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Implemented by:



Waterborne transport

Ferries for Kochi

Like most developing countries, India is unable to provide the infrastructure needed for the rapidly growing population and its economic development. This applies especially to cities. But it is in particular medium-sized cities, with one to three million inhabitants that have huge potential to positively shape the rapid growth by expanding the transport infrastructure. Integrated local public transport systems can reduce endless traffic jams and greenhouse gas emissions, both harmful to the environment and to human health. They also provide marginalized population groups with easier access to employment opportunities and to public services. Kochi, a port city in the south of India includes a large number of islands and thus needs a rather unique inner-city connection. KfW is therefore financing an integrated water transport system to connect the islands by ferries. Old boats are being replaced by new, energy-efficient ones, schedules are being optimised. This will lower resource consumption and ease the strain on the environment, as well as allowing people to get around faster, safer and more comfortably.

also placing a burden on the environment and is an obstacle to economic development. 13 out of the 20 cities with the highest levels of air pollution in the G20 Nations are located in India.

The medium-sized cities in particular have the potential to improve their transport systems along with their urban growth. Kochi, a densely populated port city in southern India is one of them. Due to its many islands and, to a large extent, waterborne economic activities, the residents rely on fast, safe water transport. Against the backdrop of the rapidly growing suburbs, there is a

Project name	Integrated Water Transport for Kochi
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Country/region	India
Lead executing agency	Kochi Metro Rail Limited

Context

Although India is still in the early stages of the urbanisation boom, with roughly one third of its population living in cities, it is already experiencing enormous challenges. The motorisation rate in India is growing five times faster than the population. Non-motorised transportation has already begun to decline in favour of private transport. Without decisive actions, this will drastically exacerbate traffic conditions in the future. The outdated and overloaded local public transport network offers no alternative. This trend not only causes traffic jams but is





Waterborne transport– the ideal solution for Kochi, Image: Stephanie Rieger, KfW

need for a reliable, integrated connection between the mainland and the numerous peninsulas and islands, which can often only be reached by boat. Women are particularly dependent on local public transport as they rarely have their own cars. The few existing ferries are hardly ever used, since they are too slow, dilapidated and thus unsafe.

Project approach

To improve the transport situation in Kochi, KfW, on behalf of the German Federal Government, is promoting the expansion and renovation of the local public transport network. The project is unique since it introduces an integrated water transport system, whose schedule and route network will be aligned with the new metro and bus lines. Tickets are valid for the entire transport system and are designed to be affordable for the poorer population as well. To improve efficiency, the previous point-to-point rides will be replaced by line traffic. Instead, the ferries will start from the main islands or the mainland and stop at the neighbouring islands. This will shorten the routes, thus saving time and resources and allows for a regular schedule. In total, 16 lines will be set up with 38 jetties and 78 energy-efficient boats to replace the old ones. The project is to be implemented in just five years and is scheduled for completion in 2020. 80,000 trips per day are planned by then, with time savings of up to 30% in comparison to road transport. Furthermore, the enhanced technology of the boats means that up to 40% less diesel will be consumed. Additionally, to make the ferry rides safe and comfortable for women in particular, separate pas-

senger areas will be created and separate entry controls conducted.

Impact

The waterborne transport network is the ideal solution for Kochi in order to integrate all of its inhabitants on the various islands into an efficient transport system. The outer islands will be closely linked to the mainland, giving them easier access to employment opportunities, schools and health services. Coordinating the individual transport modes with each other will save travellers' time on their daily routes. Underprivileged population groups in particular will benefit from the project and are more mobile.

The new ferries are safe, quick and comfortable, which will increase the attractiveness of the public transportation system in Kochi as a whole. They need significantly less fuel than the old boats and therefore create fewer greenhouse gases. The significantly lower background noise, along with cleaner air, will also contribute to overall citizens' well-being. At the same time, a functioning and attractive local public transport system is an important prerequisite for further economic growth and social development.



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