The Second Decade of Almaty Program of Action – from landlocked to land-linked countries, economies and cultures

ESCAP/OHRLLS/ECE/Government of Lao PDR Final Regional Review of the Almaty Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries

March 5, 2013, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Igor Rounov, IRU Under Secretary General
Evolution of IRU Membership

2013: 170 Members in 74 countries

…and 26 CRIPA Members in 22 countries
IRU Partner Organisations

- **Global partners:**
  - UN (United Nations) and its bodies (UN OHRLLC, UNDP, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNECA, etc.)
  - WTO (World Trade Organization)
  - WB (World Bank)
  - WCO (World Customs Organization)
  - ITF (International Transport Forum)

- **Regional partners:**
  - BSEC (Black Sea Economic Cooperation)
  - ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization)
  - EU Institutions
  - Eurasian Economic Commission (Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan)
  - GUAM (Organization for democracy and Economic Development)
  - LAS (League of Arab States), etc.
  - OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)
  - TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission
APoA - Road Transport Priorities

Ensure efficient transit

Secure access to/from the seas

Reduce cost of deliveries

Solve cross border and administrative problems

Improve safety of road transport and security of people
In focus: Euro-Asian linkages and long-distances road transport facilitation
IRU New Eurasian Land Transport Initiative – NELTI

Launched in September 2008

Commercial road transport deliveries performed by road transport companies from the Eurasian countries

4 phases

In cooperation with the ADB, ECO and IDB

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NELTI: Problems are Procedural!

- 40% of time lost at border crossings!
- Illegal payments account for 30% of additional costs!
- Lack of ancillary roadside infrastructure
Model Highway Initiative (MHI)
“Model Highway is a chosen section (2-3 stretches) of an internationally rated trunk road of 1500 – 2000 km in length, crossing the territories of several Eurasian countries and of strategic importance for interconnecting and promoting Eurasian trade and transit by road to major world markets.”
MHI Key elements

1. Creation of modern ancillary roadside infrastructure;

2. Institutional reforms and implementation of best practices in the road transport sector;

3. Establishment of a multilateral investment mechanism
MHI South Caucasus (MHI-SC) section:

Trabzon - Sarpi (Georgia/Turkey BCP) – Batumi – Tbilisi – Krasny Most (Georgia/Azerbaijan BCP) - Baku

Possible extensions: Baku port (BCP) - Turkmenbashi port (BCP) - Ashgabat; Trabzon – Samsun
MHIMHI--SC Joint Statement

Signed in Izmir, Turkey on 28 November 2012

15 March 2013: The First meeting of the Working Group on creation of the MHI-SC

Technical Secretariat of the Working Group was established in Tbilisi, Georgia
MHI-CA section

- Rest area
- Service area
- Parking lot
- BCP

MHI Central Asia section:
- Pol-eXomri - Nizhniy Panj (Afghanistan/ Tajikistan BCP) – Dushanbe – Karamyk (Tajikistan/ Kyrgyzstan BCP) – Bishkek – Kordai (Kyrgyzstan/Kazakhstan BCP) - Shimkent – Kzyl-Orda

Branches: Kordai – Almaty – Khorgos (Kazakhstan/China BCP) Sarytash - Irkeshtam (Kyrgyzstan/China BCP)
MHI - what’s next?

1. Creation of the MHI coordination centres
2. Consultations on the creation of the Regional Infrastructure Fund (MHI RIF)
3. Preparation of the Feasibility study (Master Plan)
4. Intergovernmental Agreement negotiations
5. Development of national plans of administrative reforms
New Program (2014-2023) priorities. Road transport and related issues

**Section:** Infrastructure development and maintenance
(“Hard infrastructure”)

- Implementation of innovative mechanisms of transport projects funding, including regional infrastructure funds
- Special focus on the development of roadside ancillary infrastructure
- Modernisation of border crossing points and its equipment
- Development of logistical supply chains, logistics centers and "dry ports"
New Program (2014-2023) priorities. Road transport and related issues

Section: Trade facilitation and fundamental transit policy issues ("Soft infrastructure")

- Continued harmonisation of national legislation with UN agreements and conventions
- Geographical expansion of efficient customs transit systems
- Implementation of permit-free transit road transport
- Expansion of multilateral quotas systems of road transportation
- Involvement of road transport business associations in PPP projects
- Intermodal transport development
- Intelligent transport systems (ITC)
- Improving the quality of professional training of transport operators
Promotion of UN transport facilitating conventions and agreements

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Multilateral Regional Instruments to Facilitate Trade and Road Transport

- Multilateral Permits System in BSEC Region
- Multilateral Permits System in ECO Region (currently being prepared)
- SCO Multilateral agreement on road transport (being finalised)
Working together for a better future