**Project Objectives**
The objective of this project was to ensure the smooth and safe flow of traffic on a major trunk road by constructing a new bridge across the Irtysh River and by constructing the approach and access roads in the city of Semipalatinsk, located in Eastern Kazakhstan Province, and thereby contribute to the stimulation of the local economy.

**Effectiveness and Impact**
As a result of the construction of a new bridge through this project, traffic volume on both banks of the Irtysh River increased to an extent that greatly exceeded the assumptions at the time of appraisal and contributed to the smooth flow of traffic. Under the initial plan, the predicted annual average daily traffic volume on the preexisting and new bridges was 42,215. The actual volume of 79,289 in 2006 greatly exceeded the planned figure. The required traveling time on the segment of road that underwent construction was 108 minutes prior to the project. It was planned to shorten this time to 17 minutes on the route via the preexisting bridge and to nine minutes on the route via the new bridge by resolving traffic congestion. In 2006, the actual time required on each route was 21 minutes and 11 minutes, respectively. Thus, the plan was almost achieved. It was confirmed that the safety of road traffic was improved by construction of overpasses for an intersection and railroad crossing, construction of a left-turn lane, and separation of the sidewalk. After project implementation, the industrial output growth rate of Semipalatinsk exceeded that of the country and of Eastern Kazakhstan Province. Thus, it is regarded that the bridge constructed by the project contributes to the development of local industry because it is a necessity for road transport passing through Semipalatinsk. Therefore, this project has largely achieved its objectives, and effectiveness is highly satisfactory.

**Relevance**
This project has been highly relevant with Kazakhstan’s national policies both at the time of the appraisal and at the time of the ex-post evaluation. Moreover, as the smooth flow of traffic was being hindered by lane restrictions put in place due to the deteriorated condition of the preexisting bridge, both urgency and necessity of the project were high.

**Efficiency**
The project cost slightly exceeded the plan (106% of planned cost) although the project period was almost as planned; therefore the evaluation for efficiency is moderate.

**Sustainability**
Although the condition of the bridge and roads is generally good, sustainability of this project is low, since there was no operation and maintenance agency as of April 2007, and no budget has been allocated for operation and maintenance.

**Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendation**
In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be moderately satisfactory. As a recommendation, it is advisable that East Kazakhstan Oblast Akim Apparat promptly establish an operation and maintenance agency, secure a budget, and manage and utilize the construction machinery and operation and maintenance equipment, which were procured by this project from the contractor, in a suitable manner.

**Third-Party Opinion**
Smooth road transport was realized through this project. Given the geographic location of Semipalatinsk, the bridge is very important. I hope that an operation and maintenance system is established immediately.

Name of specialist: Mr. Murat T. Laumulin (academia)
Holds a Ph.D. in industrial development history with the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Former First Secretary and Counselor of the Kazakhstan Embassy in Germany. Currently Vice-Director of Foreign Policy Department at the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies. Specializes in diplomacy.

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**Kazakhstan**

**Irtysh River Bridge Construction Project**

Contributing to smooth traffic flow on a major trunk road by constructing a bridge and approach and access roads

- **Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount**: 21.53 billion yen / 21.236 billion yen
- **Loan Agreement**: March 1997
- **Terms & Conditions**: 2.7% interest rate (consulting services: 2.3%), 30-year repayment period (10-year grace period), General untied
- **Final Disbursement Date**: June 2004
- **Executing Agency**: Semipalatinsk Oblast Akim Apparat (SOAA) (currently East Kazakhstan Oblast Akim Apparat)