

**2nd ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in North-East Asia
(Online)**

Transport Sector:

Cross-Sectoral Linkages towards Resilient Connectivity

30 June 2021 (Wednesday, 4:00-6:00pm, ROK time)

SUMMARY REPORT

1. The 2nd ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in North-East Asia was held virtually on 30 June 2021¹. The Seminar is organized annually in conjunction with GTI Transport Board meetings. The Seminar's theme focused on transport's cross-sectoral linkages towards resilient connectivity. The Seminar provided a platform to: (a) jointly engage GTI sectoral bodies on transport and trade issues of common interests; (b) present perspectives on areas of coordination on subregional connectivity involving transport and trade facilitation; and (c) identify approaches on how cross-sectoral linkages on connectivity can be strengthened in North-East Asia through the GTI platform. (Annex 1 - Concept Note and Programme).
2. Officials from different GTI sectoral bodies involved in transport and trade cooperation areas participated in the Seminar, including from the Transport Board, Trade and Investment Committee (and its Customs Sub-Committee), NEA Local Cooperation Committee (and its NEA Logistics Sub-Committee), NEA EXIM Banks Association, NEA Business Association, and Research Institutions Network. GTI Development Partners also participated. (Annex 2 - List of registered participants)
3. Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) and Mr. Andrey Smorodin (Director, GTI Secretariat) delivered remarks during the opening session. Republic of Korea, current Country Chair of the GTI Transport Board, co-hosted the Seminar and Mr. EO, Myeong-so (Director General, Comprehensive Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea) likewise delivered remarks during the opening session.

¹ Seminar presentations and recording are available at: <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/2nd-escap-gti-seminar-transport-issues-north-east-asia>

Session 1: Cross-sectoral Linkages towards Resilient Connectivity

4. Session 1, moderated by ESCAP ENEA Office, provided context and background on the latest developments in connectivity, drawing attention to policy areas and issues where there are needs and opportunities for stronger cross-sectoral linkages.

5. Ms. Varvara Krechetova (ESCAP) presented the highlights of the ESCAP draft study on policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia. Existing policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation among North-East Asian countries were highlighted. However, several gaps exist which limit broader multilateral coordination in the subregion. Going forward, recommendations on areas for policy coordination include enhancing legal regime for trade and transport connectivity; developing technological and operational solutions for trade and transport facilitation; and establishing interoperability and data exchange between information systems used for trade and logistics.

6. Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn (ESCAP) informed on the latest developments on transport connectivity. Several modalities and options being discussed among ESCAP member countries on the harmonization of legal frameworks for multimodal transport in the Asia-Pacific region were presented. As a way forward, there is potential in developing a new legal instrument on multimodal transport (e.g. new stand-alone instrument or an annex to an existing legal instrument). Participants were also informed of an ESCAP study report on the progress in enhancing transport connectivity between Asia and Europe. Participants were also informed of a study report on practical suggestions on developing crisis response through upgrading transport agreements. Officials were encouraged to take part and actively engage in the planned upcoming activities.

7. Mr. Sandeep Jain (ESCAP) highlighted the importance of enhancing operational connectivity along the Trans-Asian Railway Network. Areas for improvement include cooperation with customs agencies and harmonization of electronic exchange of information between railways as well as among railways and control agencies. Focus areas linked to sustainable development were presented such as electronic data exchange, harmonization of custom facilities, and railway corridor management, among others. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the benefits of focusing on seamless and collaborative solutions based on technology and innovation were emphasized.

8. Ms. Keiko Koyoma (Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat) informed on the trilateral cooperation on transport and logistics among China, Japan and Republic of Korea. In particular, participants were informed on the developments related to the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service (NEAL-NET). On-going and future

initiative include, among others, increasing information sharing port and exploring service areas as well as beginning a joint study on intermodal transport among countries. An official website on the trilateral cooperation on transport and logistics is currently being developed which would enable stakeholders to better access related information.

9. Ms. Halin Hahn (Korea Institute for International Economic Policy) shared the highlights of the GTI study on regional value chains and logistics network in the Greater Tumen Region. The research project is an example of cross-sectoral collaboration within the GTI platform involving the GTI Research Institutions Network and GTI Transport Experts Group. It was highlighted that the collaboration provided opportunities for future joint research and similar synergistic effects could be generated across other bodies in the GTI framework.

Session 2: Perspectives from GTI

10. Session 2, moderated by GTI Secretariat, focused on GTI sectoral bodies sharing insights on how cross sectoral linkages could be further enhanced in the context of the GTI framework.

11. Mr. Hirofumi Arai (GTI Transport Experts Group) emphasized the need for consistent statistical data, noting the data gaps on cross-border cargo volumes. There is also limited information evaluating the impact of transport policies and measures on improving efficiency in doing business. To this end, utilizing the information sheet shared among local governments within the GTI Local Cooperation Committee (LCC) would be helpful. Communicating the developments in transport and logistics to the business sector is also important.

12. Mr. Mikhail Kholosha (GTI Transport Experts Group) highlighted the need to pay attention to initiatives from the business community to identify new transport projects. The importance of good statistics and analysis is highlighted, which could be supported by mechanisms such as: developing a unified and organized database on transport statistics; organizing data collection and sharing; developing market studies; constant performance monitoring of transport routes; and developing project proposals.

13. Mr. Sergey Mikhnevich (GTI Northeast Asia Business Association) highlighted the main issues of particular importance to businesses include conducive and stable environment for doing business and mechanisms for collaboration and project implementation. The importance of the constructive dialogue and coordination of policy actions between all stakeholders at the domestic and international level was emphasized. Technical issues raised by businesses include, among others: development of appropriate multimodal transport and cross-border infrastructure; harmonization of

regulatory frameworks; information exchange and establishment of consistent database; and coordination of strategies and policy actions taking into consideration spill-over effects between various sectors.

14. Mr. Mr. Jae Gab Kim (GTI Local Cooperation Committee, GTI Logistics Sub-Committee) shared on the project involving Busan on the facilitation of new Northern multimodal freight routes connecting China, Russian Federation and Republic of Korea. These projects are oriented to increase cargo volume. It was highlighted that multiple challenges could be overcome by further engagements among countries. The need for several practical measures were noted, including streamlining customs process and establishing joint quarantine system for specific routes.

15. Mr. Florian Miss (GTI Development Partner) shared that, in the context of GIZ's operations, projects in the region are always required to have cross-sectoral cooperation with allotted budgets. The same regular mechanism could be coordinated within the GTI framework to have a small-scale funding for cross-sectoral projects to motivate GTI member countries across sectoral bodies to undertake cross-sectoral work. These projects could target the issues raised in the sessions, involving trade, transport, agriculture, business associations, among others.

Post-Seminar: Additional Notes on Follow-Up Actions (Annex 3)

16. The perspectives shared by GTI sectoral bodies on several issues could be clustered into four areas:

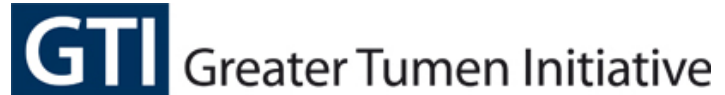
- i. information and analysis;
- ii. awareness and sharing;
- iii. technical issues; and
- iv. project-based initiatives.

17. These could serve as starting points to develop proposals for follow-up activities towards strengthening cross-sectoral linkages within the GTI framework. To this end, several modalities could be used in addressing the issues and needs for each focus area. These include:

- i. generating knowledge resources (e.g. studies, online knowledge portal);
- ii. organizing regular intergovernmental and cross-sectoral engagements (e.g. dialogues; online stakeholder engagement platform);
- iii. capacity building (e.g. technical workshops); and
- iv. pilot projects.

18. Consultations with sectoral bodies would continue for inputs and guidance in co-developing activity/project proposals with GTI sectoral bodies, with the goal of commencing some activities as early as possible (indicative: end-Sep/early Oct 2021).

ANNEX 1: CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME



2nd ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in North-East Asia (Online)

Transport Sector:

Cross-Sectoral Linkages towards Resilient Connectivity

30 June 2021 (Wednesday, 4:00-6:00pm, ROK time)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the need to address disruptions in operational connectivity and supply chains involving several sectors. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including East and North-East Asia, have implemented transport-related policy measures ranging from keeping border crossing open for freight to ensuring transport health and safety as well as preserving smooth transport operations and processes through transport facilitation measures.² Customs-related and other trade facilitation measures implemented in response to the disruptions were also key in preserving seamless and safe transport of freight goods, to the extent possible. More importantly, the need for closer coordination among relevant agencies—both within each government and across countries—were reinforced, particularly at the height of the pandemic.

While governments have taken these measures to address the immediate adverse impacts caused by the pandemic, going forward, there are opportunities to build on lessons learned to strengthen pandemic preparedness and resilience of transport connectivity in line with sustainable development. For beyond the disruptions to operational connectivity, the COVID-19 pandemic also showed vulnerabilities to shocks of those involved including transport and trade operators, regulators and health inspectors, and border officials.

Countries in the East and North-East Asian subregion have pursued multiple approaches to achieve secure, efficient, and seamless trade and transport connectivity within and beyond national borders. More so demonstrated during the pandemic, appropriate implementation of trade and transport facilitation measures are mutually reinforcing and generated benefits are more optimal when measures are applied in a holistic and coordinated manner. Success in further improving the connectivity landscape in the subregion lies in deepening the coordinated approach between the key connectivity sectors of trade and transport.

²Policy responses to COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific (<https://www.unescap.org/covid19/policy-responses>).

It is in this context that the 2nd ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues is being held. Through the years, transport and trade are dynamic areas of cooperation among member countries in the Greater Tumen Initiative region.³ Transport sector, being an important component of connectivity, is well-positioned to engage other sectors and generate momentum for joint collaborations to address issues of mutual interests. At a broader context, cross-sectoral linkages align with the directions of expanding cooperation areas within the platform of GTI highlighted in several of its official meetings.⁴ ESCAP, a regional intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific working on a broad range of sectors, works in partnership with GTI to promote sustainable economic development through regional cooperation and integration in line with the ESCAP-GTI Memorandum of Understanding.⁵

Objectives and Scope

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic cut across sectors, hence, the focus on cross-sectoral linkages is timely as countries explore approaches on building back better towards more resilient connectivity. To this end, the Seminar provides a platform to:

- a. jointly engage GTI sectoral bodies on transport and trade issues of common interests;
- b. present perspectives on areas of coordination on subregional connectivity involving transport and trade facilitation; and
- c. identify approaches on how cross-sectoral linkages on connectivity can be strengthened in North-East Asia through the GTI platform.

The highlights of a subregional study on policy coordination between trade and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia, developed by ESCAP ENEA Office, will be presented as a starting point of discussions. (Reference: Executive Summary).

Participants

The Seminar, organized annually, is held in conjunction with GTI Transport Board meetings. In line with the aim for cross-sectoral engagements, aside from officials participating in the GTI Transport Board meeting, participation will also include other GTI bodies and stakeholders involved in transport and trade cooperation areas, including: Trade and Investment Committee (and its Customs Sub-Committee); NEA Local Cooperation Committee (and its NEA Logistics Sub-Committee); NEA EXIM Banks Association; NEA Business Association; and Research Institutions Network.

³ <http://www.tumenprogramme.org/>

⁴ 20th GTI Consultative Commission Meeting (<http://www.tumenprogramme.org/?info-769-1.html>); 19th GTI Consultative Commission Meeting (<http://www.tumenprogramme.org/?info-751-1.html>).

⁵ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/20170901-GTI.pdf>

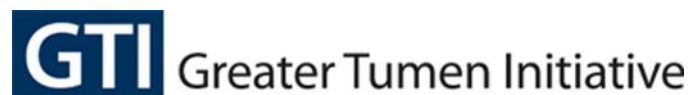
Organization

The Seminar will be held on a virtual platform using MS Teams with technical support provided by ESCAP ENEA Office and GTI Secretariat. The Seminar will be conducted in English.

Indicative Programme	
4:00-4:15	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • Mr. Andrey Smorodin (Director, GTI Secretariat) • Mr. EO, Myeong-so (Director General, Comprehensive Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea)
4:15-5:15	<p>Session 1: Cross-sectoral Linkages towards Resilient Connectivity Moderated by: ESCAP ENEA Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy coordination on trade and transport facilitation in East and North-East Asia (Ms. Varvara Krechetova, ESCAP Consultant) • Developments on transport connectivity (multimodal transport, Euro-Asian connectivity, COVID-related provisions for transport agreements) (Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP) • Digitalization in transport (electronic information exchange between railways) (Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP) • Developments in trilateral cooperation on transport and logistics (Ms. Keiko Koyoma, Economic Affairs Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat) • Regional value chains and logistics network in the Greater Tumen Region (Ms. Halin Han, Researcher, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy)
5:15-5:50	<p>Session 2: Perspectives from GTI Moderated by: GTI Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of insights and experiences from GTI sectoral bodies on how cross-sectoral linkages could be strengthened within the GTI framework • Mr. Hirofumi Arai (GTI Transport Expert Group)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mikhail Kholosha (GTI Transport Expert Group) • Mr. Sergey Mikhnevich (GTI NEA Business Association) • Mr. Jae Gab Kim (GTI LCC/LSC) • Mr. Florian Miss (GTI Development Partner)
5:50-6:00	<p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav (Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • Mr. Andrey Smorodin (Director, GTI Secretariat) • Mr. EO, Myeong-so (Director General, Comprehensive Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea)

ANNEX 2: LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS



2nd ESCAP-GTI Seminar on Transport Issues in North-East Asia

30 June 2021

Virtual

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GTI Transport Board		
1.	Mr. EO, Myeong-so	Director General, Comprehensive Transport Policy Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea <i>*ROK current chair of Transport Board</i>
2.	Mr. Jihong Park	Director of Transport Policy Coordination Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea
3.	Ms. Sookhyun Jo	Deputy Director of Transport Policy Coordination Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea
4.	Youngdae Yoon	Assistant Director of Transport Policy Coordination Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea
5.	Ms. Jiyeon Jung	Interpreter of Overseas Construction Supporting Division, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Republic of Korea
6.	Ms. Gerelnyam Daramragchaa	Director-General, Ministry of Road and Transport Development, Mongolia
7.	Ms. Ugtakhbayar Mashbat	Expert, Policy and Planning Department, Ministry of Road and Transport Development, Mongolia
8.	Mr. Bayasgalan B.	Officer, Road and Transport Development, Ministry of Road and Transport Development, Mongolia
9.	Ms. Regina Azizova	Director, Division for International Organizations, Transport Policy and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Transport, Russian Federation
10.	Ms. Daria Spiridonova	Lead Expert, Division for International Organizations, Transport Policy and Regional Cooperation, Russian Federation
11.	Mr. Ruslan Syrtlanov	Chief Expert, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport, Russian Federation
GTI Trade and Investment Committee (and its Customs Sub-Committee)		
12.	Ms. Haram Cho	Assistant Director, Ministry of Economy and Finance,

		Republic of Korea *ROK current Chair of TIC
13.	Mr. Jeong Hun Cho	Director, Korea Customs Service
14.	Ms. Eojin Jung	Assistant Director, Korea Customs Service
15.	Ms. Euna Kim	Assistant Director, Korea Customs Service
16.	Mr. Seong Won Young	Assistant Director, Korea Customs Service
17.	Mr. Alexander Dyukarev	Head of Division, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation
18.	Ms. Irina Kozlova	Chief Expert, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation
GTI Local Cooperation Committee (and its NEA Logistics Sub-Committee)		
19.	Mr. Jae Gab Kim	General Manager, Global Business Support Center, Busan Economic Promotion Agency, Busan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea *Busan current Chair of LCC and LSC
20.	Ms. Hye Jin Lee	Officer, Busan Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea
21.	Ms. Nayoung Yoon	Administrator, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Republic of Korea
22.	Mr. Yui Terasoma	Assistant Director, Tottori Prefectural Office, Japan
23.	Ms. Khishigdelger	Officer, Governor's Office of Selenge Province, Mongolia
24.	Ms. Soojung Kim	Manager, Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea
25.	Mr. Li Leyu	Division Director, Department of Commerce of Heilongjiang Province, China
26.	Ms. Qiu Lan	Fourth-Level Consultant, Department of Commerce of Heilongjiang Province, China
GTI NEA EXIM Banks Association		
27.	Ms. Lidia Guryeva	Executive Director, International Cooperation, State Development Corporation VEB.RF *Russian Federation current Chair of EXIM Banks Association
28.	Ms. Anna Zvereva	Head, International Projects on Sustainable Development, State Development Corporation VEB.RF
29.	Mr. Chen Jiapeng	Manager, Corporate Banking Department, The Export-Import Bank of China
30.	Ms. Guo Zhan	Manager, Corporate Banking Department, The Export-Import Bank of China
31.	Ms. Wang Xinwei	Manager, International Department, The Export-Import Bank of China
32.	Mr. Jin Dehong	Manager, Sovereign Business Department, The Export-Import Bank of China
33.	Ms. Gao Chanshu	Manager, Sovereign Business Department, The Export-Import Bank of China
GTI NEA Business Association		

34.	Mr. Sergey Mikhnevich	Managing Director, Department of International Multilateral Cooperation and Integration, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs (RSPP) <i>*Russian Federation current Chair of NEA BA</i>
35.	Ms. Elena Martynova	Expert, Department of Multilateral Cooperation and Integration, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs
36.	Mr. Kevin Lee	Deputy Director, Korea Chamber of Commerce & Industry

GTI Research Institutions Network

37.	Ms. Halin Han	Researcher, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy
38.	Mr. Evgeny Gushchin	Research Fellow, Russian Foreign Trade Academy

GTI Transport Experts

39.	Ms. Gao Xiaoyun	Senior Researcher, LOGINK & CTTIC
40.	Mr. Hirofumi Arai	Director of Research Division and Senior Research Fellow, Economic research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA)
41.	Ms. Chunxia Li	Associate Senior Research Fellow, Economic research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA)
42.	Mr. Mikhail Kholosha	Assistant (Research) Rector, Maritime State University named after admiral G.I. Nevelskoy (MSUN)
43.	Mr. Gotov Dugerjav	Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering and Transportation, Mongolian University of Science and Technology

GTI Development Partners

44.	Mr. Florian Miss	Project Director, GIZ
45.	Ms. Zolzaya Sambuunjam	Project Expert, GIZ
46.	Ms. Wandu Huang	Program Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat
47.	Ms. Heejin Kim	Program Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat
48.	Ms. Marina Sakai	Program Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat
49.	Mr. Bin Wang	Senior Strategy and Policy Officer, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
50.	Mr. Anzheng Wei	Investment Officer, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
51.	Mr. Ankur Agrawal	Young Professional, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

GTI Secretariat

1.	Mr. Andrey Smorodin	Director, GTI Secretariat
2.	Mr. Sergey Khidirov	Senior Programme Officer, GTI Secretariat

ESCAP

3.	Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav	Head, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office
4.	Ms. Ma. Fideles Sadicon	Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office

5.	Ms. Yejin Ha	Programme Officer, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office
6.	Mr. Sandeep Jain	Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP
7.	Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn	Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP
Other Session 1 Panelists		
8.	Ms. Varvara Krechetova	Consultant, ESCAP
9.	Ms. Keiko Koyama	Economic Affairs Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

ANNEX 3: POST-SEMNAR FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Shared perspectives from various GTI sectoral bodies: Members of GTI Transport Expert Group; Chair of GTI NEA Business Association; Chair of GTI Local Cooperation Committee (and its Logistics Sub-Committee); GIZ (as GTI Development Partner)

Clustering of Issues and Insights (shared in Session 2): Focus Areas: (1) Information/ Analysis; (2) Awareness and Sharing; (3) Technical Issues; (4) Project-based Initiatives

Focus Areas	Needs/Issues	Modalities (for follow-up actions)
Information/Analysis	consistent statistical data (e.g. cross-border cargo volumes); agreement on terminologies used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focused studies • online information portal
	evaluation of how transport policies/ measures improve efficiency of doing business (logistics, manufacture, trading); make use of LCC information sheet	
	analysis of market demand; organization of data and information; constant performance monitoring of transport routes	
Awareness and Sharing	communicate with business industry on transport/logistics improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular intergovernmental and cross-sectoral engagements • online stakeholder engagement platform
	transport projects paying attention to business environment	
	information exchange and dialogue	
	coordination of strategies and policy actions (taking into consideration spill-over effects between various sectors)	
Technical Issues	conducive and stable environment for doing business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • technical workshops
	multimodal transport and cross-border infrastructure; harmonization of regulatory frameworks; electronic data	

Focus Areas	Needs/Issues	Modalities (for follow-up actions)
	exchange; comprehensive “single window” mechanism range of financial instruments for investments	
Project-based Initiatives	mechanisms for collaboration and projects implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pilot projects
	developing multimodal freight routes connecting countries	
	more practical measures to streamline the customs process	
	need of joint quarantine system for specific routes	
	encourage cross-sectoral cooperation through dedicated/special budget supporting cross-sectoral projects	
Partnerships (building on existing GTI platforms/mechanisms): Consultative Committee; GTI Sectoral Bodies; GTI Development Partners		