The 4th Ministerial Conference on Transport

on Agenda item 2. Assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific and the RAP for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I(2017-2021)

Tuesday, 14 December, 10:30-11:15(BKK)

By Ms. OH Kongmyoung,
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Thank you, Chair.

I'm Oh Kongmyoung, Director of the International Cooperation and Trade Division at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea.

First of all, the ROK would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the secretariat and member states for their dedicated efforts over the past five years to enhance sustainable transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific.

We also welcome the secretariat’s proposal of the next regional action programme for sustainable transport development.

Facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, the ROK introduced the “Korean New Deal” initiative to prepare for a post-pandemic era and achieve carbon neutrality.

We set the “Digital New Deal” as one pillar, based on the belief that digital transition will be a key driver for not only overcoming the current challenges but also determining what the future will bring.

Our main goal under the Digital New Deal is to digitalize our transport infrastructure with three key elements of data, networks and artificial intelligence.

At the same time, we set the “Green New Deal” as another pillar to achieve carbon neutrality in transport.
With the introduction of green technologies, we are striving to create a sustainable transport environment by promoting eco-friendly ships and vehicles and increasing the share and efficiency of railways.

The ROK will continue these efforts by working closely with ESCAP and the international community for more sustainable, resilient and inclusive transport in Asia and the Pacific.

Additionally, I would like to bring your attention to the ROK’s active support for better connectivity among member states through ESCAP projects including the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks.

In supporting ESCAP’s transport initiatives, the ROK and ESCAP have conducted a joint project every year, and our new project launched this year is about “promoting the utilization of transport big data from smart transport systems in the Asia-Pacific region.”

Using big data in transport will likely reduce road crashes, traffic congestion and environmental issues, and more broadly, this project is expected to make concrete contributions to the ‘digitalization of transport’ of member states, which has been added as a new thematic area of the next regional action programme.

With the suggestion of models which can be applied differently based on the level of digital technology and infrastructure, this project will likely help each member state formulate more inclusive policies and enhanced strategies that can effectively address disparities and inequalities across the region.

Ending my comment, I would like to reiterate the ROK’s strong commitment to achieving sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific region in close partnership with the ESCAP community.

Thank you.