Towards safe and inclusive transport system and Mobility

Speech by:

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Honourable chair

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentleman

1. It is a great pleasure for me to speak in this 4th ministerial conference on Transport. The Government of Bangladesh is working for development of an efficient, low-cost and sustainable transport system to achieve the growth of Perspective Plan 2021-2041 and Vision 2041. Moreover, the 8th five-year plan of Bangladesh sets strategy to develop an efficient, sustainable, safe and inclusive transportation system in which various modes complement each other, interface appropriately.

2. The well-planned road transport sector has already played a unique role to achieve the government target set for Vision 2021. An efficient transport system impacts on the competitiveness of the economy that influences trade and investment flows, pattern of regional development within a country and the location of poverty. Thus "Sustainable Transport ensures Sustainable Development.

Dear Ladies and gentlemen

3. Road safety is becoming a big challenge day by day. According to police statistics, Road accidents in Bangladesh claim, on average 3500 lives and injure another more than 3000 a year. It could be even more as under reporting is an issue here. In current prices, road accident in Bangladesh is costing at least Tk. 40,000 crore per annum which is 2-3% of GDP.

4. Nearly 70% of road fatalities occurred on rural sections of the main highways and Over 80% of fatalities are vulnerable road users for example pedestrian, bicyclists & motorcyclists. Recently growth of motorcycle is very high and rate of motorcycle accident is also alarming. Young people between 20 to 30 are the most victims of motorcycle accident.

5. Data shows that Over speeding & Careless driving is one of the main reason for overall road accident thus if we can intervene using proper technology, resource with utmost commitment, significant reduction of road accident is possible.

Ladies and gentleman

6. We all know that road safety is global problem, Bangladesh is not an exception. To improve the road situation government has taken several projects targeting to develop safe and inclusive transport system. Bangladesh is planning to introduce iRAP star rating system to assess the
Highway network and to take necessary countermeasure to improve the rating. However, there are many challenges we are facing. We need intervention specially in

- Control of speeds,
- pedestrian safety,
- road safety audit process,
- Road safety education,
- Vehicle standard and fitness, low quality helmets
- Prompt emergency assistance and efficient trauma care management
- Accurate and comprehensive accident and injury data collection and management.
- Research and professional capacity building

Distinguish chair

7. Government of Bangladesh is going to develop the current transport system of capital city Dhaka affordable, inclusive, safe and universal access facilities. Construction of five Mass Rapid Transit(MRT) lines and one BRT line are in progress to provide modern mass transport facility. Moreover, initiatives have been taken for Bus route rationalisation and company-based bus operation which can reduce significantly the accident in city. Moreover, universal access facilities will be ensured in new bus fleet.

Distinguish Chair

8. Government of Bangladesh has accorded highest priority on road safety issue. However, Improvement of road safety is a multi-disciplinary task and need continuous intervention from all relevant stakeholders. Many member countries have shown good progress to reduce traffic accident.

9. In this regard, UNESCAP can help us by providing technical support, organizing international seminars, training to government officials and share the good practices and experiences of different member countries.

Dear Excellencies, Delegates

10. I hope this Ministerial conference will facilitate to achieve safe, inclusive and universal accessible resilient transport system in this region

Thank you all