The project was to improve, widen and rehabilitate provincial and regional roads in Northeastern and Central Thailand, in order to make the road network more efficient and foster the development of local industries.

The recorded traffic volumes on the roads covered by the project (IM-7 and IM-14), which greatly exceed the planned volumes, reflect factors such as the rapid development of the country’s economy, the development of regional economies and the advance of motorization. The project, therefore, can be deemed to fulfill the objectives set at the time of the appraisal.

IM-7 is an important element of the road network surrounding Udon Thani, one of the major cities of the Northeast, while IM-14 is similarly important within the network between Bangkok and the Northern and Northeastern Regions. By alleviating regional traffic congestion, they are each making their anticipated contributions to distribution to agricultural production, promotion of industries and more efficient freight transport.

Maintenance is conducted appropriately, according to a manual, by the highly experienced Department of Roads of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. There are no notable problems with the necessary budget allocation.

The project was to construct a new intercity expressway between Bangkok and the Eastern Seaboard Development Area in order to alleviate congestion on the existing national route, and to accommodate the increasing traffic generated by the progress of the development zone.

This road is linked to the Outer Bangkok Ring Road and to access roads to the Eastern Seaboard Development Area, contributing to freight transport between Bangkok and the Eastern Seaboard Area, and also in the North and Northeast of the country, detouring Bangkok. As such, it is highly effective as an industrial road. Industrial complexes were being built in the Eastern Seaboard region because Metro-Bangkok was already saturated, making the construction of the related roads a high priority project.

The traffic volume recorded on the road (33,060 vehicles/day in 2000) exceeds the forecast at the appraisal (29,006 vehicles/day in 2000). This road will also have value as a gateway for the Second Bangkok International Airport, which is now under construction. Once the airport is complete, users can be expected to increase.

The executing agency, Department of Highways of Ministry of Transport and Communications, competently manages the operation of this and other intercity toll roads.