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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Review of the implementation and future programme focus of
the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development
in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016)

**Activities implemented under the Regional Action
Programme for Transport Development in Asia
and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016)**

Note by the secretariat**

The secretariat is pleased to submit a summary of the activities implemented under the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, Phase II (2012-2016), since the adoption of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development for Asia and the Pacific in March 2012. It is intended to provide participants with additional information relating to item 2 of the provisional agenda on Review of the implementation and future programme focus of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) and its associated document (E/ESCAP/CTR(3)/1).

* E/ESCAP/CTR(3)/L.1.

** This document has been issued without formal editing.

Summary of activities implemented by the ESCAP secretariat under the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, Phase II (2012-2016), of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific

(March – September 2012)

	Thematic area/outputs	Summary of Progress
1	Policy guidance at the ministerial level	Immediate objective: to promote regional cooperation and policy leadership at the ministerial level for the advancement of transport as a key to regional development.
1.1	A meeting of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport at the midpoint of the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, phase II (2012-2016);	Preparations have been initiated on the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, which is scheduled to be held in 2013. Document E/ESCAP/CTR(3)/3 on the Preparations for the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport" issued for the Committee on Transport at its third session.
1.2	Ministerial consideration and direction to transport policies in the region.	The 68th session of the Commission adopted resolution 68/4 of 18 May 2012 on the Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport.
2	Transport infrastructure development	Immediate objective: to promote regional and interregional connectivity and cooperation through the further development and upgrading of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks as well as Euro-Asian transport linkages and dry ports.
2.1	Meetings of the working groups on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway;	Scheduled for 2013.
2.2	Intergovernmental agreement on dry ports;	The Ad hoc intergovernmental meeting on an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports was organised (Bangkok, 20-22 June 2012). The meeting finalized the text of the draft agreement and recommended that it be put to the third session of the Committee on Transport for its adoption. See http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/Meetings/dry_ports/documents/report-dryports-bkk2012-e.pdf .

	Thematic area/outputs	Summary of Progress
2.3	Studies, meetings and capacity-building on integrated transport development, upgrading and maintenance (asset management) of the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway, dry ports of international importance and seaports;	Project on Promoting Regional and Economic Cooperation in North-East Asia with particular focus on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: training for officials of DPRK railways organised with the Railway Vocational College of Vietnam Railways (Hanoi, Viet Nam; March-April 2012). Collaboration with railways of the Russian Federation has been initiated for future training.
		Project on Promotion of investment in the Asian Highway Network: prefeasibility studies of priority sections: national workshops and missions undertaken in Myanmar (6-7 April 2012), Mongolia (7-12 May 2012), Kyrgyzstan (5-7 June 2012), Bangladesh (22-26 April and 25-27 August 2012).
		Project on Capacity building for dry port planning through prefeasibility studies of selected Dry Ports in ASEAN Subregion: missions organised and data collected on dry ports in Myanmar (2-6 July 2012), Cambodia 30 July - 1 August 2012); and Lao People's Democratic Republic (25-26 June 2012). National Training Workshop organised in Vietiane, Lao PDR (23 July 2012); Phnom Penh, Cambodia (7-9 September 2012); and Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar (21 September 2012). (See also section 4.1 on Transport Logistics).
		Project on Promoting the use of the Trans-Asian Railway through improved awareness of commercial requirements: survey of railway managers was conducted in the period December 2011 to January 2012. Railway managers of all countries on the routes of the TAR network have been invited to take part in a seminar on the subject on 23-24 October 2012.
2.4	Studies on international intermodal transport corridors serving inter- and intraregional trade;	Study on the development of integrated transport and logistics system in ASEAN region is currently underway, and seminar based on this study will be held in 21-23 November 2012.
2.5	Updated information and data measuring progress in the development of regionally important transport infrastructure and operations;	Updates on Asian Highway are regularly collected and aggregated in the database available online.
2.6	Activities within the joint UNESCAP-UNECE project on the development of Euro-Asian transport links.	The 17th session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing was organised (Almaty, 6-7 June 2012), in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Kazakhstan and UNECE. The report of the meeting is being translated and finalized.
	ESCAP participated in:	11th Meeting of Heads of ECO Railways (Ankara, Turkey; 26-28 June 2012).
		Indonesia Transport Infrastructure Week (Jakarta, Indonesia; 26-29 June 2012).
		China-Eurasia Expo (Urumqui, China; 2-4 September 2012).

	Thematic area/outputs	Summary of Progress
3	Transport facilitation	<u>Immediate objective:</u> to promote efficient and smooth movement of goods, passengers and vehicles by road and rail across the region, including at border crossings.
3.1	Establishment of a regional network of legal and technical experts on transport facilitation and the development of an action plan for the implementation of the regional strategic framework for the facilitation of international road transport;	Webpage on the regional network of legal and technical experts on transport facilitation was opened for application for membership, http://www.unescap.org/ttdw/common/TFS/LegalNetwork/Legal-Network.asp .
3.2	Workshops/studies on regional and subregional cooperation under the regional strategic framework for facilitation of international road transport;	
3.3	A study to identify the issues surrounding regional cooperation for the facilitation of international railway transport;	
3.4	Assistance in acceding to and implementing international transport facilitation conventions and agreements, including those recommended in ESCAP resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, and in formulating and implementing subregional agreements related to the facilitation of international transport by road and/or rail;	Meeting on Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Negotiation Meeting of the Annexes to the Facilitation Agreement on International Road Transport (Beijing, China; 28 February-3 March 2012): provided technical assistance for the negotiation of draft annexes to the agreement. Final Meeting on Draft Agreement between the Governments of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States on Facilitation of International Road Transport (Beijing, China; 27-31 May 2012).
3.5	Advisory services/workshops on the establishment or strengthening of national facilitation coordination mechanisms and on joint controls at borders to facilitate international road and/or rail transport;	Advisory services and national workshop on national coordination mechanisms for trade and transport facilitation to Lao PDR (24-26 September 2012).
3.6	Studies/workshops on the application of information and communications technology and other new technologies as well as the time/cost-distance toolkit to facilitate international road and/or rail transport.	Project on Capacity Building for Control Authorities and Transport Operators to Improve Efficiency of Cross-border Transport and Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries: work progressed on updating of the Time/cost-distance methodology and development of additional models for secure cross-border transport, integrated border management and efficient cross-border transport. Missions to Ruili, China (2-5 May 2012); Penang, Padang Besar and Bukit Kayu Hitam, Malaysia (10-11 May 2012); Calcutta, New Delhi, Petrapole border, India (5-7 June 2012); Erlian, China and Zamyn-Uud border, Mongolia (20-22 June 2012).
	ESCAP participated in:	Practical Use of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note in Eurasian rail freight traffic (Beijing, China; 21-22 February 2012).
		Seminar on SCO Logistics and Transport (Urumqi, China, 3 September 2012).

	Thematic area/outputs	Summary of Progress
4	Transport logistics	<u>Immediate objective:</u> to assist countries in developing transport logistics policies and in enhancing the professionalism and competence of logistics service providers.
4.1	Guidelines for the development of transport logistics policies;	Prefeasibility studies on dry ports in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar were completed and national training workshops for the three countries were delivered (Phnom Penh, 14 September 2012; Vientiane, 23 July 2012; Nay Phi Daw, 21 September 2012).
4.2	Guidelines for the establishment of minimum standards and codes of conduct for logistics service providers;	
4.3	Regional meetings of freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers and their national associations;	Meeting: Regional Forum of Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport Operators and Logistics Service Providers (Bangkok, Thailand; 13 June 2012).
		Meeting: Meeting of Chief Executives of National Associations of Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport Operators and Logistics Service Providers (Bangkok, Thailand; 14 June 2012).
4.4	Technical assistance and support to the industry and to governments for a sustainable training programme.	Advisory services and training to conduct Training of trainers workshop for freight forwarders, multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers (Manila, Philippines; 23-27 April 2012).
		Workshop on Establishment of Sustainable Accredited Training Systems for Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport Operators and Logistics Service Providers in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand; 11 June 2012). Workshop reviewed the draft Study on Establishing Sustainable Accredited Training Systems for Freight Forwarders, Multimodal Transport Operators and Logistics Service Providers in Asia and the Pacific Region.
5	5. Finance and private sector participation	<u>Immediate objective:</u> to promote regional cooperation between the public and private sectors for financing and maintaining infrastructure.
5.1	Studies on investment in Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway sections and in intermodal linkages, including dry ports, river ports and seaports;	
5.2	Investment forums to promote partnerships and the sharing of experiences in financing the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway, internationally recognized dry ports, river ports and seaports;	An investment forum on the Asian Highway is planned in 2013.
5.3	Assessment and promotion of policy options and initiatives for the financing of road maintenance;	

	Thematic area/outputs	Summary of Progress
5.4	Support for regional cooperation and networking among PPP units/programmes;	
5.5	Assistance to member countries and institutions through the sharing of good practices and the delivery of PPP capacity development programmes;	Preparations underway for the Expert Group Meeting on Infrastructure PPPs for Sustainable Development (to be held back-to-back with Third Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran).
5.6	Technical assistance in assessing PPP readiness.	
	ESCAP participated in:	Global Special Economic Zones Summit (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; 3-7 April 2012).
		National Conference on PPPs (Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran; 30 June-1 July 2012).
		Workshop on PPIAF Supported Nepal: Screening and Initial Feasibility Assessment of Potential Private-Public Infrastructure Projects (Kathmandu, Nepal; 5-7 August 2012).
6	6. Sustainable transport development	Immediate objective: to increase awareness and understanding of alternative freight transport policy options that can reduce energy consumption and emissions.
6.1	Proposals to encourage, through appropriate mechanisms, a modal shift from road to rail and water transport, and the use of the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and dry ports for the intermodal distribution of goods and carriage of people;	
6.2	Regional meetings to share experiences in the adoption of energy-efficient and more environmentally friendly freight transport logistics systems;	Project on Promoting the use of TAR network through improved awareness of commercial requirements: questionnaires sent to railway authorities; responses consolidated. Preparations underway for regional workshop for railway managers, scheduled for October 2012.
6.3	Inclusion of sustainable transport-related issues in the <i>Review of Developments in Transport in Asia and the Pacific</i> , the <i>Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific</i> and ad hoc regional transport policy studies;	
6.4	Capacity-building to increase awareness and promote environmentally sustainable transport development.	Project on Assessment of Inland Transport Emissions (led by United Nations ECE with participation from ESCAP): participated in Interregional Expert Group Meeting on Measurement of Inland Transport CO2 Emissions organised by ECE (Geneva, Switzerland; 23-24 April 2012)

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	ESCAP participated in:	International Conference of the Association of Transport, Trade and Service Studies (Hong Kong, China, 18-20 June 2012).
		International Conference on Adaptation of Transport Networks to Climate Change (Alexandroupolis, Greece, 25-26 June 2012).
7	Road safety	<u>Immediate objective:</u> to assist countries in the region in meeting their commitments under the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020).
7.1	1. Meetings and technical assistance to aid countries in building road safety management capacity in line with the Decade of Action for Road Safety, including data collection and monitoring progress;	The secretariat undertook a strategic review of its activities on road safety data collection and monitoring, with the aim of improving the quality and quantity of the information in its road safety database.
7.2	2. Meetings to advocate high-level commitment to road safety interventions and to exchange best practices in improving road safety;	An EGM on Road Safety is planned in 2013.
7.3	3. Advisory services and technical support to national road safety campaigns and related awareness creation activities;	
7.4	4. A web-based road safety network.	The secretariat launched the “Asia Pacific Road Safety Network” which is a web-based regional network for road safety stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region.
	ESCAP participated in:	2012 Global NCAP Annual Meeting (Malacca, Malaysia; 23-24 May 2012).
8	Transport and the Millennium Development Goals	<u>Immediate objective:</u> to encourage the inclusion of Millennium Development Goals considerations in the planning and implementation of regional transport interventions.
8.1	Studies and workshops on mainstreaming Millennium Development Goals considerations into transport planning and policies as appropriate, in particular, in infrastructure development, farm-to-market logistics, food security and road safety;	
8.2	The exchange of experiences between member countries regarding the development of transport infrastructure and services to provide rural communities with physical access and connect them to national and regional trunk road systems;	

	Thematic area/outputs	Summary of Progress
8.3	Preparatory activities in support of the 10-year review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2013.	Document E/ESCAP/CTR(3)/4 on “Preparations for the Ten-Year Review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action” issued for the Committee on Transport at its third session (10-12 October 2012).
9	Inter-island shipping	Immediate objective: to assist in identifying possible approaches to enhancing the regularity, reliability and affordability of the shipping services of archipelagic and island developing countries.
9.1	Studies, capacity-building activities and policy recommendations on effective strategies for securing regular, reliable and affordable inter-island shipping services for the consideration of archipelagic and island developing countries;	Desk review of studies on the topic of inter-island shipping conducted.
9.2	Advisory services and technical support to member countries, upon request, regarding the implementation of policy measures to support inter-island shipping.	
10	Connecting subregional transport networks	Immediate objective: to identify physical and non-physical constraints to inter-subregional connectivity and to provide a platform for building closer collaboration among subregional entities in the development of transport.
10.1	Draft documents outlining potential issues that need to be addressed in order to improve physical and institutional connectivity between subregions;	
10.2	Meetings of ESCAP member countries, subregional organizations and subregional programmes (back-to-back with relevant legislative meetings) to consider collaborative actions that support inter-subregional connectivity;	
10.3	Technical assistance and support in the implementation of inter-subregional connectivity initiatives for the development of transport.	
	ESCAP participated in:	The Mekong-Republic of Korea Comprehensive Partnership for Mutual Prosperity (Khon Kaen, Thailand; 3 May 2012).
		2nd Meeting of the Greater Tumen Initiative Transport Board (Sokcho, Republic of Korea, 5-6 July 2012).
		3rd ASEAN Connectivity Symposium on “Realising ASEAN Connectivity for ASEAN Community Building” (Phnom Penh, Cambodia; 7-8 September 2012).