ESCAP’s capacity building activities on sustainable maritime transport in Asia and the Pacific region

2024 Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity
Theme: Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Maritime Connectivity in the Pacific
(Nadi, Fiji, 22 July 2024)
Contents

1. ESCAP’s activities for Sustainable Maritime Transport
2. ESCAP’s capacity building activities
3. Challenges in the Asia-Pacific
4. Required Capacity building activities
5. Planed capacity building activities
What are the main objectives of UN ESCAP’s activities for the development of sustainable maritime transport

Three overarching objectives

- Improve efficiency and resilience of transport network
- Advance environmentally sustainable transport systems and services
- Promote safe and inclusive transport and mobility

- Promoting low-carbon and efficient maritime transport operations
- Enhancing port efficiency and connectivity
- Ensuring maritime safety and security
- Supporting the implementation of international maritime conventions and agreements
1. ESCAP’s activities for Sustainable Maritime Transport

Activities to achieve these objectives

Key activities

- Support regional dialogue on sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity, including the promotion of the development of low- and zero-emissions green shipping for Asia and the Pacific
- Assist small island developing States in meeting transport challenges and strengthening resilience to future shocks.

• Providing capacity-building programs and technical assistance
• Promoting cooperation and partnerships among stakeholders
• Conducting research and analytical works
• Advocating for sustainable maritime transport policies at the national and regional levels
• Enhancing regulatory frameworks to promote use of clean technologies, encourage investment of infrastructure and strengthen the expertise and capabilities of stakeholders
1. ESCAP’s activities for Sustainable Maritime Transport

### Key activities to implement RAP focusing on Maritime transport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thematic Areas`</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| Maritime and interregional transport connectivity | - Support a **systematic regional dialogue** on sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity  
- **Low- and zero-emissions green shipping**  
- **Assist small island developing States** in meeting transport challenges and strengthening resilience to future shocks  
- Support an interregional multi-stakeholder forum for **sustainable and resilient transport connectivity between Europe and Asia** |
| Digitalization of transport | - Develop a **regional road map for smart transport systems**  
- Promote and develop **smart transport and related digital technology**  
- Enhance the application of **new technologies and digitalization to streamline port activities**  
- Increase the resilience, sustainability and interconnection of maritime transport systems  
- Increase awareness on **autonomous navigation** |
| Low carbon mobility and logistics | - Promote low carbon transport, including **clean energy technologies**  
- Develop and implement **low carbon transport projects**  
- Sharing best practices for the **greening and decarbonization of the shipping value chain**, including deploying **green port infrastructure** |

*Source: Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) | ESCAP [unescap.org]*
2. ESCAP’s capacity building activities

Why ESCAP focus on Capacity building

- **Enhance** member States’ *institutional and human resource capabilities* to effectively address challenges related to sustainable maritime transport development
- **Empower** countries to *formulate and implement policies and strategies*, strengthen regulatory frameworks
- **Improve** technical skills and knowledge
- **Promote coordination and cooperation** among relevant stakeholders

Expected benefits from Capacity building

- **Increase efficiency and effectiveness** in managing maritime transport operations
- **Improve compliance with international standards and regulations**
- **Enhance safety and security measures**, greater resilience to external shocks and disasters, and overall sustainable development outcomes
2. ESCAP’s capacity building activities

- Capacity building and Advisory services
  - Undertaking capacity building activities
  - Providing technical assistance

- 2023 Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity (30-31 May 2023, Bangkok)
- Workshop on Autonomous Shipping for select countries in Asia and the Pacific (1-2 June 2023, Bangkok)
- Capacity Building workshop on Port Digitalization towards Smart Ports (29-30 Nov 2023, Bangkok)
- International Conference on Autonomous Shipping in Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok and online, 28-29 February 2024)
- International conference on Sustainable Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) Development (Ocean College, Zhejiang University, Zhoushan, China 7-8 June 2024)
3. Challenges/Issues on Maritime sector (1)

- Unpredictable business environment: Geopolitical tensions, Climate change
- Increasing decarbonization rules and regulations
  - Insufficient investment in preparation for decarbonization and net zero
- Less utilized the potential of coastal shipping and inland waterway transport
- Digital divide and technology gap
- Lack of long-term port infrastructure development
  - Insufficient action plans, detailed guidelines and budgets
- Intensifying port competition
- Insufficient intermodal connection from port to hinterland
3. Challenges/Issues on Maritime sector(2)

- Traffic congestion and air pollution in port area (Port city), Exposure to natural disasters, Pandemic and social crimes (cyber security)

- Lack of commercial viability for small and remote island routes
  - Unstable services and high cost
  - Shipping connectivity (Liner Shipping Connectivity Index) gap

- Frequent maritime accidents – maritime safety issues

- Lower policy priorities

- Lack of skilled/trained experts & workers

- Gender equality and women empowerment
3. Challenges/Issues on Maritime sector of the Pacific

- Limited infrastructure and connectivity
- Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters
- Inadequate regulatory frameworks and enforcement mechanisms
- High costs and dependence on imported energy (fuel)
- Maritime safety and security concerns
- Limited access to technology and expertise
- Capacity constraints in terms of human resources and institutional capabilities.
4. Required Capacity building activities

- Required sectors of Capacity Building Programs

- **Maritime Safety and Security**: Training programs on safety protocols, emergency response procedures, and security measures

- **Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience**: Training on climate-resilient infrastructure, resource management, climate change adaptation measures, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable coastal management and early warning systems

- **Port Infrastructure Development**: Programs on port management, logistics optimization, and infrastructure planning

- **Regulatory Frameworks and Compliance**: Programs on initiatives on legal frameworks, compliance monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms

- **Technology and Innovation**: Programs on digitalization, green shipping practices, and automated navigation
4. Required Capacity building activities

- Considerations in designing capacity-building programs

- Enhancing technical skills and knowledge in areas such as maritime regulation, safety standards, environmental protection, port operations, and logistics management
  - Include initiatives to strengthen institutional capacities for policy formulation, implementation, and enforcement, as well as support for inter-agency coordination and collaboration

- Tailored Capacity building needed: considering specific needs and priorities of the Pacific

- Comprehensive approach: Mix of training workshops, seminars, technical assistance, knowledge sharing activities, exchange programs, and partnerships with regional and international institutions
### 5. Planned capacity building activities

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Schedule (tbc)</th>
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<td>Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean and Regional Ocean Dialogue</td>
<td>September 2024 (Thailand) October 2024 (Thailand)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Inland Waterway Transport Development</td>
<td>November 2024 (Lao PDR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity building workshop on digitalization and resiliency in small ports in the Asia-Pacific region</td>
<td>December 2024 (RoK) August 2025 (Indonesia)</td>
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<td>Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity</td>
<td>June 2025 (India) September 2026 (RoK)</td>
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<td>Five National workshops and a subregional meeting focusing SIDS in the Asia and the Pacific (Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Timor Leste)</td>
<td>2025 (Pacific countries)</td>
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<td>SIDS meeting</td>
<td>2026 (Thailand)</td>
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Thank you