moderate.

Relevance

This project has been highly relevant with Thailand's National Plans for Economic and Social Development, development plan of the road sector, the Mekong Region's development policy. Its high priority and consistency with development needs is recognized at the times of both appraisal and ex-post evaluation.

Efficiency

The original outputs of the project were implemented almost as planned with an addition of the widening of two sections. Though project period was slightly longer than planned, considering the additional construction, it can be evaluated that project period was within its initial schedule, therefore efficiency of the project is high.

Sustainability

No major problem has been observed in the capacity of the executing agency nor its operation and maintenance system; therefore, the sustainability of the project is high. DOH is the operation and maintenance (O&M) agency for this project, and the Bureau of Highways and its district offices carry out O&M of the target sections.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be highly satisfactory. As for recommendations to further improve the sustainability of the project, it is proposed that DOH utilize their own Pavement Management System (PMS), to be introduced within 2009, and promote the establishment of an effective O&M system that includes the efficient distribution of O&M budget.

*All ex-post evaluation reports including this can be referred to in JICA's website, "Evaluations"→"Ex-post Evaluation (ODA Loan)" ([URL:http://www.jica.go.jp/english/operations/evaluation/oda_loan/post/](http://www.jica.go.jp/english/operations/evaluation/oda_loan/post/))