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TANZANIA HOSTS SUCCESSFUL 5TH AFRICA TRANSPORTATION T² CONFERENCE

By Noel German Phumisa - ASANRA Programmes Officer

The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) through the Ministry of Works in collaboration with the Association of Southern Africa National Roads Agencies (ASANRA) and international stakeholders successfully hosted the 5th Africa Transportation Technology Transfer (T²) Conference at the magnificent Arusha Naura Springs Hotel in Tanzania from 21st to 25th November 2011. The conference attracted over 200 participants and eight exhibitors from countries across Africa and beyond.

Delivering a key note address at the conference, ASANRA President, Engineer Nelson Kudenga of Zimbabwe, highlighted that the conference theme “Developing Safe, Reliable and Sustainable Transportation Systems for Socio-Economic Development in Africa” was carefully selected to reflect the links and inter-dependence of road safety, transport infrastructure development and service delivery. He recalled that the 2010 African Economic Outlook (AEO) report launched at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 24 May 2010 established that the global economic downturn had exerted a heavy toll on the continent with the average growth rate falling from 6% over the 2006 – 2008 period to 2.5%

in 2009. The report also forecasted uneven economic growth across Africa over the next two years and longer-term social consequences.

Engineer Kudenga further observed that the populace was now increasingly demanding more, better and quicker infrastructure development and service delivery in the road transport sector. There is also a greater consciousness today of the global burden of road traffic crashes. According to a 2005 report from the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 1.2 million fatalities and 30-50 million non-fatal traffic related injuries occur annually. It is projected that road traffic injuries would be the eighth leading contributor to the global burden of disease by the year 2030.



EXHIBITIONS AT THE 5TH AFRICA TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CONFERENCE – *Participants sampling exhibitions at the conference.*

The President submitted that the status quo vindicated the relevance of transport scientific research in Africa much more now than ever before. Innovative technologies, efficient and cost-effective approaches were key to alleviation of the social-economic impact of the global recession and averting of the road safety crisis.

Papers and presentation at the conference are published on http://www.conference.tant2centre.or.tz/Conf_doc.asp. The next 6th Africa Transportation T²

Conference will be hosted by the Technology Transfer Unit of Botswana in April 2013.



WORKSHOP SESSION AT THE 5TH AFRICA TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CONFERENCE – *The conference was delivered through workshops, presentations and papers.*

SECRETARIAT'S REPORT

Over the last quarter, ASANRA attained an important milestone in its quest to finance project activities under the 2009-14 Strategic and Business Plan. The association witnessed enhanced collaboration with partners active in the SADC region and increased commitment for programme support.

On 12th October 2011, ASANRA concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for collaboration with the Africa Community Access Programme (AFCAP) in research for use of sand in road construction in the SADC Region. AFCAP has since engaged a consultant to undertake the research and nominated the Programmes Officer in its Project Steering Group (PSG). AFCAP furthermore expressed interest to commit additional resources for supporting two projects, Performance Assessment of Naturally-Occurring and Non-Standard Materials and Peer Review of Road Asset Management and Financing Practices. AFCAP, Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy

Programme (SSATP) and the SADC focal group of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) are also committed to support implementation of the peer review.

In order to improve monitoring and advocacy (M&A) capacity for greater management efficiency and results effectiveness in road infrastructure delivery in the SADC region, ASANRA has instituted a performance rating system of international contractors and consultants. The system is web-based database and aimed at collecting and using Present and Past Performance Information (PPI). The PPI data would be shared among procurement officials in the SADC region to validate information provided by bidders at tender stage. It is envisaged that in future, PPI information would be used in selection of contractors and consultants.

The SADC Committee of Ministers responsible for Transport, Communication and Meteorology met at Centurion in South Africa from 5th to 7th October 2011. The Ministers launched the SADC Road Safety Awareness Campaign Strategy and Action Plan and also adopted the Regional Road Safety Programme. ASANRA is a key implementing agent of both programmes. Hence, the association has developed a database to monitor implementation and impact of road safety awareness, education and enforcement activities under the programmes.

Lastly, the Secretariat is pleased to report that in alignment with the technology transfer and capacity building objectives and strategies, ASANRA has increasingly adopted implementation team approach in delivering projects under the 2009 – 14 Strategic and Business Plan. The approach entails use of internal resources of member road agencies. Its success is therefore precedent upon timely nomination, release and commitment of staff.



IMPLEMENTATION TEAM APPROACH – *Inception meeting of the project for contract documentation and contracting methods in session at SANRAL offices in South Africa.*

ASANRA TARGETS BSI PAS55:2008 COMPLIANCE

By Noel German Phumisa - ASANRA Programmes Officer

Recently, ASANRA applied for membership of the Institute of Asset Management (IAM). This is a professional body involved in acquisition, operation and care of physical assets especially critical infrastructure. The institute gathers, collates and presents existing knowledge, good practices, research and products to assist organizations in asset management. One such tool is PAS55 Assessment Methodology (PAM) which enables organizations to undertake a self assessment and 'gap analyses' of their current asset management practices with BSI PAS 55:2008.

ASANRA is currently implementing a project on Peer Review of Road Asset Management and Financing Practices. The process aims at establishing benchmark and advocating for adoption of good practice.

Through IAM membership, ASANRA would access BSI PAS55 Assessment Methodology for adaptation in its Peer Review Criteria (PRC). The association would also benefit from monthly publications of Asset Magazine and

guidance towards accreditation for BSI PAS55:2008 compliance.

DISCUSSION FORUM

PERFORMANCE RATING OF INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS

The discussion forum introduces the subject of performance rating of international contractors and consultants in the SADC region. Recently, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region has experienced above 6% average economic growth rate and a construction boom prompted by the hosting of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa. Despite the Global financial crisis beginning late 2008 through 2009 and early 2010, the construction sector performed well and successfully delivered major infrastructure projects in the region and these include the Gautrain, stadia, road networks and airports. The heightened construction activity created demand for service providers and attracted a range of international contractors and consultants to the region.

In the past, Road Agencies have relied heavily on detailed technical and management proposals and contractor experience in comparing the relative strengths and weaknesses of tenders. This practice has allowed bidders with outstanding proposals, but weak performance record, to "win" contracts.

Experiences of agencies regarding the performance of international contractors and consultants in the region are mixed which signals the need for more collaboration among stakeholders in monitoring the performance of the industry at regional level.

The second 2009-2014 ASANRA Strategic and Business Plan identifies sharing of knowledge and expertise as an essential intervening and enabling strategy in monitoring construction industry and promoting its development in the SADC region. The Construction and Maintenance Standing Committee has



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therefore developed a database for rating and reporting performance. It establishes procedures for the collection and use of Present and Past Performance Information (PPPI). The system is not only a tool for monitoring and evaluating performance, but most importantly, will in the near future inform selection of contractors and consultants.

The Secretariat invites members to share their experiences regarding performance of international contractors and consultants in the region and suggestions on the effective application of the database.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BEIRA AND NACALA MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Government of Mozambique in collaboration with SADC Secretariat will host Beira and Nacala Corridor Ministerial Meeting at Nampula from 6th to 10th February 2012. The ministers will meet on 9th preceded by senior officials on 6th and 8th February 2012.

2ND AFCAP PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCE

The second AFCAP Practitioner's Conference

will be held at Catholic University Campus, Beira in Mozambique from 3rd to 5th July 2012. The forum is Africa's pre-eminent conference for rural transport professionals. The themes of the conference are innovations for rural access, community response to climate change, research and the future of rural transport in Africa. Registration forms can be accessed at <https://www.afcap.org/>.

FEEDBACK AND CONTRIBUTIONS

For feedback on the discussion forum, contribution of materials for publication and comments on the newsletter, please contact or post your comments to:

ASANRA Secretariat
Pacific Villa
Area 14/25, Flat No. 4
P.O. Box 754
Lilongwe
Malawi
Email : ngerman@asanra.com
Website : www.asanra.int.mw
Phone : +265 (0) 1 775 086 / 1 775 088
Cell : +265 (0) 888 340 948 / 992 893 992