

2006 SSATP Annual General Meeting Report of the SSATP Board by Mr. Bruce Thompson representing the donors



The Report covers the activities and achievements of the Board in its execution of its mandate.

Firstly, a few facts and several changes:

- Since the Annual General Meeting in Bamako last year, the Board has held three physical meetings, and two virtual, this however excludes the many virtual meetings required in the process of recruiting the new Program Manager:
- The Board also participated in:
 - a SSATP high level meeting in Dublin in June hosted by Irish Aid,
 - the Planning Retreat in September for the 2006 Annual Meetings, held in St Gerard, Belgium
- The Board welcomed Sanjivi Rajasingham, Sector Manager, Africa Transport Division of the World Bank as the new Board Member representing the multilateral financial development institutions. Sanjivi replaces Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard—one of the founding Board Members and a passionate advocate and supporter of SSATP.
- The Board welcomed Zaza Ramandimbarison as the new Program Manager who took up the leadership of SSATP in June. Zaza replaces Nigel Ings our first full-time Program Manager who left in March. Nigel through his dedication to SSATP brought the Program from an all-time low in 2001 to that of an increasingly African owned, resourced and led Program that is increasingly anchoring transport policies in growth and poverty reduction strategies. The Board is fully supporting Zaza to take SSATP to greater heights.

Turning to the key activities and achievements of the Board:

i. The Board's efforts to remain in close contacts with the donors

The SSATP high-level meeting in Dublin achieved its principal objective of deepening the engagement of donors with the key results of the Long Term Development Plan, particularly with the outputs of the Poverty Reduction Transport Strategy Review process.

The Dublin meeting resulted in a much broader and active donor participation in all the meetings this week. (I thank my donor friends for their full attendance this week).

ii. The Board's efforts to increase African ownership

The Board successfully mobilized eight Ministers or their representatives to participate in the meeting of the Ministerial Advisory Group. Their commitment to SSATP and their desire to increase its effectiveness are reflected in the Communiqué presented by the Honorable Popane Lebesa, Minister of Public Works and Transport.

The Board welcomed three new countries to the Program – Liberia, Namibia and Sierra Leone.

The Board will make proposals to the Consultative Assembly, after this meeting, to widen the membership of the Board. The outcome of the decision of the Consultative Assembly will be communicated to all stakeholders in the near future.

iii. The Board and the financing of SSATP

This year this is a specific item on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

iv. The Board's task to build coherence between Program objectives and policies of donor and development partners.

This task is gaining momentum. Board Members fulfill this task in many ways:

- by promoting SSATP in the operational activities of their own institutions, which in many SSA countries (and beyond) strongly supports the sectoral reform process at a country and regional level,
- by integrating SSATP in the new international initiatives – World Bank Africa Action Plan and the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure,
- by participating directly or briefing participants attending meetings of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, and
- in a maturing dialogue with AUC and RECs in the context of supporting the AU-NEPAD Infrastructure Action Plan.

v. An additional task of the Board: the output-to-purpose review of the Long Term Development Plan

The Board is a member of the OPR Steering Committee and will continue to support the Committee in producing the best possible outcome of this important review.

vi. Lastly, the main challenge in the year ahead will be in working with the Program Management Team and key stakeholders to deliver an affordable SSATP plan beyond 2007.

Maseru, Lesotho – 3 November 2006