International Conference on Autonomous Shipping in Asia and the Pacific

Bangkok and online, 28-29 February 2024

Introduction to ESCAP’s project on autonomous shipping

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1. Introduction
2. Expected Outcome
3. Implementation Strategies
4. Implementation Progress
5. Milestones
6. This Conference
7. Further steps
1. Introduction

1) Autonomous shipping (for the purposes of the project)

- Application of technologies including (but not limited to): ship monitoring, fuel consumption optimization, ship facility management solution, voyage plan, weather condition analysis and network integration system for the purpose of maritime safety, operational efficiency and eco-friendliness (primarily applied for maritime transport but also can be used for inland waterways operations)

2) Objective

- To support the introduction of innovative autonomous shipping technologies which have important potential benefits of economic, social and environmental nature and which carry specific implications for the Asia-Pacific region

3) Contribution for RAP(2022-2026)

- Area 2: Maritime and interregional transport connectivity
- Area 3: Digitalization of transport
- Area 4: Low carbon mobility and logistics

4) Target sub-region and/or countries

- South-East Asian and South Asian countries including India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam
2. Expected outcome

- **Outcome 1:** Target countries develop national plans for the implementation of autonomous shipping technologies and consider initiatives on regional collaboration.

- **Outcome 2:** Strengthen the capacity of the target countries to develop a national/regional approach and to implement regional collaboration initiatives in the introduction of innovative autonomous shipping technologies.

**Strengthened countries’ capabilities to implement innovative autonomous shipping technologies through exchange of experiences and best practices and enhanced regional cooperation.**
4. Implementation

- International consultant engaged in late 2022
- National consultants in each of five target countries engaged in January-February 2023
- Study report by international consultant finalized and presented at the Combined National Workshop for target countries on 1-2 June 2023
- National study reports for 5 target countries prepared in 2023 and presented to participants of online national workshops
5. Project Milestones

2023

- Combined National workshop for all target counties (1-2 June, Bangkok, Thailand, in a hybrid format)
  - To clarify and discuss the collected information and prepare national plans on advanced solutions, developments and applied approaches in the field of innovative autonomous shipping technologies
- National workshops for India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand (online, September-October)

2024

- International conference (28-29 February 2024, Bangkok and online)
- Expert meeting (June 2024, Bangkok)
6. This Conference

- To exchange on good practices and relevant global and regional initiatives
- Review the findings of the studies and expert discussions on the matters of autonomous shipping conducted under the project on “Improving the safety of navigation and the sustainability of shipping through the introduction of innovative autonomous shipping technologies in the Asia-Pacific region” implemented by the ESCAP secretariat
- Discuss the directions of further promotion of autonomous shipping technologies in the context of the Asia-Pacific region
- Surveys will be undertaken during this Conference to facilitate collections of stakeholders’ opinions on the priorities for the introduction of autonomous shipping technologies
7. Further steps

- **Expert meeting (first half of June 2024, Bangkok)**
  
  - To assess opportunities for a regional approach to the introduction of innovative autonomous shipping technologies and to identify possible pilot joint projects among ESCAP member States

- **Policy recommendations**
  
  - Development of the policy recommendations on regional cooperation for the introduction of autonomous shipping in the Asia-Pacific region
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