



Module Title: Construction Industry Development

Module Code: BCPM 0008

Module Leader: Dr. Kumar Aniket

Topic for the term paper:

Please choose any infrastructure project or a public goods provision initiative that has had an impact on an area, country or region. Write a case study on the project or initiative explaining its intended objective, its impact and the lessons that can be learnt from it.

Word limit: 3000 words.

Submission deadline: 4th May at 3pm

Instructions:

The structure of the case study is entirely up to you. I would like to encourage you to adapt the structure to your subject. You just have to ensure that you give the reader a clear sense of the objectives, impact and lessons learnt from the project or initiative.

Make sure you effectively communicate the insights you obtained from your research into the project or initiative.

All material should be referenced clearly. Please confine yourself to quoting only references that you have read.

Figures and tables should be made created from scratch for the term paper. Copy and pasting figures and tables from other sources is strictly prohibited.

Choosing the project or initiative:

You are free to choose any infrastructure project or public goods provision initiative from any part of the world.

The only strict constraint is that the case study should shed light on the development impact of an infrastructure project or public goods initiative.

The project or initiative could either be a success or a failure. Usually, successes get more publicity, but failures are as important in terms of teaching us what does not work in practice. Hence, writing about lessons learnt from failure can be a very rewarding experience.

Some suggestions:

A list of suggested issues that you may like to address in the case study is given below. This is not prescriptive a list of issues by any means. It is just a way to get you started. You are welcome to discuss any issues that you may think are relevant to the particular project or initiative you have chosen.

Explain why you chose to write about this particular project or initiative.

Why can it be classified as an infrastructure project or a public goods initiative?

Why was it implemented at that particular time? What stopped it from being implemented earlier? Were there any constraints that were holding back the project in the past?

How was the project or initiative funded?

What was the organisational structure of the organisation that was responsible for implementing the project? Who was this organisation accountable to?

Infrastructure Database:

I have created an infrastructure database for the course. Lecture 5 was largely based on this database. If you would like, you can use the data from the infrastructure database I have created for the course to provide a context of the study.

- The database can be accessed at http://www.aniket.co.uk/teaching/ucl/condev/readings/pwt_cal.csv
- A description of the database can be accessed at http://www.aniket.co.uk/teaching/ucl/condev/readings/pwt_cal_readme.pdf

Hypothetical examples:

Here are some hypothetical examples of projects or initiative that could inspire you to start thinking about projects.

- How the construction of a bridge changed the geography of the city.
- The impact of mid-day school meals on student attendance in schools.
- The problems of implementing a deworming initiative in a country.
- The impact of an irrigation project on farming in an area.
- The impact of highway construction on local firms.
- The problem faced by communities that are on the HS2 path.
- Impact of Crossrail on the community in Slough.
- Impact of building schools in the 1970s in Indonesia on the local education market.
- The impact of high rise building on communities.
- Measures to deal with light pollution in Hong Kong.
- Are hydroelectric dams good for the local environment?
- What caused the floods in Kerala?
- How was the operation organised during the earthquake in Nepal?
- How was the cleanup operation after Fukushima disaster organised?

All these examples have a public goods component to it. The objective of the term paper is to allow you to learn about the intricacies of public goods provision through a process of self-learning and exploration.