

ARMENIA: Rehabilitation of Water Supply and Wastewater Systems Lori and Shirak



ARMENIA: View towards the Centre of the Project Town of Vanadzor, which is the Capital of the Lori Province

Most water supply systems in Armenia suffer severe problems to distribute water to consumers for more than a few hours per day because of high water losses, low system pressures and short service periods. Sewer systems are badly maintained, sewage treatment plants have been closed down and financial means of local water and sewerage utilities are insufficient due to low water tariffs and a centralised organisation.

Already in May 2002, GITEC has been entrusted (together with an Armenian firm) with the execution of preparatory studies regarding technical solutions for the rehabilitation of water supply and sewerage services and proposals for an institutional restructuring of the sector comprising the establishing of independent water supply and sewerage utilities. The project comprises the provincial capital towns of Gyumri and Vanadzor and 69 villages in the Lori and Shirak regions with 360,000 inhabitants in total. The project is executed under German - Armenian Financial Cooperation by the State Committee of Water Systems aiming at the reinstatement of a 24-hour water supply service and a safe drainage and disposal of wastewater in the project towns and connected villages.

Until December 2003, a study team of 14 German and Armenian experts led by Dipl.-Ing. W. Stenzel has elaborated comprehensive master plans and feasibility studies proposing a three-staged rehabilitation of water supply and sewerage services in the project area until 2010.

Presently, GITEC is negotiating the contract on construction supervision services for the implementation of the first-stage project aiming at regaining 24-hour water supply at 50 % of the service area and assuring a safe sewage drainage until 2006.

ETHIOPIA: Restructuring of Road Authorities

The strengthening of the Ethiopian construction sector will be promoted within the framework of the Development Cooperation between Germany and the Republic of Ethiopia. Sector reforms aiming at a thorough improvement of the level of qualification shall be realized through capacity building and the introduction of technical standards and a related practical training. This shall lead to more competitiveness and efficiency of the local construction industry in the implementation of contracts, especially in the country's employment-intensive road construction sector.

In November 2004, GITEC commenced short-term consulting services to the GTZ-funded project for the restructuring of the Ethiopian Road Authority (ERA) and 8 Regional Road Authorities (RRA). The project aims at a comprehensive reform of the country's Road Maintenance towards a commercially oriented implementation. The tasks of the Senior Roads and Highway Engineer / Training Specialist, Dipl.-Ing. (FH) B. Schulte, assigned to the project cover advisory services in management and implementation of road maintenance measures to consolidate the results gained previously in the pilot region Amhara and to transfer them into further 8 regions. The services include support in establishing a road data bank, assistance in training of length-person road inspectors, technical assistance in implementation and quality and financial monitoring of maintenance works, and support in contracting and budgeting for road maintenance through the private sector.

At the end of this year 2004 GITEC looks back on **50 years of sound experience** in providing integrated consulting services for physical and social infrastructure projects. This achievement is derived from the implementation of nearly 700 assignments in 121 countries worldwide, of which some 60 are presently still underway. We are determined to keep on fostering good business relations and the distinct customer focus of our multidisciplinary expertise.

*We would like to thank our Clients and Partners
for the confident and effective cooperation over half a century.
We express our best wishes for a successful 2005.*

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Primary Schools Construction Programme, Phase III

Since 1999, GITEC has been supporting the Ministry of Education (SEE) in Santo Domingo in implementing Phases I and II of the Primary Schools Construction Programme in the school regions of Azua and Barahona in the country's South West. The purpose of the programme is to contribute to the improvement of school infrastructure through the construction of new, and the rehabilitation of existing, classrooms, the improvement of sanitary and electrical installations, and the establishment of participatory maintenance practices at local level (ref. GITEC News Letter No. 49 of July 2003).

Additionally, the programme contributed to the institutional strengthening of the SEE through professional support which conducted to the establishment of a Directorate General of Maintenance (DGM), to the introduction of a Maintenance Manual, and to the implementation of annual maintenance campaigns. The implementation of a second phase was agreed upon in order to benefit a greater number of schools and, thus, satisfy most, if not all, of the school infrastructure requirements in the area.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:
Newly constructed typical Primary School

In July 2004, we signed the contract for Phase III of the programme maintaining the same objectives as the anterior phases, but with the extension into the geographic area of the Regional Directorate of San Juan de la Maguana, located in the immediate vicinity of the Phase I and II area. The following physical targets were defined: (i) extension of existing schools with a total of

100 new classrooms; (ii) construction of 30 new pre-school classrooms; (iii) substitution of 40 precarious schools by multigrad classrooms; (iv) rehabilitation of 340 classrooms including auxiliary spaces; (v) repair and acquisition of school furniture; and (vi) participatory maintenance of attended schools. The execution period of Phase III is envisaged to last till 2007.

UZBEKISTAN: 2nd Regional TBC Conference

Financed from funds of the Financial Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Germany, a 2nd regional conference was organized on combating tu-

berculosis in the countries of Central Asia, i.e. Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.



UZBEKISTAN:
Panel Discussion during the 2nd Regional TBC Conference

The conference took place in September 2004 in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and was attended by some 120 international participants including representatives from the Russian Federation and Japan and those of WHO, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and of KfW.

The objective of the conference was, on the one hand, to inform the participating countries on the level of implementation of the recommendations issued on the first conference held in the Kyrgyz Republic in May 2003 (ref. to GITEC News Letter No. 49 of July 2003). This was supported by a lecture on the respective results by Dr. med. Dipl.-Chem. Th. Wolff, Director of GITEC's Department of Health. On the other hand, the conference dealt with discussing the new recommendations of the WHO for implementing the DOTS (direct observed therapy short-course) and the DOTS+ strategies.

HONDURAS: Higher Yields through National Subsidies in Social Urban and Rural Housing

In continuation to the reported development of social urban and rural housing (ref. GITEC News Letter No. 48 of December 2002), in 2004 the Government of Honduras trails its goal to improve conditions for financially vulnerable target groups to access housing. Where during the nineties GITEC rendered services for the establishment of the Foundation for the Development of Social Urban and Rural Housing (FUNDEVI), since 2002 GITEC is commissioned by FUNDEVI to support the improvement of the Foundation's key functions. The services are financed under the Financial Cooperation between Honduras and Germany (KfW) and envisage the strengthening and promotion of (i) technical assistance capacities of FUNDEVI; (ii) financial services and instruments for housing; and (iii) contributions to outline and establish improvements at strategic and institutional level for the housing sector in Honduras.

In 2004, GITEC was also commissioned by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Housing (SOPTRAVI) in Tegucigalpa to develop a subsidy policy for the national housing sector. The main recommendation of this IDB-financed study is to pursue the existing subsidy scheme already introduced by SOPTRAVI. The main outcomes, a proposal for the National System for Subsidies in the Housing Sector, relevant legal docu-

mentation, and a Manual of Operations for the management of subsidies in the whole housing sector, focus on aspects that would facilitate the implementation of the proposed policy.



HONDURAS: Rural Housing Settlement



ERITREA: View on the Port and the "Old Town" of Massawa

ERITREA: Water Supply and Sanitation Massawa

Massawa is the main port town for Eritrea located at the southern Red Sea and, as the regional capital, expecting a population of 60,000 in the year 2015. The present water supply system of Massawa relies on water resources from the sediments of only one of the major dry river courses leading from the watersheds in the escarpment of the Asmara Plateau towards the Red Sea. The water abstraction and transmission system is 70 years old and of insufficient capacity. The rehabilitation of the water supply system started in 1994 with the construction of a new water reticulation system which had been left uncompleted and non-commissioned until 2002.

Since 1998, GITEC is under contract with the Municipality of Massawa (together with a local consultant) for the design and implementation of the rehabilitation and extension of the existing water abstraction and transmission system and the develop-

ment of new water resources and transmission facilities from a southern catchment. These measures comprise the construction of 2 infiltration galleries and 63 km of new transmission pipeline for capacities of 90 l/s fully operated by gravity. Until now, political reasons and changed priorities in water resources utilization have prevented the fully designed works from being implemented. In March 2002 and further in June 2004, GITEC has been entrusted with the

technical assistance for the completion of house connections, the commissioning of the new distribution system and the reconstruction of 1,000 m deficient trunk main along a causeway, all planned to be completed in mid-2005.

As an emergency measure, part of the original project is now considered for urgent implementation. Until January 2005, Dipl.-Ing. W. Stenzel and a team of 3 experts will execute a supplementary feasibility study for the replacement and extension of the present water abstraction works and transmission pipeline, designed for fully exploiting the current water resource.

GUATEMALA: Rural Development Programme

In Latin America, Guatemala is one of the countries with the highest incidence of indigenous population (22 different ethnic groups). About 70% is very poor and it is particularly the indigenous population, which is subject to racial, social, economic and cultural discrimination. Rural poverty is reflected in limited access to food, social services and to productive resources affecting mainly children and women. In 2001 the European Commission and Guatemala agreed to focus their development cooperation on three areas of intervention, viz. (i) consolidation and modernisation of the constitutional state; (ii) poverty alleviation

including support of social politics; and (iii) economic cooperation.

It is in this context that the EC Delegation in Guatemala commissioned GITEC (in association) to carry out a two-phased study for the identification and formulation of a Rural Development Programme covering 10 provinces of the country. The main objectives were food security and agricultural development. The total budget earmarked for the programme came to € 20 million. The mission was carried out by a team of three European experts and two local specialists from May to August 2004.

VIET NAM: Integrated Development Programmes

Integrated Rural Development in Northern Upland Provinces: The rural areas in Viet Nam host 75 % of the population and 90 % of the poor. The poorest provinces are mainly located in remote mountainous areas of the Northern Uplands and the Central Highlands where poverty has a strong impact on the ethnic minorities. Since 1999, the European Commission (EC) is assisting Viet Nam in rural development and poverty reduction with two rural development projects in Cao Bang - Bac Kan and Son La - Lai Chau. Both projects aim to achieve sustainable increase in food production and improved social infrastructure in poor upland villages. Future EC support is intended to consolidate and expand the achievements of the EC rural development and environmental protection projects in some of the poorest areas in northern Viet Nam.

In August 2004, GITEC (in association) was awarded the contract for carrying out a two-phased feasibility study to develop an Integrated Rural Development Programme with the focus on the poorest communities in Cao Bang and Bac Kan provinces. The study was meant to identify specific development options (Phase 1) followed by detailed feasibility investigations (Phase 2) while adopting a highly consultative approach to all stakeholders involved. The study was conducted by a team of five experts, comprising three European and two Vietnamese specialists, starting in June 2004 and reaching completion in August 2004.

Social Forestry and Nature Conservation in Nghe An Province: This project is an integrated conservation and development project aiming to reduce the destruction and degradation of forest resources in the Pu Mat National Park and its buffer zone. It was established in 1997 and will end in December 2004 with a total budget of € 18.7 million, mainly financed by the European Commission. The project is designed to achieve forest and biodiversity conservation through community development and poverty alleviation in the buffer zone with investment in agriculture and forestry and support to the development and protection of the Pu Mat National Park.

GITEC (in association) was commissioned by the EC Delegation in Viet Nam and the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to carry out the Final Technical Evaluation of the project. The global objectives of the mission were: i) to analyse the performance of the project in meeting its purpose and ii) to examine and analyse the project results against the anticipated outcomes, taking into account changing conditions and unforeseen constraints encountered within the implementation phase. The Technical Evaluation mission was carried out by a 4-expert team, comprising two European



VIET NAM: Farmer Interview on the Project Impacts

and two Vietnamese experts starting in September 2004 and reaching completion in November 2004.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Supporting the Banana Sector

Presently the Dominican Republic is cultivating bananas on nearly 6,000 ha of which about half is being produced according to biological standards. The European Union is the biggest importer with an annual volume of 55,000 tons. In 2002, the European Union and the Dominican Government initiated the programme PROBANANO to support the banana sector of the country. The main objectives

were to improve the competitiveness, productivity and quality of the banana sector and to reduce the marketing costs. About 710 small producers and 7,000 rural workers were targeted to benefit from the programme. The duration was conceived for four years.

In August 2004, GITEC (in association) was entrusted by the EC Delegation in Santo Domingo to carry out the Mid-Term Review of the programme. The objectives were: (i) to review its progress, (ii) to give recommendations and guidance for the best implementation during its remaining period with a view to ensuring maximum levels of efficiency, effectiveness and future sustainability, and (iii) to review the impact and viability of the programme. The study team consisted of one European expert and one national specialist. The works were completed in October 2004.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Well-maintained Banana Plantation

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