

Minutes of the 2nd TransNet Meeting – March 23, 2000.

Participants: Pierre Charles Bugnon (Frisa Engineering SA), Hubert Eisele (SDC, Asia II), Markus Engler (KEK), Beat Gruber (Freelance Consultant), Patrick Kilchenmann (SKAT), Roland Python (SDC, WIS), Thomas Zeller (SDC, East & Southern Africa), Peter Züst (Iteco).

Excused: Laurent Balsiger (Frisa Engineering SA), Heinz Bender (Bender und Partner GmbH), Philippe Benninger (Office fédéral des routes), Andreas Beusch (Intech Beusch & Co.), Albert Bürgi (Helvetas), Juerg Christen (SKAT), André-Gilles Dumont (EPFL), Armon Hartmann (SDC, WIS), Esther Oettli (Helvetas), Paul Peter (SDC, SE Europe), Elisabeth Pitteloud (SDC, West Africa), Urs Schaffner (Urs Schaffner & Associates), Ueli Scheuermeier (Viltec), Peter Tschumi (SDC, Asia I), Peter Winkelmann (Freelance Consultant).

Chairperson: Patrick Kilchenmann (SKAT)

Minutes: Patrick Kilchenmann (SKAT), (These minutes do not describe the whole proceedings but summarise the main findings and conclusions).

Distribution: TransNet Members
Mr. M. Westerhuis, International Road Federation

Venue: SDC, Freiburgstrasse 130, Bern

Agenda: See Annex 1

TransNet Development

Patrick Kilchenmann (PK) briefly presented the new organisations that were contacted after the 1st TransNet meeting. He informed that during the Annual Conference of the International Road Association (PIARC), several representing persons of organisations active in the transport sector were approached. Some expressed their strong interest in becoming members of TransNet and were further contacted. Added to the members' list are Mr. Philippe Benninger of the Swiss Federal Office of Roads, Mr. André-Gilles Dumont of the EPFL (ETHL). The International Road Federation, based in Geneva, has also been contacted.

PK then presented a summary of the framework in which TransNet was established. Clarifications were provided on the purpose and goal of the WIS Transport backstopping mandate (support to SDC/WIS in specific areas of transport through SKAT) and the main achievements that were reached in this frame. Finally, a brief review of the previous meeting's findings was given (See handouts of PK's presentation in Annex 3).

New Phase's Concept of the Infrastructure and Transport Sector in Tanzania

Thomas Zeller (ZT) presented the above-mentioned concept that is being implemented by SDC in Tanzania (See handouts of his presentation in Annex 4). He described the new approach called Transactional Road Improvement Partnership (TRIP). In summary, it consists in provision of support to district road agencies on a demand-oriented basis, with the advantage that beneficiaries can determine their own pace of progress. The capacity of maintaining its own road network is a prerequisite for being entitled of entering the TRIP and getting technical assistance in terms of experts, information, training, networking, etc., by the supporting agency (ITECO). The first support is provided through the preparation of a Transport Master Plan. "Success stories" are rewarded by rehabilitation projects, in the form of a package of funds, for a bridge, a stretch of road, etc. Another important component of the project is the Contractor Involvement Component (CIC) that allows local contractors to get more work and turnover, thus generating employment opportunities.

Several comments were made after ZT's presentation:

- It was felt very important to define realistically the maintainable/not maintainable road network of a district when formulating the Transport Master Plan. Within the frame of the TRIP, a district should concentrate its efforts and resources for maintenance activities and not for rehabilitation.
- In the same order of ideas, an open question was asked: if a district has no roads on maintainable condition, how can it be "rewarded"?
- The term of "reward" should be changed (but not the principle).
- How can the pool of expertise provided by ITECO be sustainable in the long term? Local expertise should be brought as early as possible into the project.
- The Kisii Training Centre (Kenya) should be used as much as possible.

SDC Transport Strategy

Roland Python (PYR) presented the current status of work on the Transport Strategy of SDC and the contribution of the Transport Sector towards SDC Strategy 2010. Annex 5 provides the handouts of PYR's presentation and gives clarifications on the existing links with the five themes of action that are defined in SDC Strategy 2010.

Current Work on Internet and Transport

Patrick Kilchenmann presented the current work done by SKAT on an Internet Information Tool called "Transport Search Engine" (TSE)¹. In the frame of the WIS backstopping mandate, SKAT has the task of finding pertinent information through the Internet homepages of relevant organisations that are involved in the Transport Sector. In order to ease the access to the mass of available information, the idea came of creating a tool that enable the user to navigate and go directly to specific topics (e.g. publications, conferences, workshops, training courses, newsletters, networks, etc.) within selected organisations. The principle is that the tool does not need to be fed with information (time-consuming exercise), but is providing information already existing and available on the Net. Annex 6 gives a quick preview of how the TSE looks.

The working principle of the tool is now established. The next activity will consist in improving its presentation and updating the links. The best way to understand and

¹ At the time of finalising these minutes, the "Transport Search Engine" has been renamed "TransWeb" and can be found at the following URL: http://www.skat.ch/ti/netw/transweb/tw_index.htm

learn more about it is to try it [<http://www.skat.ch/ti/link/link.htm>]². Your feedback is most welcome.

Recent Publication and New Initiatives

Pierre Charles Bugnon presented an interesting new initiative found in "La lettre de la géotechnique", number 17 (See Annex 7). During the welcome address of the XIIth Regional African Congress of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), Mr. Ejjaouani, vice-president of the organisation, called for more exchange of information and experiences among geotechnicians from African countries, in order to foster South-South cooperation. TransNet members are as well encouraged to share their experiences and to network with the organisation. The URL of their homepage is: [<http://www.issmge.org/>]. From there, you can have an overview of their activities worldwide, an access to "La Lettre", the addresses of all relevant contacts and many other possibilities.

Date for the next TransNet meeting:
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24 August, 2000

Agenda and Chairperson for the next meeting: WIS/SKAT

St Gallen, 07.06.00

² See comments of note 1, new URL: http://www.skat.ch/ti/netw/transweb/tw_index.htm