

Major conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Improving Road Safety on the Asian Highway - Targets and Engineering, Bangkok, 27-29 October

After active and constructive deliberation, the Expert Group Meeting arrived at the following major conclusions and recommendations:

1. The Meeting noted with interest the activities under the UN Development Account Project entitled on “improving global road safety” of the UN regional commissions, and encouraged ESCAP members to actively participate in and contribute to the project, and to support sharing of experiences also with other world regions.
2. The Expert Group Meeting noted with interest the presentations made by member States, resource persons and representatives of organizations, in particular the reports on progress made in terms of the goals contained in the *ESCAP Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific* adopted in Busan in Nov. 2006, including on the Asian Highway. The Meeting encouraged ESCAP members to continue their high-level commitment to improving road safety on the Asian Highway network and other roads.
3. The Meeting emphasized the importance of upgrading of the Asian Highway and improvements to road safety made in member countries to date.
4. The Meeting encouraged ESCAP members to include adequate road safety components in all road projects, and to initiate dedicated road safety projects where appropriate. The Meeting encouraged delegates to consider the existing best practices in terms of separation of different types of traffic, such as exclusive motorcycles lanes and use of physical centre dividers.
5. The Meeting recommended ESCAP members to explore public-private partnerships for improving road safety.
6. The Meeting welcomed the efforts of some ESCAP members in considering national goals or targets for road safety in general and on the Asian Highway Network in particular.
7. The Meeting recommended the ESCAP Committee on Transport consider positively the suggested targets and indicators for the goals contained in the *Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road safety in Asia and the Pacific*. The Meeting supported the further application of the targets and indicators to help in measuring the achievement of the Ministerial Declaration.
8. The Meeting called on ESCAP members to consider improving their data collection and reporting systems and noted the important examples of progress reported by some countries. The Meeting

encouraged ESCAP members to continue to provide on an annual basis the basic safety data on Asian Highway as well as national-level road safety indicators.

9. The Meeting welcomed the information provided by the Russian Federation on the first United Nations global high-level (ministerial) conference on road safety to be held in Moscow around the middle of November 2009. The Meeting encouraged ESCAP members to actively participate in and provide inputs for the Conference.

10. The Meeting also noted with interest that Viet Nam would host the ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Transport at the end of November 2009. The Meeting also noted that the Republic of Korea planned to hold the OECD International Road Traffic Accident Database (IRTAD) Conference in September 2009.

11. The Meeting noted with interest the potential of carrying out iRAP assessments on some parts of the Asian Highway Network which might eventually lead to an Asian Highway Road Safety Atlas.

12. The Meeting suggested systematic sharing of experiences with regard to the safe systems approach and special engineering measures to improve road safety as suggested in the Vision Zero approach of the Swedish road administration.

13. The Meeting noted with interest the successful Helmet for Kids programme of the Asian Injury Prevention Foundation in Viet Nam. It also noted the activities and lessons-learned of UN Economic Commission for Europe and the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

14. The Meeting recommended ESCAP members accede to and effectively implement the road safety-related legal instruments and best practices, and especially the Vienna Conventions on Road Traffic and Road Signs and Signals respectively, which are also included in ESCAP resolution 48/11.

15. The Meeting expressed deep concern over the high-level of child mortality in road accidents and urged member countries to assign priority to preventive measures.

16. The Meeting noted that human error was the major cause of road crashes in each of the members countries, and more needed to be done to improve the situation.

17. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to collect information on vehicle inspection regimes of member States, and to share this information among participating delegations.

18. The Meeting noted with appreciation the support being provided in the area of road safety to regional member countries by Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Sweden. The Meeting also noted with appreciation the support for road safety activities provided by the FIA Foundation, inter alia, through the Global Road Safety Facility.

19. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the secretariat for its work in the area of road safety, in particular the present Expert Group Meeting. It requested to continue the series of Expert Group Meetings on Improving Road Safety on the Asian Highway which has been carried out on an annual basis since 2006.