



Distr.: General
29 August 2013

Chinese, English and Russian only

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network

Third meeting

Bangkok, 5-6 November 2013

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of proposals for amending the
Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian
Railway Network**

**Proposals for amending the Intergovernmental
Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present document contains proposals made by Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, which are Parties to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, to amend annex I thereof.

The Working Group may wish to consider adopting the proposals.

I. Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network entered into force on 11 June 2009, that is 90 days after the requisite number of States had ratified, accepted or approved it. Currently, 18 member States are Parties to the Agreement, namely: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Georgia; India; Islamic Republic of Iran; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Uzbekistan; and Viet Nam.

2. In accordance with article 6(1) of the Agreement, the Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network was established to consider the state of implementation of the Agreement and any proposed amendments. Articles 7, 8 and 9 of the Agreement describe the procedure for amending the main text and the two annexes thereof. Accordingly, the secretariat has informed the member States of the scheduled date of the third meeting of the Working Group and requested the Parties to the Agreement to submit proposals for consideration by the Working Group.

* E/ESCAP/TARN/WG(3)/L.1.

3. Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam have proposed amendments to annex I of the Agreement, as outlined below. In accordance with article 8(5) of the Agreement, the secretariat circulated the text of the proposed amendments from the Parties to all members of the Working Group at least 45 days before their third meeting.

II. Proposal by Georgia

4. In conformity with article 8(4) of the Agreement, Georgia has proposed an amendment to revise the following route in annex I of the Agreement:

Replace:

Gantiadi – Gardabani

(Veseloe, Russian Federation)

Gantiadi (*border station*)

Senaki (<i>junction</i>)	→	<u>Poti</u> (<i>maritime connection</i>)
<u>Samtredia</u> (<i>junction</i>)	→	<u>Batumi</u> (<i>maritime connection</i>)
<u>Tbilisi</u> (<i>junction</i>)	→	Sadakhlo (<i>border station</i>) – (Ayrum, Armenia)
	→	[Akhalkalaki (<i>border station and break-of-gauge</i>) – (Kars, Turkey)]

Gardabani (*border station*)

(Beyouk Kesik, Azerbaijan)

With

Gantiadi – Gardabani

(Veseloe, Russian Federation)

Gantiadi (*border station*)

<u>Samtredia</u> (<i>junction</i>)	→	<u>Poti</u> – Port of Poti (<i>maritime connection and ferry terminal – ferry links to Black Sea ports in Bulgaria, the Russian Federation and Ukraine</i>)
<u>Samtredia</u> (<i>junction</i>)	→	<u>Batumi</u> – Port of Batumi (<i>maritime connection and ferry terminal – ferry links to Black Sea ports in Bulgaria and Ukraine</i>)
<u>Tbilisi</u> (<i>junction</i>)	→	Sadakhlo (<i>border station</i>) – (Ayrum, Armenia)
	→	[Kartsakhi (<i>border station</i>) – Akhalkalaki (<i>break-of-gauge</i>) – (Kars, Turkey)]

Gardabani (*border station*)

(Beyouk Kesik, Azerbaijan)

III. Proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran

5. In conformity with article 8(4) of the Agreement, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed an amendment to reflect the recent completion of a section of new line, as described below, from the city of Gorgan to Incheboroun at the border with Turkmenistan.

In annex I of the Agreement, insert the following line for the Islamic Republic of Iran:

Gorgan – Incheboroun

Gorgan – Incheboroun (*border station*) – (Gudriolum, Turkmenistan)

IV. Proposal by the Lao People's Democratic Republic

6. In conformity with article 8(4) of the Agreement, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has proposed an amendment to move the square brackets, as described below, in the description of the line between Nongkhai (Thailand) and Mu Gia to reflect the completion of the line between Nongkhai (Thailand) and Thanaleng:

[Thanaleng – Mu Gia]

For [(Nongkhai, Thailand)

Thanaleng (*border station*)

Vientiane (*junction*) → [Boten (*border station*) – (Jinghong, China)]

Thakhek → [Nakhon Phanom, Thailand]
(*junction and border station*)

Mu Gia (*border station*)

(Mu Gia, Viet Nam)]

Read (Nongkhai, Thailand)

[Thanaleng (*border station*)

Vientiane (*junction*) → [Boten (*border station*) – (Jinghong, China)]

Thakhek → [Nakhon Phanom, Thailand]
(*junction and border station*)

Mu Gia (*border station*)

(Mu Gia, Viet Nam)]

V. Proposal by Viet Nam

7. In conformity with article 8(4) of the Agreement, Viet Nam has proposed an amendment to reflect the branch line from the city of Dong Ha, on the Lao Cai – Ho Chi Minh City line, to Lao Bao (on the border with the Lao People's Democratic Republic) and the port of My Thuy. Between Tan Ap and Danang, the following is to be inserted:

Dong Ha (*junction*) → [Lao Bao (*border station*)² – (Lao People's Democratic Republic)]

→ [My Thuy (*maritime connection*)]

2. *Exact location to be decided.*

8. In accordance with the same article, Viet Nam wishes to include the planned line between Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho in the Agreement. Consequently, the lines from Ho Chi Minh City junction are the following:

Ho Chi Minh City → [Vung Tau (*maritime connection*)]

(*junction*)

→ [Loc Ninh³ (*border station*) – (Kratie, Cambodia)]

→ [Can Tho]

3. *Exact location to be decided.*

9. In accordance with the introduction to annex I of the Agreement, stations with container terminals equipped to handle International Organization for Standardization (ISO) containers of at least 20 feet in length are shown as underlined in the text. With this in mind, Viet Nam has proposed to remove the underlining of Cai Lan.

10. Viet Nam has requested that the spelling of the following cities be changed:

<u>Where there is:</u>	<u>Replace with:</u>
Yên Viên	Yen Vien
Gialam	Gia Lam
Haiphong	Hai Phong
Halong	Ha Long
Danang	Da Nang
Hanoi	Ha Noi

VI. Issues for consideration

11. The Working Group may wish to consider the above-mentioned proposals in accordance with article 8 of the Agreement.