Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport: Creation of Green Transport Corridors in Asia and the Pacific

Regional Meeting

25 and 26 September 2024
9:00 – 17:00 (GMT+7)

Long Bien Meeting Room
Thang Long Opera Hotel
Hanoi, Vietnam and Online

Introduction

Following the launch of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport in August 2022, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has conducted a series of subregional consultation and capacity building workshops to mobilize transport ministries and key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to engage in the transport and climate change policy process and to help advance the goals of the Paris Agreement through transport strategies. In each of these workshops, representatives from ESCAP member States shared their national low carbon transport goals, policy priorities and implementation action, as well as their experience in the development of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies.

Discussions have led to the emergence of several common areas of priority and needs across the Asia Pacific region. This Regional Meeting will focus on one of these common priorities, which is the creation of green transport corridors. This topic was identified by ESCAP member States for in-depth analysis and technical assistance due to existing gaps in the technical, institutional and financial support that they are currently experiencing in the transition to low or zero carbon transport.

The development and implementation of green freight transport policies have been identified as an important strategy for decarbonizing the transport sector. However, this is a difficult challenge for the region due to the lack of regulations and fragmentation of stakeholders in many countries.

Transport corridors that are green, integrated, and efficient will also need to take into account the multimodal nature of supply chains, including land and maritime transport.

Green corridors refer to specific shipping routes where the feasibility of zero-emission shipping is catalyzed by a combination of public and private actions. Such corridors also entail multimodal supply chains and alternatives for freight transport through economically relevant hubs and long-distance routes, as well as the integration of multiple transport modes, including highways, railways, and waterways. In addition to the necessary technology, a prerequisite for green transport corridors is to put in place the relevant agreements and reciprocal recognition of standards between countries, so greater regional cooperation can play a critical role in their development and operation.

Meeting Objectives

This regional meeting on the creation of green transport corridors provides an opportunity for ESCAP member States and other stakeholders to present road and maritime freight transport challenges, needs, as well as solutions. It also serves as a platform for multistakeholder engagement and to identify green transport corridors and associated measures that are best suited for Asia and the Pacific through possible regional coordinated action. This meeting is part of the second phase of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism for Low Carbon Transport in Asia and the Pacific, which supports the development and implementation of transport and climate change strategies of ESCAP member States.

Format and Registration

The Regional Meeting will be conducted in person and virtually. Please register via the link below and indicate your participation format.

https://forms.office.com/e/3PNkXuhUuc

Programme

Day One: Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Time (GMT+7)	Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:30	**Moderator: Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP **Opening Session** This session will present the background, structure and key objectives of the Regional Meeting, as well as opening remarks on relevant initiatives in Asia and the Pacific on climate finance for low carbon transport.	**Ms. Katrin Luger**, Chief of Section, Transport Division, ESCAP **Ms. Tran Thi Thanh Thuy**, Deputy Director General, International Cooperation Development, Ministry of Transport, Vietnam
9:30-10:30	**Session 1: Introduction to the Decarbonization of Freight Transport** This session presents a range of innovative measures that can effectively reduce freight transport emissions, as well as major regional trends for land and maritime transport.	**Mr. Alvin Mejia**, Asian Transport Outlook **Ms. Ly Dang Tuyet**, Transport and Climate Change Expert, GIZ Vietnam **Mr. Parthaa Bosu**, Consultant, ESCAP
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00-12:30	**Session 2: National Freight Transport Decarbonization Priorities and Barriers** Freight transport, including both land and maritime transport, remains challenging for countries in Asia and the Pacific to regulate and decarbonize. ESCAP member States are invited to share their policy priorities and existing barriers, as well as any lessons learned.	**ESCAP Member States:** • Bhutan • Cambodia • Georgia • Kyrgyzstan • Lao PDR • Nepal

Time (GMT+7)	Topic	Speaker
12:30-13:30	**Lunch Break**	
13:30-15:00	**Session 3: The Concept of Green Transport Corridors** This session will present the definitions and concepts of green transport corridors that have the potential to link land and maritime transport, as well as case studies and initiatives in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.	**Mr. Ricardo Garcia Coyne**, Program Manager, CALSTART **Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP **Mr. Emmanuel Imaniranzi**, Northern Corridor Transport and Transit Coordination Authority (NCTTCA) **Mr. Rik Arends**, Director, Sustainable Freight Buyers Alliance, Smart Freight Centre
15:00-15:30	**Coffee Break**	
15:30-17:00	**Session 4: Regional and Global Freight Transport Initiatives** This session will highlight existing regional and global initiatives that support the decarbonization of freight transport, including the creation of green transport corridors. Potential alignment of and synergies between existing initiatives will also be discussed.	**Mr. Jens Hügel**, Senior Adviser, Global Advocacy, International Road Transport Union **Ms. Sophie Punte**, Founder, Life-Links and Founder and Board Member, Smart Freight Centre **Mr. Sean Cooke**, Programme Management Officer, UNEP **Mr. Sooyeob Kim**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Day Two: Thursday, 26 September 2024

Time (GMT+7)	Topic	Speaker
9:00-9:15	**Wrap up of Day One and Introduction to Day Two Meeting Objective**	**Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP
9:15-10:30	**Session 5: Subregional Characteristics in Asia and the Pacific** Potential differences and similarities in creating green transport corridors across subregions in Asia and the Pacific will be presented. The possibility of creating a regional initiative to accelerate and align initiatives on green transport corridors for multiple modes in the Asia Pacific region will also be discussed.	**Mr. Adwait Limaye**, Asian Transport Outlook **ESCAP Member States:** • Azerbaijan • Fiji • Nauru • Tajikistan • Thailand • Vietnam
10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**	
11:00-12:00	**Session 6: Discussion on Supporting Measures for the Creation of Green Transport Corridors** Supporting measures, including standards and regulations, as well as technologies that can encourage the creation of green transport corridors will be discussed in this session. Specific requests from ESCAP member States will also be highlighted.	**Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP **ESCAP Member States**
12:00-13:00	**Lunch Break**	
13:00-14:00	**Session 7: An Inclusive and Just Transition** This session is focused on supporting countries to develop an inclusive and just transition in the freight transport workforce. Existing measures and best practices and lessons learned will be presented.	**Mr. Jeremy Anderson**, Director of Just Transition and Sustainable Transport, International Transport Workers Federation

Time (GMT+7)	Topic	Speaker
		Mr. Arun Krishnan, Manager, Climate Policy Initiative **Ms. Alejandra Cruz Ross**, Transport Specialist, International Labor Organization
14:00-14:30	**Coffee Break**	
14:30-15:30	**Session 8: Onward to COP29** This session will highlight some of the opportunities at COP29 that will enable greater collaboration and commitment made to establish green transport corridors. It will also include a discussion with participants to develop key messages for Asia and the Pacific to be brought forward to COP29.	**Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP **Mr. Elmar Rasulov**, Advisor, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, Azerbaijan **Mr. Mohamed Hegazy**, Transport Lead, Climate Champions Team
15:30-16:30	**Session 9: Discussion on the Development of an Action Plan on Low Carbon Transport** ESCAP member States and development partners are invited to share their thoughts and feedback on the possibility of the development of an Action Plan on the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport. This session will focus on a discussion on what should be included in an Action Plan and the process required for it to be supported by member States.	**ESCAP** **ESCAP Member States**

Time (GMT+7)	Topic	Speaker
16:30-17:00	**Closing session** Key discussion outcomes will be summarized, and next steps will be discussed.	**ESCAP**