



New & Ongoing JICA Projects in 2014



Assistance towards Transport

Ongoing Projects

1. Grant Aid Project: Improvement of Road Maintenance Equipment

DEPARTMENT of Works (DoW) used to maintain roads by their in-house work force and equipment. Plant and Transport Branch (PTB) of DoW was responsible for managing their heavy equipment.

In the 1990s, the Government of PNG decided to abolish PTB and urged participation and utilisation of the private sector in infrastructure development and maintenance.

However, there are limited numbers of qualified and reliable local contractors which can undertake road maintenance activities especially in rural areas in PNG. As a result, rural roads have been left in poor condition without proper maintenance by DoW.

In order to address this issue, DoW has recently decided to revitalise Plant and Transport Division (now called PTD not PTB) of DoW and re-fleet their in house equipment.

Along with this policy, the Government of Japan (GoJ) has committed the Grant Aid Project, "The Project for Improvement of Road Maintenance Equipment."

A total of 48 pieces of heavy equipment such as bulldozers, excavators, motor graders, wheel loaders, vibratory rollers, water tank trucks, dump trucks, mobile workshops and necessary spare parts were provided to DoW through this Grant Aid Project.

They are worth about K21.6 million in total. The handing over ceremony took place at the National Rebuild Centre of DoW in Lae city on Mar 11, 2014 with the attendance of Minister for Works Francis Awesa, Japanese Ambassador Hiroharu Iwasaki and other guests of honour.

After the ceremony, the equipment were delivered to DoW provincial works offices in Morobe Province, West Highland Province, East Sepik Province and West New Britain Province.

2. Technical Cooperation Project: Capacity Development on Road Maintenance

This project aims at complementing and strengthening the output of abovementioned Grant Aid Project by developing capacity of DoW staff who are to utilise heavy equipment which are provided through the Grant Aid Project.

The project duration is four years from Nov 2013. During the period, JICA experts plan to conduct a revision/development of heavy equipment user manuals and training materials.

Currently, DoW staff are using a manual that has not been revised for a very long time. In addition, JICA experts will provide DoW with on the job Training (OJT) and training of trainers (TOT) for enhancing the capacity of road maintenance.

Regarding OJT, JICA will select a pilot site in respective target provinces, same as above mentioned in the Grant Aid Project.

The pilot site is going to be unpaved rural road which is deteriorated for some reasons (rain, no maintenance, etc). The maintenance works are going to be done by the trained DoW staff using the JICA provided equipment. The maintenance cost of the pilot site is to be borne by DoW to calculate its in-house road maintenance unit costs properly.

JICA experts have already dispatched to PNG and started working in DoW head office and provincial works offices. In the beginning of June 2014, JICA experts are going to conduct training in Lae with participating four provincial works officers to give them general instructions for use of heavy equipment.

Then JICA experts will conduct intensive training in respective provinces. The progress of DoW staff's capacity building will be publicised through the media like newspapers, website etc. And revised/developed manuals and materials will be uploaded to the website and available in the public domain once they are completed.

After the completion of the project, we could see that the trained DoW staff conduct regular road maintenance on rural community roads for improving local people to access public services.

3. Enhancing Capacity of Madang Civil Engineering Training Campus (MCETC) of DoW (tentative)

Upcoming Projects Human Resource Development Branch of DoW runs the civil engineering training program in MCETC which was established in 1974 exclusively for the purpose of training and upgrading skills for personnel engaged in roads and bridges construction and maintenance works throughout PNG. MCETC is the only civil training institute offering certificate in civil traineeship program in PNG up until now.

MCETC had a very important role to play in providing training for civil trainees throughout the country for the Governments Vision 2050 to be realised.

However, DoW ceased to allocate sufficient human resource and budget to maintain this institute since when the PTB was abolished as mentioned above.

DoW has recently reconsidered the importance of this institute and decided to revive it. Under these circumstances, DoW submitted the proposal of technical cooperation to GoJ for the purpose of enhancing MCETC's training capacity.

GoJ has approved the project which aims at improving the training program of MCETC. Civil engineering experts from Japan will be dispatched to MCETC in Madang and conduct TOT, revision of the curriculum and teaching materials. And, the training in Japan or in third country is going to be provided for the counterpart in this project.

Conclusion

The two ongoing projects are focusing on improving the DoW's operation to maintain roads by utilising in-house workforce and equipment. The upcoming project is more focusing on enhancing the capacity of DoW to educate their engineers well at MCETC. Thus, these projects work complementally and harmoniously to produce multiplier effects for road maintenance and construction works in PNG.

Japanese Government and JICA endeavour to develop capacity of DoW staffs in stead of letting them outsource their duties or just presenting a nice-looking gift.

Our motto says "Do not just provide them with a fish, but tell them how to catch a fish."

Assistance towards Environment Management & Conservation

1. Project for Biodiversity Conservation

Counterpart Organisation: Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)

The Government of Papua New Guinea takes effective and urgent action to reduce or halt the loss of biodiversity by 2020 in order to ensure that ecosystems in PNG are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby security the country's variety of natural resources, and contributing to human well-being and poverty eradication.

Project Purpose

Capacity of the government agencies for biodiversity conservation in PNG is strengthened and mechanisms established to sustainably manage project areas.

Outputs

The capacity of the government agencies to manage biodiversity information as basis for access and benefit sharing is strengthened.

A model of protected area management system is established following the new National Protected Areas System (NPAS) and requirement of international initiatives (such as MAB, Ramsar Convention and or World Heritage convention).

The people of PNG have better understanding and appreciation of conservation of biodiversity issues.

The landowning communities are fully engaged in conservation activities and contribute to improved livelihood.

One of the possible sites is Variarata National Park and its surrounding surroundings; the other sites will be selected in the course of the project.

2. Project for capacity Development on mine waste management

Counterpart organisation: Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management/ Department of Environment and Conservation.

Background and necessity of project

The mining sector in PNG is the largest revenue earner for the country contributing over 70% of total export earnings resulting from an unprecedented increase in mining investment with the last 10 years. Under the circumstances, there is a need to balance economic growth with environment sustainability in the areas of mine waste management.

The Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazards Management (DMPGM) and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) recognise non-existence of database in the country and the imperative need to have in place an up-to-date mine waste database management system for mining operations including small scale mining and their waste disposal practices in order to assess, quantify and evaluate the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts and risks.

Also the established database will assist in the monitoring, auditing and verification of environmental impact statements including compliance monitoring reports submitted by mining companies to the departments and relevant statutory bodies.

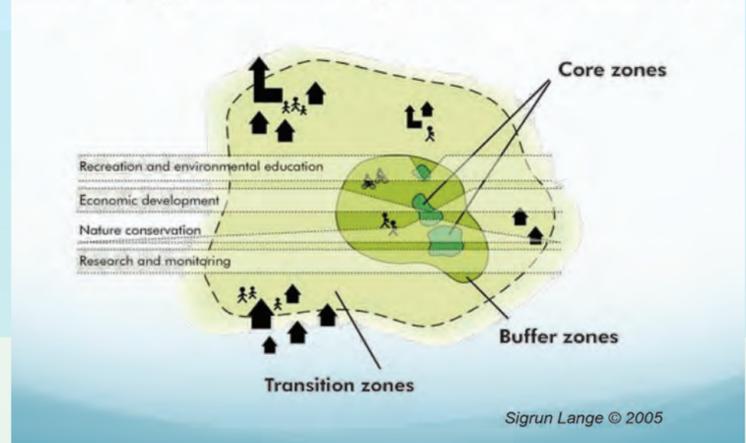
As a result, the project will contribute to building capacity to manage the database including the new approach to improved environment regulation and formulate a policy.

The project is part of a "Natural Environment Conservation" programme under the "Environment and Climate Change" pillar of Japanese Country Assistance Policy for PNG. In the sixth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALMS) in Okinawa held in May 2012, as part of the "Kizuna Declaration" the importance of climate change was acknowledged by the leaders.

Overall goal

To have a globally competitive mine waste management policy framework that is attractive to mining investment whilst ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability according to the needs and aspirations of the people of Papua New Guinea.

Zoning of Biosphere Reserve



Above is the impact of Ok Tedi mine waste.

Right and left; Pictures of run-down Variarata Park.



Some of the new equipment.



Technical cooperation...Handshake after signing of record of discussions.



New equipment...ready to work.



Works Minister Francis Awesa and Japanese Ambassador Hiroharu Iwasaki posing with officials and guests after the hand over of new equipment in Lae on Mar 11.