Managing Infrastructure Projects under Uncertainty in Palestine

Prof. Dr. Adnan Enshassi¹, Prof. Dr. Sebastian Dworatschek², Dr. Detlef Grieshe²
¹ Civil Engineering Department, IUG, Gaza, Palestine
² Institut fur Projektmanagement und Innovation (IPMI) – Bremen University - Germany

Abstract
The socio-economic, cultural and political forces unique in the Palestinian contexts exposed Palestinian planners to the challenge of full-scale development in the construction sector. Construction sector creates employment directly, and indirectly, by a multiplier effect; improves infrastructure which leads to growth and reduction to poverty; and improves living conditions of all citizens. Infrastructure projects involve numerous unpredictable and complex processes. Political instability, unrest, closure, complexities of the project, location, type of contract, familiarity with the work, breakdown in communication are some of the significant contributors to uncertainty in infrastructure projects. These factors are not being adequately dealt with in Palestine.

The objective of this paper is to explore the perception of owners and contractors towards the factors which contribute to the uncertainty of managing infrastructure projects. Data for this study were obtained from 23 owners and 28 contractors by means of questionnaire survey. It has been found that the most important factors that affect project uncertainty which have been identified by both owners and contractors are: unclear project definition, poor planning, fails to forecast important events and risky situations, unclear interfaces of project, and conflict of participant’s objectives.

Keyword: Uncertainty, project management, owners, contractors, construction.