

Catalyzing **inclusive** and **sustainable** urban development: **Transit-oriented development**

14:00 - 15:15 | UN Conference Centre, Conference Room 3 (Hybrid)

Creating well-connected, accessible, and more efficient cities through sustainable urban mobility

This event is jointly organized by the Government of Japan, UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UN Economic Social & Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and World Blind Union, in collaboration with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, along with partner organizations contributing to the panel discussion.

Cities across Asia and the Pacific are growing rapidly, creating challenges in transportation, land use and accessibility. As urban areas become more congested, building larger or bigger roads is often not a viable solution, if left unchecked cities are at risk of being suffocated by self-induced congestion. Instead, cities should focus on better integrating public transportation and land use – a concept known as **transit-oriented development (TOD)**. This approach helps ensure public transit stations are well connected to the surrounding neighborhoods, encouraging the use of sustainable transport.

Countries such as India and Vietnam have experienced significant increases in car ownership, with motorization growing **10-17% between 2015 and 2020**. However, with limited space available, continued road expansion can take away from other important public spaces, such as parks and pedestrian areas. Without effective planning, congestion will only increase, **making cities less efficient and less livable**.

To address these issues, TOD promotes the development of well-planned communities where people can **easily access transportation, services, and employment**. This requires strong **legal and financial** support, as well as **coordinated planning**. However, implementing TOD is not always straightforward. Different road users – such as pedestrians, cyclists, and public transit passengers – often have competing needs, and improvements in one area may create challenges in another. While city centers may benefit from improved transit access, surrounding areas sometimes lack the necessary infrastructure.

This side-event at the 81st session of the Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand, will offer a unique chance for policy makers, planners, organizations representing persons with disabilities, and other stakeholders working on sustainable mobility to exchange knowledge and experiences on implementing TOD. By learning from successful case studies, participants will gain insight into **how TOD can evolve over time** to meet the **changing needs of communities**.

Key objectives

- **Exchange of best practices** – present leading case studies on TOD from the region, highlighting lessons on sustainable mobility, land-value capture, and community development;
- **Strengthen regional and multi-level cooperation** – foster greater collaboration with key stakeholders, addressing issues of multi-level governance, and improved connectivity;
- **Improved awareness** – Engage and sensitize stakeholders on the value of TOD ranging from enhanced livability, reduced greenhouse gasemissions, and economic productivity gains.

Discussion themes

Sustainable urban mobility planning and transit-oriented development	Activating land value through transferable development rights	Enhancing accessibility and connectivity through placemaking

Expected outcomes

- **Urban mobility approaches expanded** – Exploring different perspectives and experiences, existing approaches and new models of urban mobility;
- **TOD accelerated** – Encouraging interest in countries and cities to embark on transformational urban mobility leading to better-integrated and compact cities;
- **Accessibility reinforced** – Ide ntifying innovative means of addressing first and last mile connectivity, ensuring more people can easily reach transit hubs and services.

Provisional agenda

Agenda	Institution or Organization
Introduction	SDG 11.2 on first and last mile connectivity, UN-Habitat
Scene-setting	Chief, Transport Research and Policy Section, United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Welcome remarks	Ambassador of Japan to Thailand
Welcome remarks	Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Thailand
Opening remarks	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism (MLIT), Japan
Case studies	- Japan (Urban Renaissance) (UR) - Vietnam (online) - JICA (lessons learned from non-Japan regional projects)
Panel discussion	Moderator: ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability - Chulalongkorn University - Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) - Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism (MLIT), Japan - Transport 4 All
Closing remarks	World Blind Union (WBU) Asia-Pacific
Closing remarks	United Nations Special Envoy for Road Safety
Closing remarks	Regional Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

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