

1st Annual Forum on Connectivity

Side Event to the 22nd Meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission
17 October 2022

Suld Room, Best Western Premier Tuushin Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
(Hybrid format)

10:00 am (Moscow) / 3:00 pm (Beijing/Ulaanbaatar) / 4:00 pm (Seoul)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The need for collaborative solutions through strengthened regional and sectoral cooperation has been one of the core lessons in responding to crises in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic. This especially holds true in maintaining resilient supply chains and preserving seamless cross-border trade and transport connectivity. Countries put in place institutional coordination mechanisms in line with whole-of-government approach to enhance operational connectivity in trade and transport. With future challenges becoming more intertwined, going forward, there is merit to continue the momentum of cross-sectoral engagements.

The Common Vision of the Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) Strategic Action Plan (SAP) 2021-2024, adopted by member countries in December 2020, articulated that “GTI member states are highly encouraged to coordinating policies and expand strategic convergence”.¹ Official GTI meetings, primarily the GTI Consultative Commission (CC), have resonated the call for expanding cooperation areas within the platform of GTI.²

Aligned with GTI’s common vision and strategic directions and ESCAP’s subregional programme priority in East and North-East Asia on sustainable connectivity, the **Annual Forum on Connectivity** aims to provide a regular platform for sectoral bodies to engage on issues in connectivity of common interests. The Forum is jointly organized by the country chair of the GTI Consultative Commission, GTI Secretariat and ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office and is a regular side event leading up to the annual meeting of the GTI Consultative Commission.

1st Annual Forum on Connectivity 2022: Theme and Objectives

The 22nd Meeting of the Consultative Commission (CC) is chaired by Mongolia with the theme “*Framework for Agriculture Development and Food Security in the Greater Tumen Region*”.

¹<http://www.tumenprogramme.org/UploadFiles/%E6%96%B0%E5%BB%BA%E6%96%87%E4%BB%B6%E5%A4%B9/Strategic%20Action%20Plan%202021-2024.pdf>

² 20th GTI Consultative Commission Meeting (<http://www.tumenprogramme.org/?info-769-1.html>); 19th GTI Consultative Commission Meeting (<http://www.tumenprogramme.org/?info-751-1.html>).

To this end, the 1st Annual Forum on Connectivity will be utilized as a platform for sectoral dialogues in line with the theme of the 22nd CC meeting. In particular, the Forum will aim to:

- a. inform of the agriculture and food security landscape of GTI member countries;
- b. share global developments and practices in addressing food security challenges and promoting agriculture development;
- c. encourage knowledge sharing and regional cooperation on agriculture development, including through digital transformation and innovation; and
- d. highlight key cross-sectoral linkages supporting food security and agriculture development.

Organization

ESCAP and GTI Secretariat will support the organization of the Forum, in closed consultation and coordination with Mongolia as 2022 country chair of the Consultative Commission. The Forum is conducted as a side event leading up to the 22nd meeting of the Consultative Commission.

The Forum, with a duration of 2.5 hours, will be conducted in English and on a hybrid format (in-person and online participation). MS Teams will be used as online platform.

With the Forum as a side event to the Consultative Commission meeting, government representatives attending GTI sectoral bodies³ will be invited. GTI member countries (China, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation) will be participating virtually, while government officials representing Mongolia in the different GTI sectoral bodies will participate in-person. Other domestic stakeholders will also be invited to join in-person.

Indicative Programme

17 October, Monday (UTC+8)	
15:00 – 15:15 [15 mins]	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia • Mr. Ganbold Baaasanjav (ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • Mr. Andrey Smorodin (Director, GTI Secretariat)
15:15 – 16:30 [75 mins]	<p>Food security and agriculture development: Policies and opportunities</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p>

³ National Coordinators Group; Trade and Investment Committee (and its Customs Sub-Committee); Transport Board, Energy Board, Agriculture Committee, Environmental Board, Tourism Board; Local Cooperation Committee (and its Logistics Sub-Committee); Northeast Asia (NEA) Business Association; NEA EXIM Banks Association; GTI Research Institutions Network.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Context</u>: State of food security and nutrition in the world [15 mins] <p><i>The presentation will set the scene highlighting the key messages of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World Report 2022 (FAO's flagship publication).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>National perspectives</u> [15 mins each] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GTI member countries <p><i>The presentation will inform on national initiatives/policies addressing food security and agriculture development, highlighting opportunities for cooperation, and identifying priority actions.</i></p>
16:30 – 17:30 [60 mins]	<p>Food security and agriculture development: Cross-sectoral linkages</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i></p> <p><i>The presentations (10 minutes each) will highlight the linkages and roles of sectors in addressing food security and advancing agricultural development.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of connectivity and infrastructure • Climate resilient agricultural systems • Role of private sector • Q&A and discussions
17:30 – 17:40	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia • Mr. Ganbold Baaasanjav (ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) • Mr. Andrey Smorodin (Director, GTI Secretariat)
17:40 – onwards	<p>Post event snacks [Networking]</p>