Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport: Establishment and Implementation of Low Carbon Transport Targets and Timelines in Asia and the Pacific

Session 5: Subregional Characteristics in Asia and the Pacific

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The Five Subregions of ESCAP

The shaded areas of the map indicate ESCAP members and associate members.
Outcomes from Subregional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshops

• Identified common themes in low carbon transport priorities among participating countries

• Collected information on existing national transport and climate change goals

• Examined collaborative framework for policy support and to transform low carbon transport policy to action
ESCAP member States from these two subregions shared 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.

Key discussion outputs included,

- the need to continue the sharing of best practice and information among countries, which can support the implementation of policies, especially on a national level,
- the uncertainty on the regulation and development of green freight,
- challenges on the electrification of vehicles, and
- a strong collaboration between transport ministries and the environment ministries is critical to the success of achieving national transport CO₂ emissions reduction goals.
Participating countries support the development of the mechanism and recognized the importance of linking regional and global dialogues in order to advance low carbon transport goals.

Subregional meetings were suggested to remain a priority before a regional meeting is convened, while the regular sharing of knowledge is helpful and can add value to the development and implementation of low carbon transport policies and identifying countries’ critical needs and targets at the same time.

It was widely acknowledged that climate change is a complex issue and an increase of the coordination of regional collaboration will be the way forward.

Key discussion outputs included:

• Common challenges - changes in transport mode share, high share of private vehicle use, congestion, increasing vessel demand and emissions, the need to search for alternative energy resources, and the financing of electric vehicles

• Improve transport resilience

• New collaboration between countries, ministries and other organizations, while developing appropriate coordination mechanisms for stakeholder engagement and coordination, and to serve as a legal framework to ensure the implementation of low carbon transport measures

• Technology transfer, capacity building, establishment of financing institutions, and regulations on fuel efficiency were identified as critical elements for success

• Support development of decarbonization transport strategies or pathways for 2030 and 2050

• Establishment of a donor directory to match transport and climate aligned projects and investors or donors

More information can be found here, https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/regional-cooperation-mechanism-low-carbon-transport-pacific-subregional-consultation
Key discussion outputs included:

- Common priorities in the subregions include access to funding (e.g. on the transition to zero emission vehicles)
- Development of clean and energy efficient public transport remains a priority
- Coordination and cooperation between ministries and among other stakeholders would be required
- Identification of renewable energy sources to decouple energy use and transport
- Continuation of exchange of knowledge is appreciated

More information can be found here, https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/regional-cooperation-mechanism-low-carbon-transport-east-and-north-east-asia-north-and
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