Statement by Asian Institute of Transport Development  
(Fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, 14-17 December 2021)

Item 3(a): Towards an efficient and resilient transport and logistics network and mobility

1. It is now well recognized that regional cooperation is a beneficial path for economic development. For such regional cooperation to happen, transport connectivity assumes an important role.

2. Restrictive policy regimes have neutralized the beneficial effects of common cultural affinity, common geography, and the ‘gravitational pull’ of proximity on movement of goods and people. Restoration of traditional transport corridors by road, rail and waterways or corridors involving combinations of these modes would involve minimal investments and would result in maximum benefits in the shortest timeframe. These corridors can become economic corridors of the countries for multiple developmental purposes.

3. For the past many decades, transportation policies focussed mainly on increasing transport capacity and operational speeds. Time has come for skill development of the workforce having regard to the fast changing operational and information technologies. Keeping this in view, the Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD) has been organising training courses for transport personnel from South and South-East Asian countries, which would assist in the development of safe and sustainable transport network that will promote green transport. During the last 16 years, we have organized 29 courses benefiting more than 700 transport professionals.

4. The Institute would be pleased to organize training programmes in association with UNESCAP in furtherance of measures that would promote sustainability in all its manifestations.