

UNESCAP-PMTLAI -ALI Capacity Building Workshop

10 May 2024, Manila

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The UNESCAP-PMTLAI-ALI Capacity Building Workshop took place in Manila, The Philippines on 10th May 2024. The Workshop was co-organized by ESCAP, ASEAN Logistics Institute (ALI) and the Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association (PMTLAI).
2. The Workshop reaffirmed that the logistics sector in the ESCAP region is still at a developing stage and faces high logistics cost and suboptimal performance. As an archipelagic State, the Philippines faces particular challenges in developing seamless transport and logistics network. To this end, the Workshop recognized the importance of multimodality to ensure seamless and sustainable transport connectivity and supply chain network, within the archipelago and beyond.
3. The Workshop acknowledged intensifying natural disaster phenomena due to climate change, as well as “human-made crisis” such as cyberattacks, digital platforms malfunctions etc. are disrupting the operations of transport and logistics network, adversely impacting effective supply chain. As such, the Workshop recognized the importance of adopting measures to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of the sector through risks management mechanism. As such, the Workshop welcomed this capacity building event focusing on different technical aspects of risk managements within the risk management framework as the means to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of the logistics sector. Concepts pertaining to risks criteria, detection, assessment and optimal resource allocation for mitigation were discussed in depth.
4. The Workshop informed the secretariat of “Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area” (BIMP-EAGA), a joint initiative undertaken by the governments of the four aforementioned countries; and highlighted that it is an important motor of transport and economic development for the subregion. The initiative aims to narrow development gaps through enhancing transport and logistics as well as people-to-people connectivity, sustainably manage resources and establish the subregion as Asia's food basket. Nevertheless, weaknesses in the transport and logistics sector persist in the BIMP-EAGA area, notably due to lack of quality infrastructure to support multimodality and operational complexity. Moreover, these countries are vulnerable to natural disasters, such as earthquake, typhoons and volcanic activities.

5. Within this context, the Workshop recognized the importance of multimodal logistics network is the basis to the success of the BIMP-EAGA initiative and requested ESCAP secretariat to undertake relevant research studies and conduct capacity building workshops to strengthen the human resource capacity of both policymakers and logistics service providers, ensuring the development of sustainable, resilient and low carbon logistics network in the BIMP-EAGA area. Cooperation of both public and private sectors are required for the success of BIMP-EAGA initiative.

6. In addition, the Workshop also requested ESCAP secretariat to continue organizing capacity building workshops in collaboration with national logistics association to support the human resource development in the sector, improving the technical knowledge to develop initiatives and implement policies to strengthen sustainability and resilience of transport and logistics sector, notably for archipelagic States such as Philippines and Indonesia.

7. Participants expressed their gratitude to ESCAP, ALI and PMTLAI for jointly organizing the Workshop and requested ESCAP secretariat to continue such endeavor.

8. The conclusions and recommendations were agreed on 10 May 2024 in Manila, Philippines.