ABSTRACT

At the International Conference on Thinking in July 97, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong spoke about Singapore's vision for Education for the Future is "Thinking Schools, Learning Nation". With the rapid advancement of knowledge and information technology today, it is important to ensure that educational facilities are brought up-to-date regularly. Programme for Rebuilding and Improving Existing Schools (PRIME) initialized by the Ministry of Education therefore aims to renew a total of about 290 existing primary and secondary schools to meet the latest specifications over a period of 7 years, from 1999 to 2005.

The objective of this study is to identify the problems faced by the Consultants and Owners in handling PRIME projects. Because upgrading work will be carried out when schools are in operation, safety, noise and dust level become three important factors which have to be given much attention. The findings of the research study will provide to relevant organizations some useful insights of the prevalent difficulties and hence provide means to alleviate these problems.

By means of conducting a case study and a survey on the affected groups of people, investigation is made and research findings suggest that although the affected people are satisfied with the measures implemented, much can still be done to reduce the noise and dust level, particularly the latter. The concept of "Noiseless construction" can be explored into and possible suggestions to reduce dust include the application of dust suppressants and through the use of a dust monitoring equipment.