

Minutes
Local Programme Advisory Committee (LPAC) for
Access Improvement to Markets in Eastern Region (TIM/03/032)
Held at 10:00 on 6 February 2004
Venue: UNICEF Meeting Room, UN Agency House

Participants:

Name & Title

1. Mr. Bonifacio Coreia, SAE, MAFF
2. Mr. Everesto de Sousa P, Bridge Engineer, MoTCPW
3. Mr. Lawry Bee Tin Yeo, Head, UNOPS
4. Ms. Milena Pires, Prog. Officer, UNIFEM
5. Mr. Haoliang Xu, Senior DRR & Country Manager, UNDP (chairperson)
6. Mr. Naoki Takyo, Asst. Res. Rep., UNDP
7. Mr. Ludovic Hood, Prog. Officer, UNDP
8. Mr. Bendito Freitas, Prog. Officer, UNDP
9. Mr. Casimiro Reis, Prog. Specialist, UNDP
10. Mr. Antonio Victor, Prog. Officer, UNDP
11. Mr. Joao Camara, Prog. Specialist, UNDP
12. Ms. Maria Marsiani, Prog. Assistant, UNDP
13. Ms. Siobhan Hullally, Prog. Officer, UNDP
14. Ms. Kaoru Yamagiwa, Prog. Officer, UNDP

Apologies

1. Mr. Guglielmo Colombo, Representative, EC Representative Office in East Timor
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1. Opening remarks by RR or CM/SDRR:

Mr. Xu, the chairperson, briefly introduced that AIM is one of the four EC funded projects and deals with rehabilitation of the bridges in Viqueque and Los Palos where the high potential for agriculture production exists, yet without proper infrastructure to access market.

2. Presentation of the project document:

Mr. Yeo, Head of UNOPS ETIF which is the executing agency of the project, made a presentation of the project following the introduction. The presentation was focused on the overall picture of the project including the background and justification, objectives, main activities and strategies, expected outcomes, implementation arrangement, and the budget.

Mr. Yeo explained that the main objective of AIM is to improve access to market in the eastern region (Viqueque and Lautem) as a means of promoting socio-economic development, particularly agricultural production through rehabilitation of the main five bridges.

Significant feature of the project to be highlighted are; (1) Project implementation in four stages; feasibility study, detailed design and specifications, construction, and assessment; (2) Capacity development of the Directorate of Roads, Bridges and Flood Control (DoRB&FC); (3) Employment creation through labor intensive approach and participation opportunities for local contractors.

The main expected outcomes are; (1) Improved access to market, settlement, services, and information; (2) Shorter time for traveling to economic and social capitals; (3) Increased traffic flows; and (4) Increased flow of goods, services and information.

The duration of the project is 3 years including the impact assessment 6 months after the completion of bridge construction. The total budget stands at € 6.59 million.

3. Discussion/review of the project document:

Mr. Xu inquired about the expected timeframe of the project having 5 bridges with different lengths to be rehabilitated. Mr. Yeo responded that the current plan is to start from the longest bridge so that the completion time will be about the same time. He also explained the possibility of contracting several contractors to start the construction at the same time if this option is feasible.

Mr. Xu confirmed the importance of having two international bidding processes, one for the design and another for construction.

Mr. Hood inquired if the project would contract local sub-contractors. Mr. Takyo responded that though the funding by the EC is tied, the details on this contract issue would be clarified with EC while the project would aim to maximum the use of the local human resources.

Mr. Xu stated that community development is one of the key objectives of this project and therefore the project should involve the local communities as much as possible.

4. Other issues:

All the participants were quite convinced with the objectives and the activities of the project although certain matters such as contract issues still need to be clarified.

5. Endorsement/approval of the project document:

The project was endorsed by all the participants present.

Drafted by



Kaoru Yamagiwa
Programme Officer
18 February 2003

Approved by



Haoliang Xu,
Country Manager & Senior DRR
18 February 2003