Agenda 3: Major issues in transport:

   (A) Towards an efficient and resilient transport and logistics network and mobility

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Multimodal Transport

Thailand’s Department of Highways has proposed several projects in strategic plan for 2017-2021 to support multimodal transport such as Trat - Hat Lek in Thailand linking to Koh Kong province and Sihanoukville port in Cambodia.

The Trans-Asian Railway Network is a regional transport cooperation platform enhancing the efficiency and development of railway infrastructure. In the near future, such framework will assist Thailand in resolving the complexities associated with the integration of international railway transport.

The ASEAN Framework Agreement on Multimodal Transport (AFAMT), of which Thailand is the Lead Country, was adopted in the 11th ASEAN Transport Ministers in November 2005. Thailand, in close collaboration with UNESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat, implemented two capacity building projects in CLMV countries during 2005 – 2009. The successful results of these projects led to ratification of AFAMT by CLMV a few years later. In addition, Thailand and Viet Nam are the first two ASEAN Member States participating in the Pilot Implementation of AFAMT supported by ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU, since last year. In view of this, Thailand would like to propose UNESCAP to consider the existing ASEAN Agreement as a basis or reference for development of multimodal transport legal framework for Asian and the Pacific Region to ensure the consistency.

Digitalisation of transport

In response to Thailand 4.0 policy, a project on development of IT has been carried out by the Marine Department since late 2020, and it is expected to be completed in mid-2023.

With regard to port management, the Port Authority of Thailand or PAT is developing the Port Community System (PCS), aiming to establish the data logistics chain and data exchange center between ports by developing a standardised e-logistics platform to ensure seamless data linkages.

For port operation, the Ministry of Transport aimed to promote full automation and digitalisation at Thai major ports such as Bangkok Port and Laem Chabang Port. In this regard, Thailand welcomes UNESCAP’s initiative to assist Member States in Asia and the Pacific to undergo digital transformation in maritime transport and ports more effectively.

Challenges and Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Marine and Multimodal Transport

The pandemic presents severe impacts on logistics: that is container shortage and increased freight rates on all East to West shipping routes. At ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group Meeting, Thailand recommended “enhancing container circulation” to the Meeting. The relevant webinar is targeted to be held in mid-January 2022, and the supposed outcomes are feasible policy recommendations, regional competency, and resilience of container shipping in consideration of future contingencies. In this regard, Thailand has a view that UNESCAP is in a good position to consider these issues seriously in order to come up with how to minimise the impact of such issue more effectively.

Thank you.