



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Meeting of Senior Government Officials in preparation for the
Ministerial Conference on Transport

6-8 November 2006
Busan, Republic of Korea

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will be opened by a dignitary from the Government of the Republic of Korea. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP will address the Meeting.

2. Election of officers

The Meeting will elect a chairperson, vice-chairpersons and rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda will be adopted with any changes deemed necessary.

4. Review of the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific

Item 4 will encompass a review of the implementation of the regional action programme for phase II (2002-2006) of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

5. Emerging issues in transport

(a) A vision of the development of the Asian transport sector

Over the past decade, many countries of the Asian and Pacific region have experienced unprecedented growth in output, trade and investment. A principle driving force behind this growth has been rapid improvement in the transport sector. However, with continuing growth there is a need to further expand capacity and improve transport services to meet demand and have a wider reach to include the hinterlands.

The document prepared under this agenda item presents a vision of transport in Asia and a range of challenges to be addressed in this fast-changing and competitive era of globalization. The document

also introduces proposals for the development of intermodal facilities, such as inland container depots and dry ports, as growth centres within the international integrated intermodal transport system. Other approaches to increase transport capacity and efficiency through infrastructure development, financing, facilitation and logistics are also presented. It concludes by proposing the establishment of an Asian Conference of Ministers of Transport, who will meet regularly and provide timely policy guidance to promote regional cooperation in the transport sector.

(b) Regional cooperation in infrastructure development for an international integrated intermodal transport system in Asia

The document reviews the progress made by member countries and the secretariat to develop regional transport networks, in particular the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, as important building blocks towards the realization of the vision of an integrated international intermodal transport system for Asia. This system will have connections to ports and maritime transport.

The document also discusses the features and economic benefits of intermodal interfaces as potential nodes of production networks, where economic activities similar to those at seaports can be promoted. It also provides an estimate of transport infrastructure investment requirements until 2015 to accommodate the expected increase in traffic in the region.

The document proposes major areas of work for cooperation in infrastructure development to realize the transport vision of the region.

(c) Towards the smooth and efficient movement of goods and people through integrated facilitation measures

With new developments in road and rail networks, countries in the ESCAP region are becoming increasingly aware of the need to address impediments to the smooth movement of goods and people. Efficient international transport can only be achieved by addressing a wide range of issues through bilateral, subregional and international agreements and clear national policies and laws.

The document outlines key measures required for the facilitation of international transport, including establishing or strengthening national coordinating mechanisms, improving international facilitation arrangements and applying new information and communication technology and facilitation tools to assess and analyse international transport routes. It describes an integrated approach to addressing facilitation issues to achieve the smooth and efficient movement of goods and people across the region and contains recommendations for the consideration of the Meeting.

(d) An enabling environment for the development of transport logistics

Key trends in logistics are as follows: (a) globalized production and distribution; (b) development of information technology; (c) emergence of specialized logistics service providers; and (d) development of logistics centres.

Many factors go into the development and strengthening of logistics services. They include a conducive environment created by Governments and the day-to-day operations carried out by public and private sector industry.

The document explores the clustering of logistics services around inland and seaports, the need for further understanding of logistics trends and industry needs, the empowering of multimodal transport operators and logistics service providers, and the development of suitable legal regimes. The document also examines the role of industry in providing constructive feedback and skills development.

(e) Financing of transport infrastructure and public-private partnerships

Recent studies have pointed out that current funding for infrastructure development in the transport sector falls short of investment requirements. Some Governments have successfully taken measures to mobilize additional funding through mechanisms such as direct charging, establishment of dedicated funds, access to capital and bond markets, establishment of investment promotion funds and public-private partnerships. The document considers regional experiences in financing from these sources.

Considering the success of public-private partnerships in many countries, as well as their potential contributions, the document also considers trends and reviews some of the principal constraints to increased private sector participation in infrastructure and operation. It also outlines initiatives being taken by Governments to address key issues in public-private partnerships.

Finally, the document proposes areas in which the secretariat could work with member countries to further generate resources through non-budget mechanisms.

(f) Transport and the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are an agenda of the United Nations that world leaders agreed on at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. Their intent is to reduce poverty and improve lives. The documents explore the role of sustainable transport development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and suggest for consideration possible programmes of action at national, subregional and regional levels.

6. Road safety in Asia and the Pacific and draft ministerial declaration on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific

The document entitled “Road safety in Asia and the Pacific” describes and analyses (a) the status of road safety in the ESCAP region and (b) national and regional experiences with efforts to improve the situation. The document outlines road safety mandates, trends, and common issues among ESCAP member countries, and illustrates selected lessons learned from national and regional activities.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/5 of 1 December 2005 on improving global road safety, the document also provides essential background information for the discussion of the anticipated ministerial declaration on improving road safety in Asia and the Pacific. The draft ministerial declaration will be reviewed by the Meeting of Senior Government Officials and submitted to the Ministerial Conference for consideration and adoption.

7. Draft ministerial declaration on transport, including a regional action programme for phase I (2007-2011)

Based on an initial draft prepared by the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, the draft ministerial declaration on transport will be formulated by the Meeting of Senior Government Officials and submitted to the Ministerial Conference for consideration and adoption. The declaration will reaffirm the commitment of ESCAP members and associate members to achieving economic and social development through interventions in the transport sector. The declaration will also provide a framework for the efficient and effective implementation of the regional action programme for phase I (2007-2011).

8. Other matters

Under this agenda item, the Meeting may wish to consider other matters.

9. Adoption of the report of the Meeting

The Meeting will consider and adopt its report, which will subsequently be submitted for endorsement to the Ministerial Conference.

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