



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Fifty-ninth session
24-30 April 2003
Bangkok

**EMERGING ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL:
MANAGING GLOBALIZATION**

(Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM
AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ON ITS FOURTH SESSION**

SUMMARY

The fourth session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development was held at Bangkok from 13 to 15 November 2002. Participation and interest in the session were high, as evidenced by the participation of 115 representatives of 27 member countries and 19 relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, including the private sector. The session was declared open by the Deputy Minister of Transport of Thailand.

As a result of the session, Governments in the Asian and Pacific region agreed on a series of recommendations geared towards achieving sustainability in the development of transport. Importantly, they reiterated their commitment and support for the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, including phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. In that context, members requested that the development of an integrated international intermodal transport system in Asia be given high priority within the secretariat's programme of activities.

With regard to tourism development, members expressed their commitment and support for the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region. They also recognized the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism as an effective mechanism for promoting cooperation in human resources development in the tourism sector.

The Commission is invited to consider the major conclusions and decisions and endorse the recommendations brought to its attention. It may also wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the implementation of the recommendations.

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE COMMISSION OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Recommendations for the consideration of the Commission

1. The Committee endorsed the proposed plan of action for phase VI of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project (2004-2005).
2. The Committee noted the progress made in drafting the intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network by the working group meeting on the Asian Highway held at Bangkok on 11 and 12 November 2002. The Committee recommended that an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting be convened in the second half of 2003 to consider and adopt the agreement. Noting the desire of member countries to become parties to the agreement, the Committee recommended that a signing ceremony be held during the sixtieth session of the Commission at Shanghai, China, in 2004.
3. The Committee recommended that high priority be given to the implementation of demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor.
4. The Committee requested the secretariat to establish a working group on the Trans-Asian Railway and undertake a review and updating of the Trans-Asian Railway network for the whole of Asia.
5. The Committee requested that the secretariat take early action in formulating the integrated international intermodal transport network to promote efficient transport services.
6. The Committee requested the secretariat to undertake a study to collate and review existing and proposed agreements within the region and relevant international conventions on transport facilitation and to make proposals for regional harmonization.
7. In view of the emphasis laid on public-private partnerships, the Committee requested that that area be given priority attention in the secretariat's programme of work.
8. The Committee stressed that tourism should continue to receive high priority in the programme of work and urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that sector.
9. The Committee strongly supported the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region and reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Plan.
10. The Committee requested the secretariat to extend its full support to ensure the effective operation of the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism (APETIT).
11. The Committee requested the secretariat to organize and deliver capacity-building training programmes on international transport and tourism development.

B. Major conclusions and decisions of the Committee to be noted by the Commission

12. The Committee endorsed the recommendations in the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Development of the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok in May 2002.

13. The Committee requested the secretariat and all concerned member countries to encourage the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in future meetings of the Steering Committee on the Planning and Implementation of Container Block Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor.

II. DELIBERATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Implementation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific

(Item 4 of the agenda)

14. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/1 and information paper CTCTID(4)/INF.1. It reaffirmed its strong commitment and support for the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, including phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

15. The Committee expressed appreciation to the secretariat for the progress achieved so far in implementing activities under phase II of the Programme. It stressed the necessity of project selection based on the needs of the countries and priorities in the region and following concrete results-based approaches, and underlined the importance of the commitment and active participation of members for the successful implementation of the Programme.

16. The Committee requested that the development of an integrated international intermodal transport system in Asia be given high priority within the secretariat's programme of activities.

17. The Committee noted the increasing demand for capacity of the transport infrastructure in the member countries. The representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran provided details of the gas field developments in that country and the envisaged increase in the capacity of the shipping fleet to export distilled gas and liquefied natural gas from Iranian gas fields to countries in the region. Referring to port development, the delegation stated that the container throughput of Iranian ports had exceeded the estimates as projected by the ESCAP/UNDP study and requested the secretariat to update its projections. The Committee also noted the impressive development projects related to phase II of the Regional Action Programme that were being undertaken in many member countries and noted specific developments in India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation to increase the capacity and efficiency of domestic and regional transport linkages. It noted with interest the initiatives taken by member countries to promote framework agreements on transit transport.

18. The Committee appreciated the initiatives taken by the secretariat to assist member countries in sharing information concerning the implementation of the Regional Action Programme through, for example, enhancing the ESCAP web site, commencing preparation of the review of developments in transport in the ESCAP region and developing a statistical abstract of transport in Asia and the Pacific (as contained in the information paper). It endorsed the activities of the secretariat mentioned in the document.

19. The Committee noted with interest the efforts being made by members to promote private sector participation in the transport sector through the creation of a conducive environment, institutional development and capacity-building. In view of the emphasis laid on public-private partnerships, the Committee requested that that area be given priority attention in the secretariat's programme of work. It also expressed support for activities relating to maritime and port development and logistics.

20. The Committee recognized the urgent need to improve road safety and strongly supported the activities of the secretariat under the Regional Action Programme, particularly the development of the Asia-Pacific Road Accident Database. It noted with appreciation the support of the Government of India for that project.

21. The Committee urged the donor community and financial institutions to continue to support programmes designed to improve transport infrastructure and services in the region.

B. Asian land transport infrastructure development

(Item 5 (a) of the agenda)

22. The Committee had before it documents E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/2 and E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/3. It reaffirmed its support for the ALTID project and accorded high priority to it under phase II of the Regional Action Programme of the New Delhi Action Plan. The Committee endorsed the proposed plan of action for phase VI of the ALTID project (2004-2005). In that context, it noted the importance of making progress in the implementation of demonstration runs on the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor so as to encourage continued donor support.

23. The Committee reiterated the importance of implementing Commission resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges and the development of Asia-Europe transport linkages and appreciated the active role and support provided by the secretariat to the member countries. More specifically, the Committee recognized that the ALTID project, with its components, the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway, provided an excellent framework for regional and subregional cooperation. It reiterated the importance of cooperation with international and subregional organizations in implementing ALTID-related activities.

24. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the formulation of the Asian Highway network and endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Expert Group Meeting on Development of the Asian Highway Network, held at Bangkok in May 2002.

25. The Committee stressed the importance of the efforts being undertaken by member countries in the construction of missing links and upgrading of Asian Highway routes within their territories. It noted with great interest the information provided by Armenia, Bangladesh, China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam. It also noted the information provided by such countries as India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan on their programmes for upgrading Asian Highway routes to four or more lanes.

26. The Committee noted that the linking of the South and North transport networks of the Korean peninsula by road and railway would make a huge contribution to advancing Asia's economic development and cooperation by allowing a smooth flow of people and goods in North-East Asia via the land connection network to China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the Russian Federation, and expressed active support for the reconnection of the severed section on the Korean peninsula.

27. The Committee noted with appreciation the formal approval by the Government of China of existing and potential routes with a total length of more than 26,000 kilometres as part of the Asian Highway network and also noted that the approved routes included new alignments which provided connections with neighbouring countries and seaports. It noted that the plan for the approved routes was being submitted to the secretariat through the Permanent Representative of China to the Commission. China also requested that the secretariat make appropriate revisions to the list of routes in the Asian Highway network and the map in line with the Chinese plan. The representative of China pointed out that the formalization of the Asian Highway network was an open-ended process with the need for periodic revisions of the network when necessary, through consultations and after obtaining consensus among the countries directly concerned. The Committee noted China's willingness to be actively involved in the drafting of the intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network.

28. The Committee noted the status update from Singapore regarding Malaysia's proposed changes in route numbering of the Asian Highway route between the two countries. It also noted Singapore's position that the existing Asian Highway route AH 2 alignment through Johor Bahru Causeway and Woodlands should be retained. However, to accommodate Malaysia's concerns about the new road alignments in Malaysia, Singapore suggested the branching of Asian Highway route AH 2 at Senai Utara to Singapore through Tanjong Kupang.

29. In the light of the recent positive developments with respect to the reconnection of transport linkages in the Korean peninsula, the Committee requested the secretariat to encourage the full participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Asian Highway-related activities.

30. The Committee noted the proposal of Bangladesh, which had also been made at the Expert Group Meeting on Development of the Asian Highway Network, to extend Asian Highway route AH

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41, Dhaka-Katchpur-Chittagong-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf, onward to include Yangon and the request that the secretariat facilitate discussions on the subject. The representative of Bangladesh outlined the importance of the extension of Asian Highway route AH 41 from Teknaf to Yangon. The Committee noted that the Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIMST-EC) Ministerial Meeting, held in December 1997 had requested ESCAP to take up a survey/study on road links between Yangon in Myanmar and Teknaf/Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

31. The Committee noted the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allocate a single-digit route number to Asian Highway route AH-70.

32. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the successful organization of the Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on Identification of Priority Road Network and Investment Needs in North-East Asia for Development of the Tumen River Area, held at Ulaanbaatar in October 2002, and noted that the joint study by ESCAP and the UNDP Tumen Secretariat would provide new momentum to the development of the road network in North-East Asia.

33. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the secretariat in updating the Asian Highway database and urged members to provide updated information and statistics to expand it further.

34. The Committee noted the progress made in drafting the intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network by the working group meeting held at Bangkok on 11 and 12 November 2002. The Committee recommended that an ad hoc intergovernmental meeting be convened in the second half of 2003 to consider and adopt the agreement. Noting the desire of member countries to become parties to the agreement, it recommended that a signing ceremony be held during the sixtieth session of the Commission.

35. The Committee noted the importance of accommodating the needs of countries that were parties to the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries, 1975, and potential parties to the intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network with respect to signage; in that regard, it noted the concerns expressed by Turkey.

36. The Committee expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for its continuous support for the Asian Highway project through the provision of financial and expert resources. It welcomed the interest of that Government in joining the Asian Highway network as well as its interest in the intergovernmental agreement on the Asian Highway network.

37. The Committee recommended that high priority be given to the implementation of demonstration runs of container block trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor and noted the readiness of Kazakhstan and Mongolia to provide opportunities for international transit traffic. It noted with satisfaction that the first Steering Committee Meeting on the Planning and Implementation of Container Block Trains along the Trans-Asian Railway Northern Corridor had been held at Vladivostok, Russian Federation, in June 2002, and welcomed the efforts of the

secretariat in supporting the implementation of those runs. The Committee noted the importance of identifying the timeframe and technical parameters for conducting the runs during the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled to be held in China during the first half of 2003. It also observed that the Trans-Siberian line was ready to accommodate additional traffic, including that from Trans-Asian Railway corridors passing through Central Asia and from the Korean peninsula.

38. The Committee requested the secretariat and all concerned members to encourage the participation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in future meetings of the Steering Committee with a view to organizing demonstration runs through the Korean peninsula within the current plan of action for phase V of the ALTID project.

39. The Committee noted with appreciation the information provided by Armenia, Bangladesh, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and Viet Nam on their efforts to extend and modernize their rail systems within the framework of the Trans-Asian Railway.

40. The Committee noted that a number of important components of the Trans-Asian Railway network had been included in national development plans, such as the Bafq-Mashaad link as part of the third development plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the inclusion by the Government of China of segments of the Trans-Asian Railway network in its tenth five-year development plan (2001-2005). The Committee also noted the intensive work being done by the Government of China on three possible options to link its network with existing Trans-Asian Railway links in neighbouring countries, with priority given to developing the so-called "eastern route" between Kunming and Singapore through Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh and Bangkok. It was also noted that development of the Trans-Asian Railway network was receiving attention at the highest government level in Viet Nam to develop the missing link with Cambodia.

41. The Committee noted with appreciation other important developments taking place in Armenia, Bangladesh and the Islamic Republic of Iran to increase operational efficiency and capacity along routes which were part of the Trans-Asian Railway network.

42. The Committee requested the secretariat to take further initiatives to agree and operationalize links of the Southern Corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway, possibly in cooperation with the International Union of Railways.

43. In view of the substantial railway developments taking place in the region, the Committee requested the secretariat to establish a working group on the Trans-Asian Railway and undertake a review and updating of the Trans-Asian Railway network for the whole of Asia.

44. The Committee stressed the importance of the project of the five United Nations regional commissions for the development of interregional transport linkages and requested that studies be undertaken for the development of transport linkages between the ESCAP and Economic and Social

Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) regions as well as timely implementation of the joint ESCAP-Economic Commission for Europe programme on Asia-Europe land transport linkages. The Committee noted the significance of the interregional transport project with respect to the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). It also noted the existing cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and SPECA in terms of the promotion of ECO members' participation in SPECA activities. It welcomed the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide transit connections between the ESCAP and ESCWA regions.

45. The Committee noted with interest the information provided by Kazakhstan on its activities in support of the UNDP Silk Road Area Development Programme and its leading role in SPECA in respect of transport and border-crossing facilitation. In that regard, Kazakhstan invited the delegations to attend the SPECA project working group meeting on transport and border-crossing to be held at Almaty from 25 to 27 November 2002 and announced that Kazakhstan was hosting the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, scheduled to be held at Almaty in the first half of October 2003. Referring to the needs of the landlocked countries, Kazakhstan requested the secretariat to provide assistance and advice in the transport sector to the countries in Central Asia and the SPECA programme.

46. The Committee stressed the need for the integration of the transport networks and connectivity between the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, seaports, river ports, airports, inland container and freight terminals, thereby creating an integrated international intermodal transport network. It requested the secretariat to take early action in formulating the integrated international intermodal transport network to promote efficient transport services. It further highlighted the need to define network parameters and a timeframe for implementation.

47. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of the Asian Institute of Transport Development to share its extensive experience in the formulation of integrated intermodal networks with the members of ESCAP.

C. Integration and facilitation of transport in the ESCAP region

(Item 5 (b) of the agenda)

48. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CTCTID (4)/4. It noted the complexities of facilitation of transport as indicated in the document. Bilateral discussion and agreements would greatly facilitate the conclusion of subregional and regional agreements.

49. The Committee noted the importance placed by member countries on specific transport corridors and stressed the significance of transport facilitation in parallel with the development of transport infrastructure. It also requested the secretariat to assist members in improving their understanding of the international conventions and increasing awareness of the benefits of accession

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to them. However, the Committee expressed concern with regard to the overlapping nature of the facilitation agreements that were already in effect or being proposed and the lack of coordination and harmonization in their preparation. It requested the secretariat to undertake a study to collate and review existing and proposed agreements within the region and relevant international conventions on transport facilitation and make proposals for regional harmonization. The Committee welcomed the suggestion of China that interested countries and organizations should strengthen their cooperation with a view to removing non-physical barriers and facilitating the development of integrated intermodal transport.

50. The Committee requested the secretariat to continue to organize seminars so as to increase awareness of the conventions listed in Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures and noted that the secretariat had circulated a questionnaire to countries to identify the difficulties they faced in acceding to the conventions.

51. The Committee noted the importance of the project on an integrated international transport and logistics system for North-East Asia and urged the participating countries, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, to provide assistance to the secretariat in undertaking the project.

52. The Committee reiterated the crucial role of maritime shipping and ports in the economic and trade development of the countries in the region, particularly the island developing countries, and requested the secretariat to continue to work in the area of shipping, ports, dry ports and logistics development.

53. In view of the recent rapid growth of container trade in some ports of the region, the Committee requested the secretariat to review and update the container forecast study utilizing the Maritime Policy Planning Model.

54. The Committee noted the benefits and challenges of globalization and requested the secretariat to organize activities that would raise awareness of the World Trade Organization processes and the implications of the General Agreement on Trade in Services negotiations on maritime and port activities as well as the liberalization of air services.

55. The Committee requested the secretariat to organize and deliver capacity-building training programmes on international transport at the national and subregional levels. It noted the requests of Bangladesh, Fiji, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and ECO to be included in the secretariat skills development programme, including the training of trainers for freight forwarders, multimodal transport and logistics service providers.

56. The Committee noted with appreciation the agreement between India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on the development of the North-South Corridor linking the Islamic Republic of Iran through the ports of Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf and Khazar on the Caspian

Sea with northern Europe through the Russian Federation and the Caucasus region and further linking to the Central Asian republics. It noted with interest the possibility of seven more countries joining the agreement.

57. The Committee noted with satisfaction the collaboration between the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and ESCAP in the areas of multimodal transport, the liberalization of maritime transport and subregional transport agreements.

58. The Committee also noted with appreciation the importance of the joint project being implemented by ECO, UNCTAD and ESCAP on the development of international multimodal transport in the ECO subregion. It also noted the substantial progress being made by ECO in facilitating transport and trade.

59. The Committee noted that the Asian Institute of Transport Development had undertaken a study on the facilitation of cross-border movement of goods and people in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation subregion and prepared a draft agreement on road transport for the subregion, and that the Institute was ready to share its experience in that regard.

**D. Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region
and strengthening the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and
Training Institutes in Tourism**

(Items 5 (c) and (d) of the agenda)

60. The Committee had before it documents E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/5 and E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/6 as well as information paper CTCTID(4)/INF.2. It reaffirmed the important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of Asian and Pacific countries. It noted that tourism had become an essential source of foreign exchange for many countries in the region and could thus be an effective tool for sustainable development, contributing to poverty alleviation, creating job opportunities and equitable income distribution. The Committee noted that the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg in 2001, had underlined the importance of sustainable tourism development and that the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit included action to foster the sound development of tourism. The Committee stressed that tourism should continue to receive high priority in the programme of work and urged the secretariat to intensify its activities in that sector.

61. Noting that the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region provided a comprehensive framework for strengthening national capabilities and encouraging regional cooperation, the Committee strongly supported the Plan of Action and reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Plan. It was pleased to note that many countries and international organizations had taken significant initiatives towards implementation of the Plan, as reflected in the document.

62. In particular, the Committee noted that most of the countries in the region had adopted the concept of sustainable tourism development and had encouraged all concerned stakeholders to participate actively in that process. It also noted the initiatives being taken relating to the development of tourism master plans, with a focus on ecotourism. Many countries also mentioned programmes implemented in the area of human resources development in the tourism sector. The other specific initiatives reported included: (a) the development of national ecotourism strategies in Bhutan, (b) 2003 Visit Cambodia Year, (c) the preparation of tourism satellite accounts in China and the Islamic Republic of Iran, (d) tourism development strategies with a focus on ecotourism in Fiji, (e) 2003 Visit BIMST-EC Year, with India coordinating the programme, and the proposal to develop ecotourism destinations, including the State of Uttaranchal and National Eco-Park around the Valley of Flowers region of the Himalayas in India, (f) the establishment of a national committee to formulate ecotourism development regulations and a technical training institute for ecotourism in the Islamic Republic of Iran, (g) awareness programmes for the informal sector involved in tourism in Sri Lanka, (h) community-based tourism development contributing to poverty alleviation, such as the Doi Tung project in northern Thailand, and (i) improvement of administrative procedures to facilitate the entry of tourists into the Islamic Republic of Iran and Viet Nam.

63. The Committee was pleased to note that APETIT had been functioning as an effective mechanism for promoting cooperation in human resources development in the tourism sector. Currently, 131 education and training institutes and national tourism organizations in 35 countries and areas were participating in its activities. The Committee noted that members' commitment to cooperation had made APETIT one of the strongest cooperative networks with which ESCAP was associated. It requested the secretariat to extend its full support to ensure the effective operation of APETIT and suggested that participation of the private sector in its activities be encouraged.

64. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed appreciation to APETIT members that had notified the APETIT information management focal point of their web sites. Those which had not done so were requested to inform the focal point of their web sites so that they could be linked with the APETIT web site.

65. The Committee requested the secretariat to exert special efforts in the following areas: (a) tourism education, training and research related to sustainable tourism development, (b) capacity-building for small and medium-sized enterprises in tourism management and application of information technology in tourism operations, (c) the promotion of community participation in sustainable tourism, (d) the promotion of tourism along the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and Silk Road and (e) the promotion of Buddhist tourism circuits. It requested the secretariat to continue to promote the sharing of experiences related to sustainable tourism development.

66. The Committee appreciated the active role being played by ESCAP in the activities of the Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector and requested that activities to

promote further cooperation be strengthened. It requested the secretariat to provide assistance to new economic groupings such as BIMST-EC and Mekong-Ganga Cooperation in which tourism was identified as a priority area for cooperation. It also took note of the suggestion that a seminar on tourism satellite accounts be organized.

67. The representative of Viet Nam stated that the Seminar on Sustainable Tourism Resource Management, held at Hanoi in September 2002, had been very useful and requested the secretariat to organize a follow-up training programme on the conservation and management of tourism resources. The Committee took note of the request by Indonesia that the secretariat conduct a regional or subregional seminar dealing with crisis management in tourism, which it was prepared to host. Fiji requested assistance in human resources development in the tourism sector through APETIT, including assessment of the economic impact of tourism and a review of international aviation policy. The Islamic Republic of Iran requested ESCAP to organize a train-the-trainers workshop for the hotel industry. The Committee took note of the interest of the Russian Federation, particularly its Siberian and Far Eastern regions, in being associated with ESCAP activities in tourism development, including within the framework of APETIT.

68. The Committee expressed appreciation to Japan for continuously extending financial support to tourism activities and noted with satisfaction a number of activities that had been implemented recently through the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund.

69. The Committee noted with interest recent initiatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the field of air transport. It was pleased to note that ICAO would consider holding a consultation with Fiji concerning the implications of the liberalization of aviation.

E. Implementation of the programme of work, 2002-2003

(Item 6 of the agenda)

70. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/7 and information paper CTCTID(4)/INF.3. It appreciated the overview and analysis of the implementation of the programme of work and the achievements attained through the implementation of activities and projects under subprogramme 6, Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

71. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in implementing the realigned programme of work, 2002-2003. It noted with appreciation that the programme of work was now more focused and aligned with the theme of managing globalization.

72. Noting the progress made so far, the Committee expressed its full support for the activities for the biennium 2002-2003 that were aimed at promoting the sustainable development of transport and tourism in the region. It also emphasized activities in the areas of ports and shipping, facilitation and logistics, the ALTID project, private sector participation, safety, preparation of the review of

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developments in the transport sector and compilation of the statistical abstract.

73. The Committee stressed the importance of web-based information dissemination activities and noted with satisfaction that a very large number of visitors were using the ESCAP web site regularly to access data and information. It also noted with appreciation that most recent publications were now available online and were being downloaded in large numbers. It urged the secretariat to update the available information on the web site regularly so as to sustain the interest of the users.

74. The Committee drew attention to the issue of transport security against terrorism. It requested the secretariat to undertake a study concerning the preparedness of member countries in adopting the new transport security environment and the use of new technologies related to passenger information and the security of container traffic.

75. The Committee noted with appreciation that the secretariat would be holding a national workshop on a comprehensive and integrated approach to planning and policy development for sustainable transport at Manila from 26 to 28 November 2002. In that context, it recognized the assistance of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration in sharing its experience on the multi-stakeholder participatory approach.

76. The Committee appreciated the collaborative relationship between ESCAP and the Asian Institute of Transport Development in implementing the programme of activities of the secretariat under the Regional Action Programme and expressed satisfaction that the Institute had recently been granted special consultative status by the United Nations.

77. The representative of the Asian Institute of Transport Development stressed the need for better understanding of transport-poverty linkages. The Institute was undertaking a study in India to assess the impact of a major highway on rural poverty alleviation and a seminar would be held in 2003 to share the findings of the study. A general invitation was extended to the members and the secretariat to participate in that seminar.

F. Organization of future work in the area of managing globalization in accordance with the new conference structure of the Commission

(Item 7 of the agenda)

78. The Committee had before it document E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/8. It noted that the Commission had established, through its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, a new conference structure, including three thematic committees and their respective sectoral subcommittees, including the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism. The Subcommittee, which would assume roles and functions similar to those of the current Committee, would report to the thematic Committee on Managing Globalization.

79. The Committee also noted that, in order for the subcommittees to adjust their priorities to changing needs in a flexible manner and harmonize their work with their respective committees, no separate terms of reference had been prepared for the subcommittees. Instead, their work would be based directly upon the relevant parts of the terms of reference of the thematic committees. The Committee on Managing Globalization would thus provide overall direction to the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism on the issues to be addressed and the prioritization of its work, which would guide the Subcommittee in determining its agendas.

80. The first of the biennial meetings of the thematic committees would be held at appropriate times during the second half of 2003 after the fifty-ninth session of the Commission, tentatively scheduled for 24-30 April 2003. The Committee was pleased to note that, as the subcommittees were to meet in the intervals between sessions of their respective thematic committees, the first of the biennial meetings of the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism was likely to be held some time in 2004.

81. Finally, the Committee noted that the report on its current session would be submitted to the Commission in 2003.

G. Other matters

(Item 8 of the agenda)

82. The Committee expressed deep gratitude to the Governments of Australia, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, and the United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Islamic Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Japan Transport Cooperation Association and the Nippon Foundation for their valuable support for the implementation of the subprogramme on transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development. It urged all donors to continue to provide financial and technical support for the subprogramme.

H. Adoption of the report

(Item 9 of the agenda)

83. The Committee adopted the report on its fourth session on 15 November 2002.

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

84. The fourth session of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development was held at Bangkok from 13 to 15 November 2002. It was declared open by His Excellency Mr. Nikorn Chamnong, Deputy Minister of Transport of Thailand. The Executive Secretary delivered a statement.

85. The Deputy Minister, welcoming those attending the session, observed that the current assembly underpinned the importance of sustaining the momentum for strengthening the region's transport infrastructure to provide access to regional and global markets, and noted that transport could play a leading role in accelerating the economy. For that reason, Thailand was exploring the possibility of developing Asian transport networks and believed that the free movement of goods and people would promote and facilitate the flow of trade, investment and tourism, while simultaneously contributing to greater economic integration within the region.

86. Thailand accorded high priority to the development of international intermodal transport. Special efforts were being made to implement trade and transport facilitation measures to enhance cross-border trade and investment flows with other countries in the region, as manifested through the signing of a number of agreements during the previous decade.

87. The Deputy Minister stated that Thailand recognized the significance of regional activities in achieving its national goals and reiterated his country's commitment and support for the Seoul Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, including phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006). He also expressed appreciation of the significant contributions being made by ESCAP to assist the countries of the region, including Thailand, particularly within the context of the ALTID project.

88. Stressing that road safety was an issue of major concern, the Deputy Minister said that his Government attached importance to road safety policies. In that context, he urged other member States to extend their cooperation at the regional and subregional levels and requested ESCAP to continue its efforts to assist the countries of the region in coordination and in promoting the sharing of information and experience in that important area.

89. Thailand perceived tourism as an important contributor to the economic and social welfare of the country and fully concurred with the commitment of ESCAP to promote tourism on an integrated and environmentally sound basis. The Deputy Minister reaffirmed his country's commitment and support for the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region.

90. In closing, the Deputy Minister stated that Thailand was ready to cooperate with other countries of the region in promoting sustainability in the development of transport and tourism. In that regard, the vital role of ESCAP in creating the regional vision for the development of transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure was providing a framework in which Thailand and other countries in the region could grow and prosper.

91. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the Deputy Minister of Transport of Thailand for opening the session. He also expressed gratitude to all donor Governments and agencies for their constant and valuable support and was looking forward to working more closely with them, as

well as with other partners in development, both within and outside the United Nations system, including the private sector.

92. Globalization had accentuated the need for greater efficiency and integration of all transport modes throughout the region. In line with the Seoul Declaration, ESCAP was mandated to assist the countries of the region in facilitating the development of integrated transport networks, taking into account the crucial role that transport played in poverty reduction strategies and protection of the environment and human health. In that context, special attention was paid to the particular transport issues facing the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

93. The Executive Secretary urged all members to participate actively in the implementation of the Regional Action Programme. However, as the Programme was designed to support action at the country level, it was the responsibility of the members to formulate plans and strategies corresponding to their national priorities and circumstances. For its part, ESCAP was willing and ready to support their efforts in effectively managing opportunities and meeting the challenges in the transport sector.

94. The tourism industry was an important contributor to national income and foreign exchange earning and was therefore given due recognition by Governments in the region, and by the ESCAP.

95. Referring to the agenda before the session, the Executive Secretary requested the Committee to consider the secretariat's analysis carefully and endorse those approaches that would support the needs of their Governments and people.

96. In conclusion, the Executive Secretary apprised the Committee briefly of matters relating to the revitalization of ESCAP, which had resulted in the establishment of three thematic committees and their respective subcommittees. Those included the Subcommittee on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism, which would assume roles and functions similar to those of the current Committee and would report to the Committee on Managing Globalization. He expressed confidence that such efforts would enhance the capacity of ESCAP to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of its members.

B. Attendance

97. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Viet Nam.

98. The session was attended by an official representing the Economic Commission for Europe.

99. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, International Civil Aviation Organization, Universal Postal Union and International Telecommunication Union.

100. The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were present in an observer capacity: Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Economic Cooperation Organization, Pacific Asia Travel Association, Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements, ASEAN Federation of Forwarders Associations, Asian Institute of Transport Development and International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations. Observers were also present from the following entities: ASEAN Ports Association, Association of Shippers' Councils of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, CPCS Transcom, Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia, Korea Railroad Research Institute, Korea Transport Institute and Thai Shipowners' Association.

C. Election of officers

101. The Meeting elected H.E. Mr. Oleg Skvortsov (Russian Federation) Chairperson, Mr. Ju Chengzhi (China), Mr. Napolioni Masirewa (Fiji), Mr. M. Susiriwardana (Sri Lanka), H.R.H. Prince Sisowath Chivannariddh (Cambodia) and Mr. Vongchai Jarernswan (Thailand) Vice-Chairpersons, and Mr. George D. Esguerra, (Philippines) Rapporteur.

D. Agenda

102. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Implementation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.
5. Major issues in transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development:
 - (a) Asian land transport infrastructure development;
 - (b) Integration and facilitation of transport in the ESCAP region;
 - (c) Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005);
 - (d) Strengthening the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism.
6. Programme planning and implementation: implementation of the programme of work, 2002-2003.

7. Organization of future work in the area of managing globalization in accordance with the new conference structure of the Commission.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/L.1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/L.2/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/1	Implementation of phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific	4
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/2	Asian land transport infrastructure development	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/3	Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Development of the Asian Highway Network, 8-10 May 2002, Bangkok	5 (a)
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/4	Integration and facilitation of transport in the ESCAP region	5 (b)
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/5	Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region (1999-2005)	5 (c)
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/6	Strengthening the Network of Asia-Pacific Education and Training Institutes in Tourism	5 (d)
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/7	Programme planning and implementation: implementation of the programme of work, 2002-2003, and proposed programme changes	6
E/ESCAP/CTCTID(4)/8	Organization of future work in the area of managing globalization in accordance with the new conference structure of the Commission	7
CTCTID(4)/INF.1	Statistical abstract of transport in Asia and the Pacific 2002: preparatory draft	4
CTCTID(4)/INF.2	Reports on the progress of implementation of the Plan of Action for Sustainable Tourism Development in the Asian and Pacific Region	5 (c)
CTCTID(4)/INF.3	Status of implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003	6

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