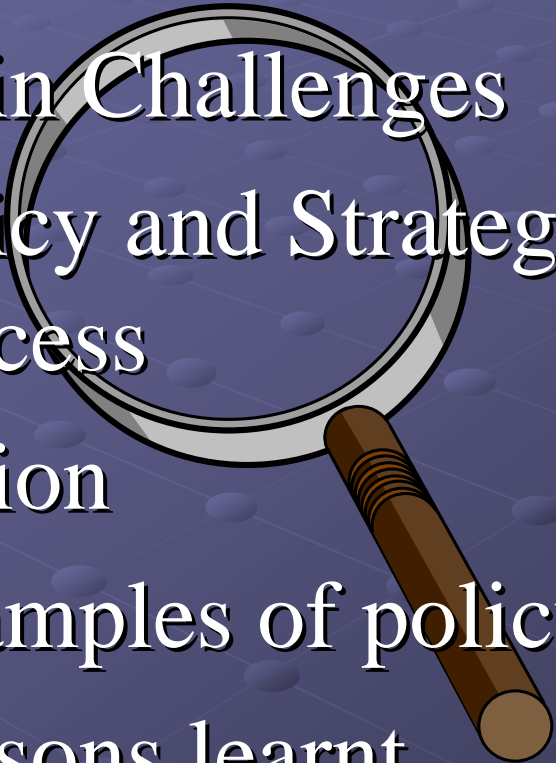


# **Formulating Rural Road Policy and Strategy in a Developing Country Environment with Key Stakeholders including Academic Institutions**

## **iCEER 2007, Melbourne**

# Presentation Content

- Cambodia & Rural Roads
  - Main Challenges
  - Policy and Strategy Development Process
  - Vision
  - Examples of policy and strategy
  - Lessons learnt
- 

# Cambodia & Rural Roads

- One of the poorest countries: GDP per capita \$320
  - Rural population: over majority – 90%
  - Poverty reduction: reduction of rural poverty and inequality
  - Rural population have substantial transport burden
  - Improved rural roads can reduce the transport burden and socio-economic wellbeing of rural population
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# Rural Roads in Cambodia





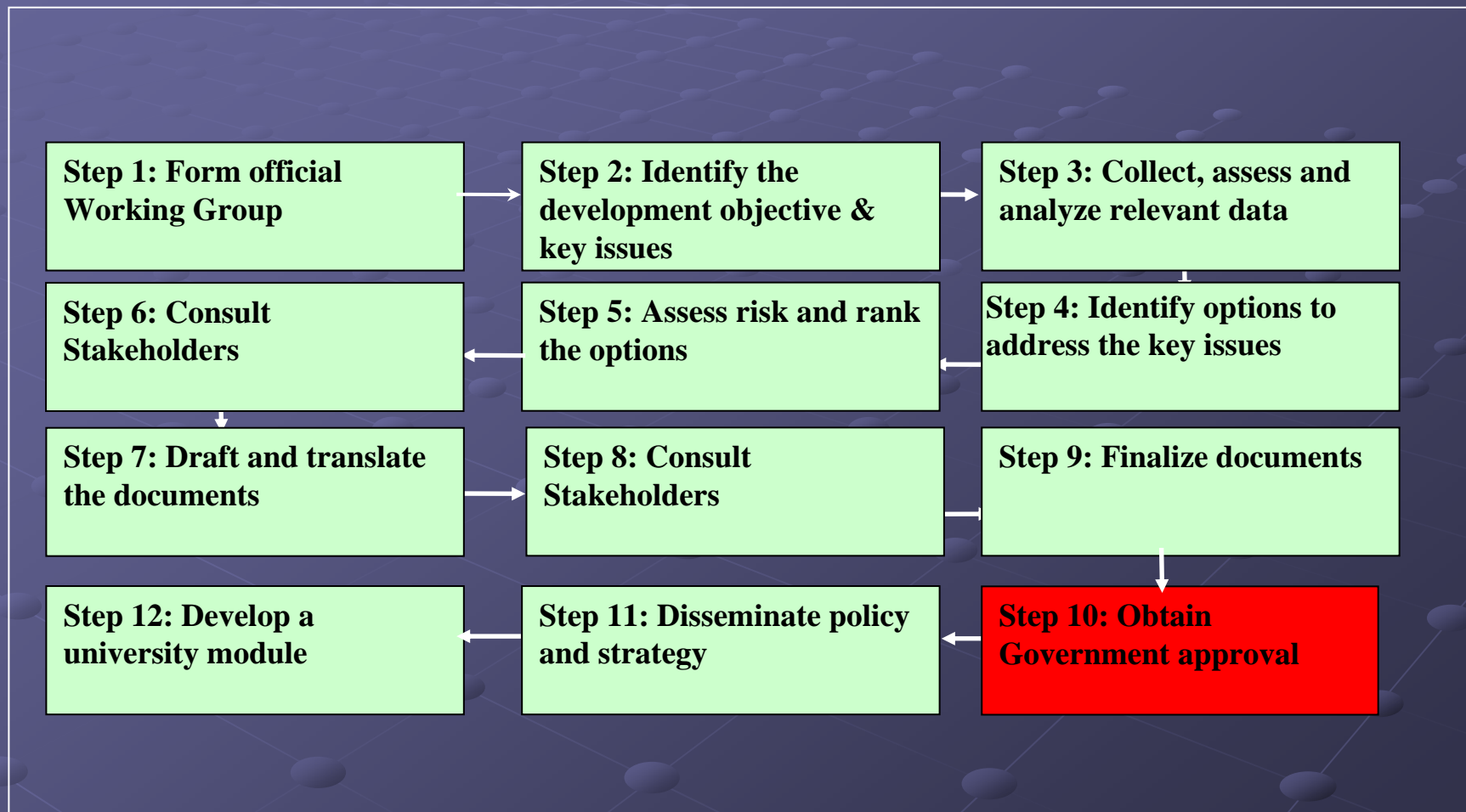
# Rural Roads: Policy and Strategy

- Ministry of Rural Development responsible for rural roads
- MRD started strategic plan development in 2005 & completed in 2006:
  - To set out long-term direction & framework
- Started the updating of rural roads policy in 2006
  - One of the seven most important issues identified in the strategic plan
- Clear policies and strategies: will help better management of the rural roads by MRD

# Main Challenges

- Identification of key issues
- Absence of reliable data
- Involvement of stakeholders in the process
- Integration of the policy and strategy messages into the academic curriculum
- The approval process and dissemination of the documents

# The process



# Vision Statement

*“Every Person living in rural Cambodia will have year-round access to basic needs, economic and social facilities, services and opportunities.”*



# Issues

- 21 issues identified
- Planning and Programming:
  - Road inventory, Investment prioritisation, Network improvement rate, Inter-modal integration etc.
- Financing
  - Overall funding and improvement vs maintenance
- Sustainability
  - Maintenance, private sector's involvement etc.
- Institutional .
  - Role of local governments; institutional capacity development etc.

# A Policy Example: Road Inventory

## ● Policy objective

- To have a reliable database of the rural road network and related infrastructure to enable informed decision making

## ● Policy direction

- a. It will be a top priority of MRD to complete the Cambodia-wide rural road and related infrastructure inventory.
- b. Efforts to capture the spatial and attribute data in an electronic database will continue. Each rural road will be categorised and assigned a unique identification number.
- c. IRAP/GIS units at MRD headquarters and PDRD offices will be expanded and strengthened for the effective management of the rural infrastructure database

# A Strategy Example: Road Inventory

## ● Strategic Options

- **Option 1:** start the development of a complete rural infrastructure inventory immediately, including that of roads, building on the experience gained during the implementation of the Integrated Rural Accessibility Planning (IRAP)/Geographic Information System (GIS) project.
- **Option 2:** progressively develop a complete rural infrastructure inventory under different rural infrastructure projects as done in four provinces under NRDP

## ● Selected option: Option 1

## ● Barrier level in the implementation of Option 1:

- **Financial:** medium; **institutional:** medium; **legal:** low and **technological:** high

# Module Updating for an Academic Course

- **Developing countries: involvement of academia in government development initiatives is rare**
- **Teaching staff and students are unaware of the government policies and strategies**
- **Cambodia rural roads policy and strategy:**
  - **Academia involved in their development**
  - **Outputs incorporated in the academic curriculum**
- **University faculty**
  - **considered as one of the stakeholders**
  - **Involved in the consultation process**
- **Existing module on the development policies**
  - **Updated in consultation with the faculty**



# Impact of Updating the Academic Module

- **Too early to comment on its impact**
- **There is ongoing cooperation between the academic institutions and ministries in Cambodia**
- **Relevant module is only updated**
  - A part of the development engineering course
  - Highlight the key issues, contexts, policies and strategies
- **Cooperation from academics was encouraging**
  - One or more people attended the consultation meetings
  - Cooperated fully during the development of the module
- **The potential impact may include**
  - strengthened cooperation: academia and ministries
  - Potential entrants to the ministries –better prepared: anecdotal evidence also suggest so



# Lessons Learnt

- **The process approach: found very effective**
  - Stakeholder involvement at all stages
  - Formulation of a Ministry Working Group
  - Helped in promoting ownership
- **Inadequate data availability can be overcome**
  - Collection of crucial primary data may be necessary
- **Inclusion of university faculty as one of the stakeholders found helpful**
  - Renewing links between the university and ministry
  - In dissemination of the outputs
- **Assistance in the formal promulgation of the policy and strategy is important for country like Cambodia**

# Presentation Summary

- Cambodia & Rural Roads
- Main Challenges
- Policy and Strategy Development Process
- Examples of policy and strategy
- Involvement of academia in the process
- Lessons learnt

**Thank you for your attention**