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TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS IN VIETNAM – EXPERIENCES and SUGGESTION

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Vietnam

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Vietnam:

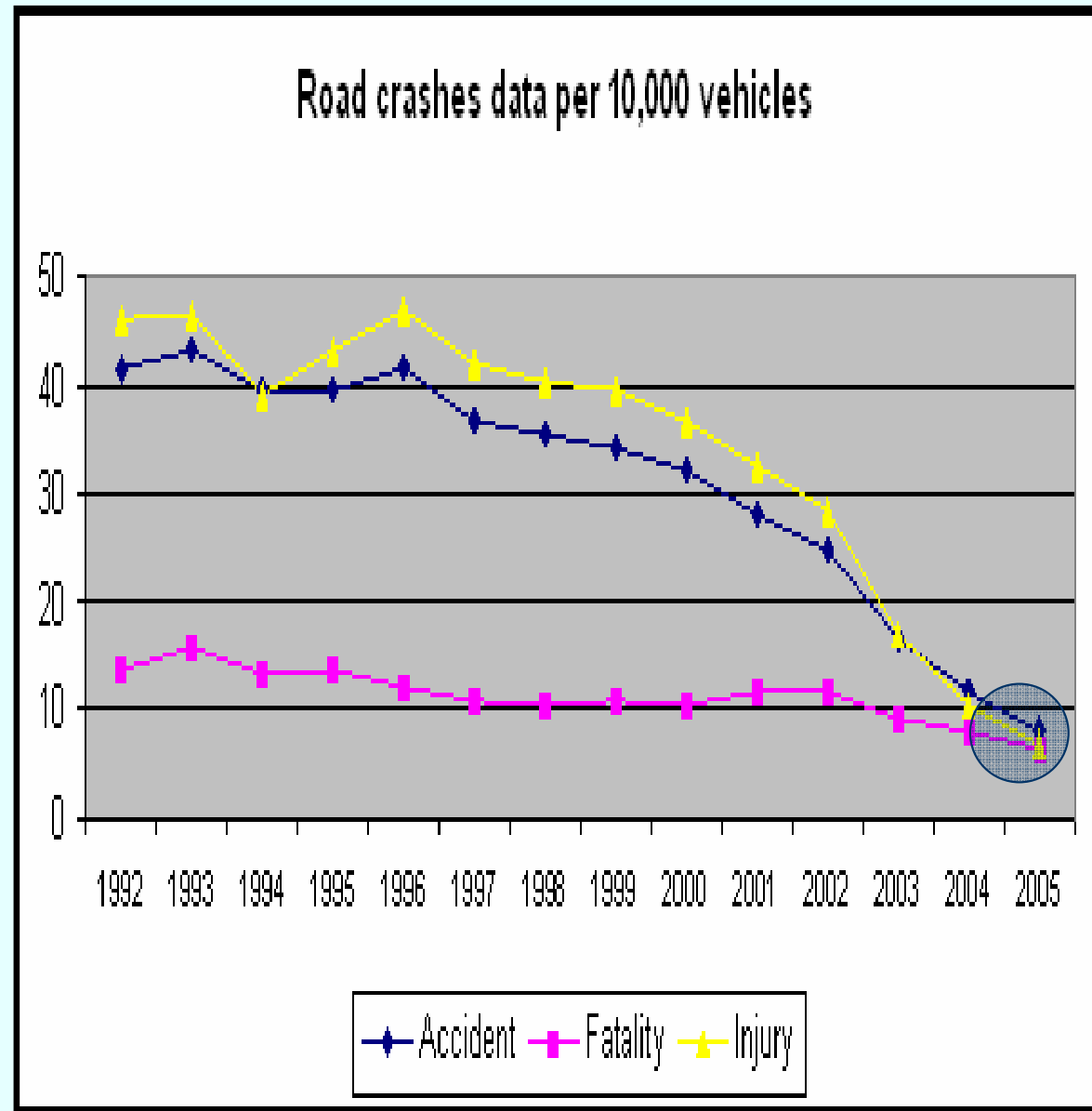
- Progresses in Economic Development.
- Transport Sector: Better and better Infrastructure

But

Traffic accidents still at a very high level !

1 Traffic accidents in Vietnam

With great efforts, since 2002 the number of traffic accidents (TA) **has decreased**. However, the number of fatalities is still very high at unacceptable level. In 2007, there were over 14,500 TAs with over 12,980 Fatalities and 10,630 Injuries: about 31 people dead by road crashes **everyday!**



1

Traffic accidents in Vietnam Still Accidents

March 12, 2005
Train E1 accident
(11 fatalities &
78 injuries)



Traffic accidents in Vietnam Still Accidents



T Traffic accidents in Vietnam Still Accidents

Reasons

- A high rate of motorization with about 15 % annual growth of motorcycles and vehicles. Now motorcycles population reached over 25 millions and one million vehicles.
- Rapid Rate of Urbanization
- Lack of effective infrastructure, facilities and traffic flow management
- Unsynchronized and ineffective Traffic Safety regulations and laws
- People's limited awareness on TS, particularly limited quality of driver
- Lack of Traffic accidents Management Information System
- And others...



1 Traffic accidents in Vietnam

Still Accidents

Need more
and more
Activities !



NTSC and TS PMU

- In 1997, **National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC)** - an Inter-Ministerial Organization – was established by the Government to coordinate all Traffic Safety activities. It is now chaired by Minister of Transport. It has an Executive Office of 9 people.
- On November, 2004: the **Traffic Safety Projects Management Unit (TS PMU)** was established under NTSC to seek, prepare and implement **traffic safety projects** in order to reduce traffic accidents, fatalities and injuries.

TS Projects

Since establishment, TSPMU has been implementing several projects:

- The on-going World Bank-funded 'Vietnam Road Safety Project' - over USD 36 million.
 - The JICA-funded project on Traffic Safety Improvement for Highways in Northern Vietnam - over USD 65 million.
 - The JICA - funded study on National Road Traffic Safety Master Plan in Vietnam.
- And others.

In implementing one pilot study, we learnt that one of the most important experience is:

"All people"

"All-sided "

A p p r o a c h

"Any problem of traffic safety must be treated in all sides by every stakeholder".

② Traffic Safety Experiences

"All people"

"All-sided"

A p p r o a c h

- The stakeholders of the traffic safety can be understood as anyone, any organization/agency who can contribute at every level and aspect of traffic safety.
- The participation of every related stakeholder in any traffic safety solution.

2 Traffic Safety Experiences

The successful story of helmets wearing campaign in Vietnam.

The helmets wearing was introduced in Vietnam in June 2005, resulting in less effective results. It was reintroduced again in 2006 in certain parts of Vietnam.

In 2007, it was carried strictly out through various campaigns trial and strong enforcement. After December 15th 2007, it brought about a success.



② Traffic Safety Experiences

Through this success, it is important to establish the “Traffic Safety Culture” policy in Vietnam.

Comprehensive and nation-wide traffic safety awareness programs are planned to implement it.

People’s opinion and present behavior (habit) is important to develop the policy.

The purpose is to identify and understand the present characteristics of people’s transport behavior, especially driving manner and traffic violation.

To find out effective traffic safety publications in order to raise the people’s awareness on traffic safety and create the TS culture of the people.

3 Lessons learnt

**Safety
Awareness
improvement**

**Assistance for
low-income
people**

**Emergency
response**

**Traffic Safety
problems
identification**

**Capacity
Development for
TS Managers and
Policy Makers
Networking and
coordination**

**“Traffic safety”
Month**

**Building Traffic
Safety Culture**

Safety
Awareness
improvement

Lesson 1:

To Improve the Awareness of people on Traffic Safety and Knowledge on Traffic Safety Regulations is the Most Important among All Solutions.

3 Lessons learnt

- This idea plays the dominant role.
- It deals not only with the road users but also with all stakeholders.

**Assistance for
low-income
people**

**Lesson 2:
On Traffic Safety
Knowledge
Improvement for
the Low-Income
people**

3 Lessons learnt

- Most of the highways run through agricultural areas where most of the road users are poor. Moreover, they have very limited knowledge on Traffic Safety regulations.
- The number of the poor who are involved in traffic accidents are 6 times higher than other groups.
- The injuries and fatalities to the poor are 10 times higher than other groups.
- Necessity of improving TS knowledge

**Emergency
response**

**Lesson 3:
Improvement of
People's
Knowledge on
How to Respond
to Emergency**

3 Lessons learnt

- The “Emergency” approach includes not only the medical first-aid.
- The problem is that when traffic accident occurs, they do not know how to contact 115 Emergency or ask for first-aid so they usually call or wait for the police to come.

**Traffic Safety
problems
identification**

**Lesson 4:
Necessity for
Better Collection
of Opinions on
Traffic Safety
Problems from
the Local
Stakeholders**

3 Lessons learnt

- The Government always encourages the people to participate in traffic safety.
- The related agencies, such as transport units and traffic police, also pay attention to these problems.
- But these enforcers may not be able to identify all the problems as thoroughly as the local people can.
- Therefore, there is a necessity to collect stakeholders' opinions on traffic safety problems.

**Capacity
Development
For TS Managers
And Policy Makers
-Networking
and Coordination**

Lesson 5:
Capacity Development for
Traffic Safety Managers and
Policy Makers and
Increase coordination among
related agencies

3 Lessons learnt

- Human Resources Development
- The future establishment of a Traffic Safety science and Technology Research institute which also takes care of the training on TS.
- Improvement of the working conditions (materials as well as a more effective working manner) while networking and strengthening the coordination among TS related agencies.

**“Traffic safety”
Month**

Lesson 6:
**“Traffic Safety”
month: an
occasion for
keeping and
developing traffic
safety activities**

3 Lessons learnt

- In Vietnam, September is a Traffic Safety Month emphasizing on more TS activities.
- During this month, the low-income people have chances to raise their awareness on traffic safety.

**“Building
Traffic safety
Culture”**

**Lesson 7:
Building
Traffic Safety
Culture**

3 Lessons learnt

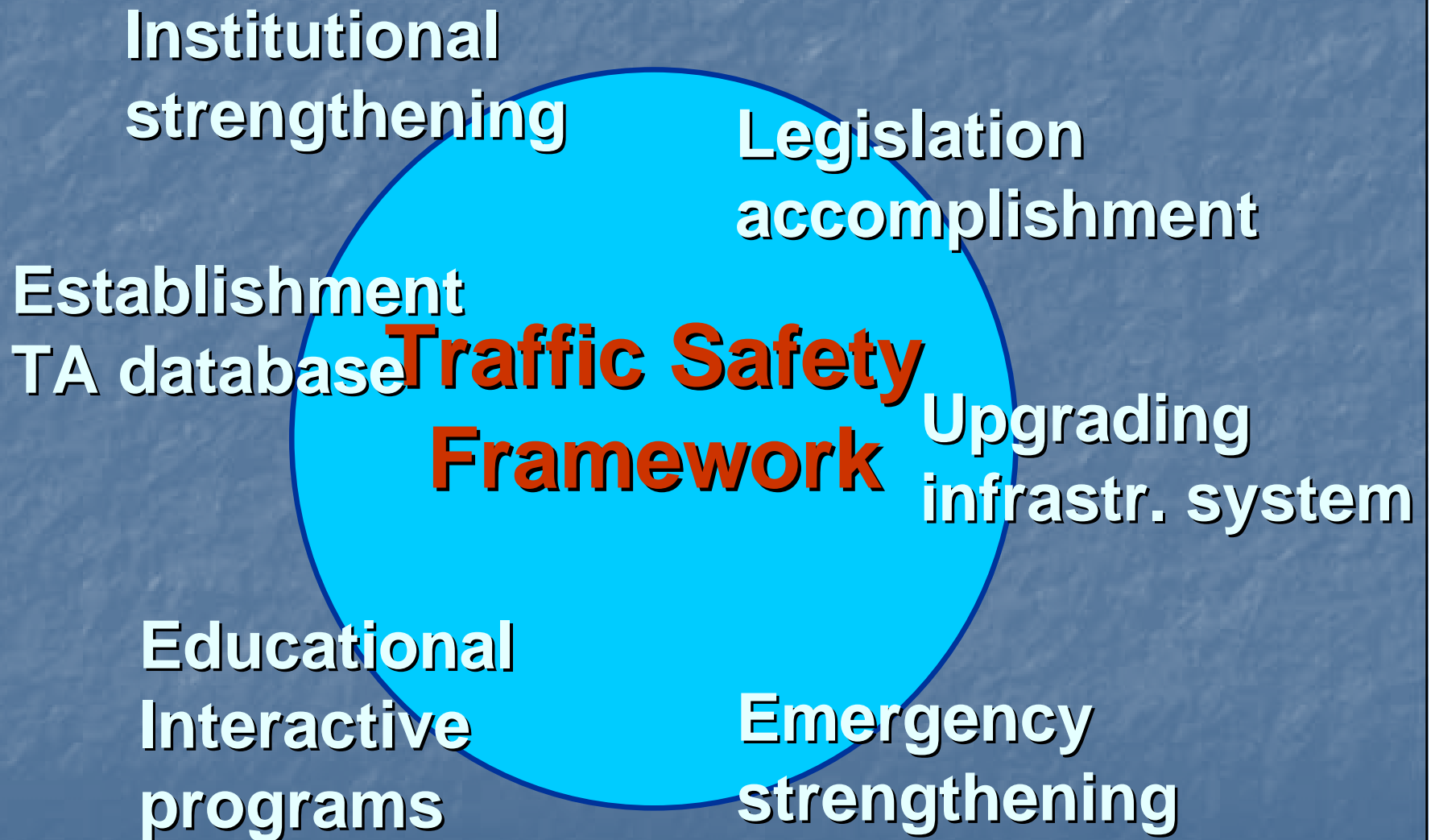
- Traffic Safety Culture will be created based on the Vietnamese culture (nationality).
- People’s opinion and present behavior (habit) is important to develop the policy.
- To achieve this through carrying out effective Traffic Safety campaigns through mass media network.
- The helmet wearing campaign that resulted a success in 2007.

4 Goals in coming years

- Vietnam will try its best in order to keep the traffic accidents under control. That would be the first steps toward a sustainable and safe transport system.
- A **TRAFFIC SAFETY FRAMEWORK** and action plan which has been formulated and consists of number of measures/projects to be and on-going implemented

Measures . projects

4 Goals in coming years



5 Suggestions

Suggestion:

Towards a harmonized system on traffic regulations/policies as much as possible among Asian countries

- The difference between traffic safety regulations/policies of different countries is one of hindering factors for a safe transport system in Asian regions.
- Australia would play the role towards this system so that the transport esp. Traffic Safety network between different countries in the region would be facilitated.

5 Suggestions

Suggestion 1:

To enhance the exchange on related information, knowledge, experiences and lessons among countries in the region

Suggestion 2:

Towards a harmonized system on traffic regulations/policies as much as possible among Asian countries and strengthening regional Traffic Safety system

Suggestion 3:

Australia's leading role in the system and assistance in human resources development

Suggestion 4:

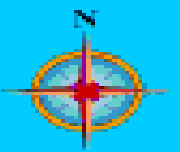
"Traffic Safety" Month/Year/events



Thank you for
Your attention!

Australia

0 400 mi
0 600 km



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