



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Sixty-fifth session
23-29 April 2009
Bangkok

**REVIEW OF ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF
THE COMMISSION: TRANSPORT**

(Agenda item 2 (c))

Draft report

1. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Transport on its first session (E/ESCAP/65/4) and the report on the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011) (E/ESCAP/65/5).
2. The Commission noted the importance of transport in accelerating economic and social development and facilitating regional integration.
3. The Commission expressed general support for the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Transport on its first session, and requested that the secretariat consider implementing the recommendations in the context of the current and future programmes of work of the secretariat.
4. The Commission noted that the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport would be convened in Bangkok from 14 to 18 December 2009.
5. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the forthcoming entry into force of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network on 11 June 2009. Some delegations highlighted the role of the Trans-Asian Railway network, together with the Asian Highway network, in the ongoing development of Euro-Asian transport linkages and in providing improved transit opportunities. Some delegations informed the Commission of the development and upgrading of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway infrastructure in their countries and subregions which were designed to improve transport connectivity with neighbouring countries within the framework of national priorities.
6. One delegation requested that the secretariat continue to organize the demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway network, including the northern corridor.

7. One delegation proposed that the secretariat continue its work on intermodal transport corridors and logistics centres, including dry ports.

8. Some delegations reiterated the important role of transport facilitation in smoothing the movement of goods and people. The delegations of China and the Russian Federation expressed appreciation for the secretariat's support to the formulation and negotiation of the Agreement between the Governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States on Facilitation of International Road Transport. In that regard, one delegation held the view that the Agreement was an important element in the system of Euro-Asian transport linkages.

9. The Commission noted the outcome Declaration from the Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport (MEET), held in Tokyo on 15 and 16 January 2009, and welcomed the offer of Japan to further strengthen partnerships with other member countries in promoting low-carbon and low-pollution transport systems.

10. One delegation requested that the secretariat identify cooperative approaches to studying affordable alternative fuels for transport which did not conflict with the basic principles of maintaining sustainable agricultural practices, food supply and protecting the environment.

11. The Commission noted the importance of public-private partnerships in developing transport infrastructure and logistics, and some delegations expressed support for the secretariat's work in that area.

12. The delegation of Indonesia informed the Commission that the proposed Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific had been rescheduled to 2010.

13. Following a suggestion of the Committee on Transport at its first session (see E/ESCAP/65/4, para. 4), one delegation requested that the secretariat include transport in rural areas in its future work programme.

14. Some delegations stressed the importance of improving road safety in the region and informed the Commission of their national initiatives, policies and measures to reduce road accidents. In that regard, the delegation of the Russian Federation informed the Commission that the First Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Road Safety was scheduled to be held in Moscow from 19 to 20 November 2009 and encouraged members and associate members to participate at the highest possible level.