Project Implementation Plan

Leveraging Trans-Asian Railway for more efficient and resilient transport connectivity and logistics in ASEAN and beyond

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Leveraging the Trans-Asian Railway Network for a more efficient and resilient transport connectivity and logistics in ASEAN and beyond

Target groups: Ministry of Transport/ Railway authorities, other officials from border agencies including customs, railway operators, other stakeholders involved in international rail transport and transit among countries in Southeast Asia, China, and the North and Central Asia.

Duration: August 2023 – July 2026

Strategic partner:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat

Other partners:

Organization for Cooperation Between Railways (OSJD)

China Academy of Railway Sciences (CARS)

International Union of Railways (UIC)

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Objective:

Enhanced and inclusive sustainable transport connectivity and logistics among ASEAN Member States and between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia.

Outcome A:

Policy makers (including railway authorities and other stakeholders) in AMS countries put in place concrete measure(s) for enhancing inclusive rail interoperability within ASEAN

Outputs

1. Railway authorities of ASEAN Member States have *access to a draft strategic plan on enhancing rail interoperability among ASEAN Member States and beyond* for consideration at the appropriate ASEAN transport meetings
2. *Increased awareness and capacity of railway authorities and other stakeholders in the AMS* to develop and implement instruments to enhance rail interoperability, including those that benefit women and girls

Implementation plan- Outcome A- Output 1

- ✓ Organize a *project inception* meeting involving all stakeholders to have a common understanding on project objectives, outcomes, outputs, and activities. Q1 24

- ✓ Undertake a *comparative assessment of the rail development plans currently existing in AMS to identify common priorities* and provide recommendations on such measures as required for enhancing rail interoperability. Q3 24

- ✓ Developing a master *plan on high-speed rail network among AMS* considering the operationalization of Lao-China rail Q3 24

Implementation plan- Outcome A- Output 1

- ✓ Draft a *strategic plan on enhancing rail interoperability among AMS and beyond* incorporating, among others, experience/ good practices of other regions as well as containing practical recommendations Q4 2024

- ✓ Organize *expert group meeting*(s), if possible back-to-back with meetings of the relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies, to deliberate the draft strategic plan on rail interoperability; Q4 2024

- ✓ *Organize a high-level meeting* of senior rail officials of AMS to *finalize the draft* strategic plan for the consideration by the ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting **Q1 2025 (TBD with ASEAN SEC)**

Implementation plan- Outcome A - Output 2- Capacity Building component

- ✓ Develop *training manual(s), technical guide(s),* and other knowledge product(s) in partnership with railway organizations on *enhancing rail interoperability* and on developing high-speed rail network among AMS to harness opportunities from Lao PDR-China railway Q4 2024

- ✓ Organize *one capacity building workshops at subregional level* and *one capacity building workshops at national level for Lao PDR* on enhancing rail interoperability using the material prepared as well as organize study tours as deem fit Q1 2025; Q4 2025

- ✓ Develop an *e-learning training course* on enhancing rail interoperability among AMS including a training module highlighting gender issues related to rail interoperability Q4 2024

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Outcome B:

Transport policy makers in the target countries introduce specific measure(s) to operationalize transport linkages between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia

Outputs

1. Transport policy makers in the target countries have access to a study defining priority transport linkages between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia and options for operationalizing them.
2. Strengthened capacity of transport policy makers of target countries to develop initiatives to operationalize transport linkages between AMS and NCA, including those that benefit women and girls.

Implementation plan- Outcome B- output 1

- ✓ Carry out an *assessment of existing and potential transport linkages* between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia along with expected trade or freight flows. Q2 2024

- ✓ *Recommend practical solutions in operationalizing* identified inter-regional transport links, leveraging ESCAP's expertise and experience in supporting intergovernmental processes on transport connectivity and management of international transport corridors. Q2 2024

Implementation plan- Outcome B- output 1

- ✓ Organize an *expert group meeting to build* consensus on a joint roadmap defining priority transport corridor(s) between Southeast Asia and North and Central Asia and means to operationalize them. Q2 2024 (confirmed 29-30 April 24)

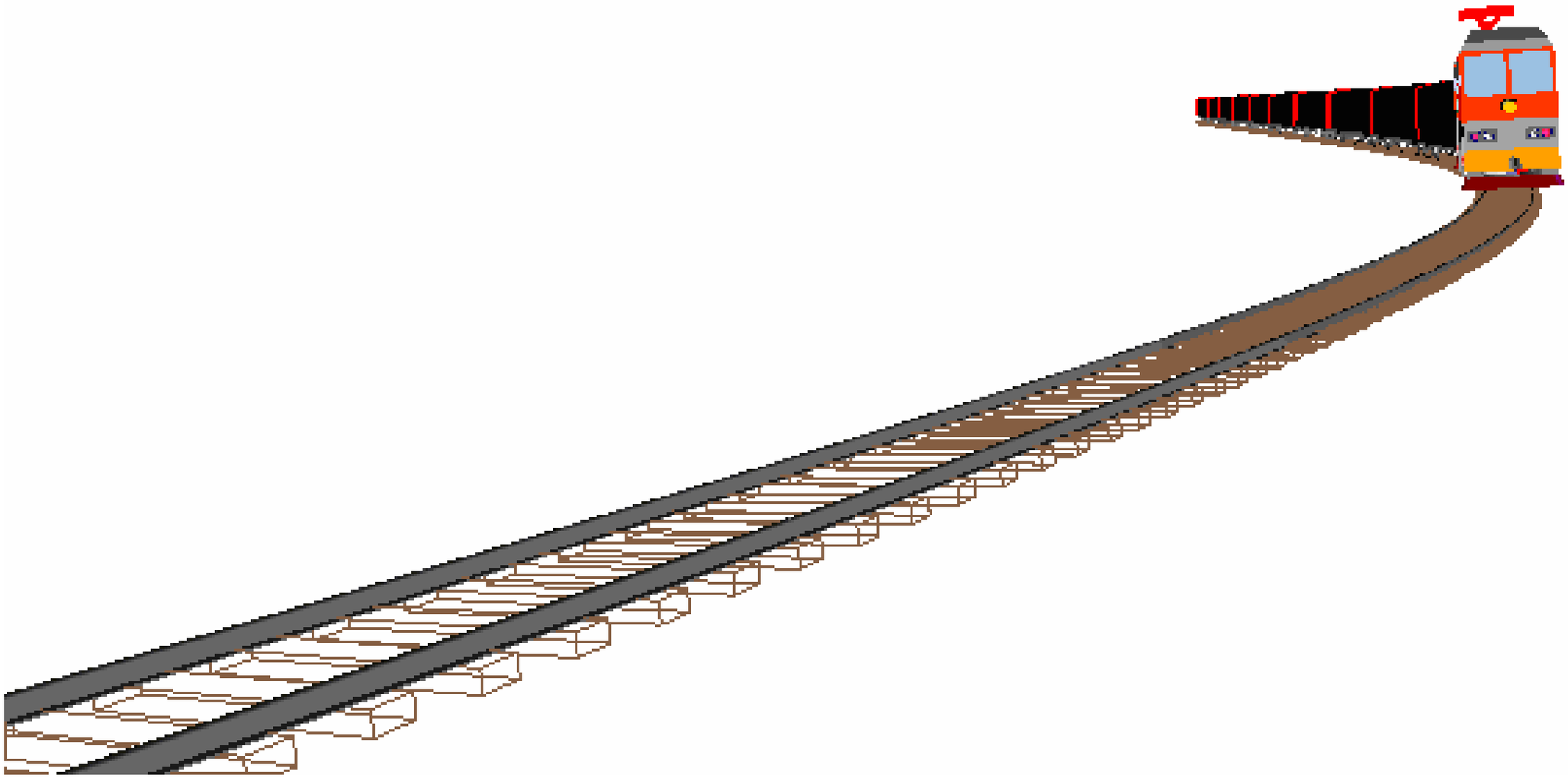
- ✓ Organize a *high-level AMS/NCA meeting* – tentatively back-to-back with ASEAN transport sectoral bodies to consider the results and the recommended actions contained in the joint roadmap. Q4 2025

Implementation plan- Outcome B- Output 2 (capacity building)

- ✓ Develop (a) a *project prioritization methodology related to developing transport corridors* as well as related training manual(s) in partnership with railway organization(s) as deem appropriate; and (b) a *gender analysis toolkit* or training module highlighting gender issues in operationalizing transport corridor Q1 2025

- ✓ Develop an *online database/repository of SEA and NCA railways and rail border crossings using the GIS platform* of the Asia-Pacific Regional Transport Network; and prepare transport connectivity profiles of SEA and NCA subregions Q1 2025

- ✓ Organize *one inter-regional capacity building workshop*, including study tours as appropriate, on transport linkages between SEA and NCA for transport policy makers



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