

implemented with financial assistance from Japan International

section (which is a part of BBIN), and Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road



Map showing the Cross-Border Road Network in Bangladesh

Cooperation Agency (JICA) by Roads and Highways Department (RHD) representing the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The project roads coincide with Asian Highways 1 and 41 and a part of the planned corridor under Bangladesh- Bhutan- India- Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement. In addition, the existing ferry at Kalna over the Madhumoti River in Bangladesh will be replaced by a 700m long bridge along with another 17 bridges to replace existing old bridges; additionally, 2 Axle Load Control Stations, and a Toll Plaza will be constructed under the project. The consultancy services include site investigation, design, preconstruction work and construction supervision including services during Defects Liability period.

The road sections under this project are: Benapole land port to Kasiani section of Dhaka- Khulna highway, Baraiyarhat- Heyako-Ramgarh road

(which is a part of the proposed Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar (BCIM) highway). The project, once implemented, is expected to improve cross border trade and regional industrial development.

The Consultancy Services Contract

for the Cross- Border Road Network Improvement Project was signed on 07 Nov 2016. Oriental Consultants Global Company Ltd is the lead partner in the consortium of consultants. The other members of the consortium are Oriental Consultants and PADECO in Jv in association with SMEC Int'l, JBSI, ACE, DDC and BCL Associates. The consultancy budget is US\$ 30.25 million. The services started on 08 Dec 2016. The completion is scheduled at the end of 2021. □

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## 1.5 MILLION RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CONNECTIONS

Affordable and reliable electricity is a key to the country's economic development and the poverty reduction. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) believes that it cannot achieve the desired development without improving

electricity coverage, particularly of rural areas. In support of the vision of providing access to affordable and reliable electricity to all by the year 2021, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) has launched a project named "1.5 Million Rural Electrification Consumer Connections Expansion" to enhance electrification program over the countryside. The project is based on the concept of Area Coverage Rural Electrification (ACRE). The ACRE concept leads to the establishment of co-operative called Pally Bidyut Samity (PBS) to deliver electricity to their member consumers. 77 PBSs have been developed under different projects from ACRE Phase-I to V since its inception in 1978. After establishing the PBSs, their distribution system were gradually expanded and intensified under different Intensification and Expansion projects.

The 1.5 Million Rural Electrification Consumer Connections Expansion Project's targets and output are:

- Construction of new 33 KV line and below : 44,000 km
- Installation of 33/11 KV new Sub-station : 83 Nos
- Augmentation of 33/11 KV existing Sub-station : 35 Nos
- Enhancement of MVA capacity (830+176.83) : 1,006.83 MVA

The total cost of the project is estimated at Tk 69, 154 million, equivalent to approximately to US\$ 887 million.