Regional Meeting on the Regional Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety and Expert Group Meeting on Improving Road Safety 9-10 August 2022, Bangkok

Capacity Building and Human Resource Development

B. N. Puri
Director, AITD
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Overview of Road Safety: Global

- More than 1.35 million deaths each year (over 25% in Asia)
- Road traffic crashes: 8th leading cause of death
- 90% of which occur in the world’s low- and middle-income countries
- Road traffic injuries are leading killer of children and young adults aged 5 - 29 years
- Up to 50 million injuries per year
- About half of road traffic deaths are of VRUs
- Massive economic, social and health burden on country and global economy
Strengths

- Lead agency has been set up.
- Road safety strategies and action plans formulated.
- Regulatory framework for road safety in place.
- Availability of well qualified and experienced engineering professionals.

Contd...
Strengths

- Lead agency responsible for road safety is committed to improving road safety in the region.
- Process for dedicated funds for road safety has been initiated.
- Presence of non-government organizations (NGOs) that have the potential to support government in improving road safety.
Weaknesses

- Weak institutional management capacity.
- Inadequate coordination of road safety initiatives.
- Both requisite skills and knowledge of good practice relating to road safety are limited.
- Collection and reporting of data on road crashes and casualties is limited and flawed.
- Low priority to road safety engineering.

Contd...
Weaknesses

- Lack of focus on realising the potential of new technologies.
- The safety needs of vulnerable road users (VRU’s) are not being addressed adequately.
- Emergency medical response for crash victims mechanism needs strengthening.
- Overloading of freight and public transport vehicles is an area of concern.
- Lack of awareness with regard to regulatory framework and safety precautions among the stakeholders.
Capacity Building-Need

- Need to accelerate the process of shifting from weak to strong institutional management capacity to govern improved road safety performance on sustainable basis.
- Inadequate skill and knowledge of good practices related to road safety.
- Countries experience severe deficiencies of availability of professionals in various fields of road safety particularly in traffic and safety engineering and audit.

Contd...
Capacity Building-Need

- Road design processes are largely engineering-oriented with little emphasis on societal needs and advancements in safety parameters.
- Most of the prevailing technologies are warning systems, which in the future are likely to become controlling systems.
- Inadequate attention to Research & Development.
- These inadequacies adversely impact both the quality of infrastructure and safety-related programmes including devising strategies and policy interventions.
Capacity Building - Stakeholders

- National Governments, state and local bodies,
- Ministries of Transport, road building agencies,
- Police, Health and Education,
- Road safety institutions,
- Road agency, local administration,
- Civil society, academics, think tanks and NGOs concerned by road safety.
Way Forward

- A number of countries are relatively small and do not have institutions and expertise in the diverse areas of road safety which range from road engineering to regulatory frameworks.

- It is in this context that regional cooperation has been recognized as beneficial instrument for pooling knowledge and undertaking programmes that address common problems like road safety.

- Need to set up centres for road safety at regional and sub-regional level.
Regional Centre for Road Safety

- **Mandate:**
  - Develop and nurture an eco-system of capacity building, multi-disciplinary research and development, innovation, institutional evolution, behavioural change.

- **Focus area:**
  - Capacity building and skill development including organizing training programmes.
  - Research and development and knowledge transfer.
  - Accelerated transfer of international good practices.

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Regional Centre for Road Safety

Other activities:

- Design, develop and manage capacity building programmes
- Promote research and training on road safety:
  - Organize conferences, workshops, seminars, for cross-fertilization of best practices.
  - Develop behavioural change campaigns for communities.
  - Establish strong research and training network of institutions.
  - Facilitate network collaboration and synergize activities.
  - Provide collaborative platform for academia, industry and civil society.
- Partner with centre of excellence at global level
Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD)

Profile

- AITD is an autonomous, non-profit institution engaged in research, studies and training in an inter-disciplinary perspective in the area of infrastructure with focus on the transport sector.

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Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD)

Objectives

- Promote balanced, efficient, equitable and sustainable development.
- Foster regional cooperation and partnership.
- Promote human resource development.
- Harmonise technologies for enhancing welfare.
AITD – Regional Linkages and Regional Role

- Special consultative status with United Nations
- Collaborative arrangements with UNESCAP.
- Provide substantive support to various regional activities irrespective of country groupings.
- Organizing capacity building programmes for railways and transport professionals from South and South-East Asian countries since 2005.

“High level of objectivity of the Institute, its regional outreach and its capability to draw on a wide range of academic and professional resources.”

Executive Secretary, UNESCAP
AITD – Development of National Centre for Road Safety: Project of MORTH

First of its kind in the country to view the dynamics of road safety issues in multi-dimensional perspective.

AITD took wide range of activities – some of the important ones are:

- Imparted training to more than 3,500 professionals in road safety in less than two years. This figure far exceeds the number of highway engineers trained in the country by different organizations in the last ten years.

Contd...
AITD – Development of National Centre for Road Safety: Project of MORTH

- Build up a network of academic and research institutes to carry out training and R&D activities
- Developed strategy for public awareness campaign
- Evolved road safety accreditation system
Thank you