

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
(ESCAP)

and

The International Union of Railways (UIC)

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With a view to strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations in the service of their membership, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Union of Railways (UIC) agree to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding, which is concluded taking into account the extensive and valuable expertise of UIC and its potential to contribute to the development of railway transport in the ESCAP region.

## 1. General

The cooperation between ESCAP and UIC is based on:

- the Terms of Reference of ESCAP,
- the Statutes of UIC.

The need for greater cooperation is called upon by:

- the increasing importance of reliable and efficient land-bridges between Asia and Europe to facilitate international trade and tourism,
- the fact that both organizations are actively involved in the development of Asia-Europe land-bridges,
- the importance to avoid duplication of work and to maximize the use of available resources,
- the fact that a number of countries in the area are members of both ESCAP and UIC.

*AM* The focal points for the collaborative mechanism aimed at implementing this Memorandum of Understanding will be, for ESCAP, the Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development Division; for UIC, the UIC Headquarters. *PR*

## 2. Areas of cooperation

In consultation with the governments and railways concerned, major areas of ESCAP/UIC cooperation will be:

- (i) coordinated definition of long-term strategic plans aimed at developing international transport corridors with due regard to users interest, economic considerations and environmental impact;
- (ii) development and promotion of common technical standards and effective operational practices for efficient international railway transport;
- (iii) facilitation of cross-border movements of people and goods by rail along international corridors;
- (iv) marketing of railway services as well as the development of modern tariff-setting mechanisms;
- (v) improving the competitiveness of railway transport including railway restructuring;
- (vi) railway safety;
- (vii) environmental protection;
- (viii) human resources development;
- (ix) technology transfer;
- (x) Information Technology to improve the efficiency of international rail routes.

## 3. Collaborative mechanism

- (i) ESCAP and UIC will keep each other informed of their respective work programmes;
- (ii) ESCAP and UIC within their statutes and terms of reference will exchange reports, publications, etc., that are of relevance to railways in the Asia and Pacific region;
- (iii) ESCAP and UIC will invite each other to major meetings of mutual interest on a consultative basis;
- (iv) ESCAP and UIC will develop and implement joint studies/projects of mutual interest. It is understood that the implementation of joint activities shall be subject to the availability of adequate financial resources;
- (v) Consultations between ESCAP and UIC shall be held at regular intervals at a mutually convenient time and place aimed at enhancing co-operation.

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**4. Confidentiality**

The information given by one organization to the other will be treated as confidential unless it is already in the public domain.

**5. Modification/Termination**

- (i) This Memorandum may be amended by mutual consent of ESCAP and UIC. It may be terminated by either party subject to a six-month advance notice being given to the other party, it being understood that the termination shall not affect activities already in operation;
- (ii) This Memorandum will enter into force upon signature of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP and the Chief Executive of UIC.

Signed in two original copies in English and French, both texts being identical and equally authentic.

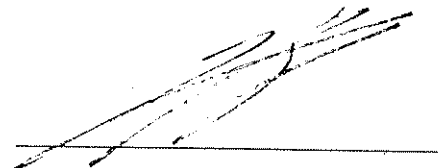
For the United Nations Economic and Social  
Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Adrianus Mooy  
Executive Secretary  
ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand

Date: 6 June 2000

For the International Union of Railways



Philippe Roumeguère  
Chief Executive  
UIC, Paris, France

Date: 6/6/00