Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport:
East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia
Subregional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop

21 – 22 June 2023
Almaty, Kazakhstan and Online

MAJOR CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport: East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia Subregional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop was organized by the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and hosted by the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 21 and 22 June 2023.

2. The Workshop was attended by representatives of ESCAP member States in East and North-East Asia and North and Central Asia, including China, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. The Workshop was also attended by representatives of international organizations and research institutes. The programme is shown in Annex I, while the list of participants is in Annex II.

3. The participants of the Workshop welcomed the presentations made and exchanged information on their respective national plans and policies on low carbon transport, as well as subregional low carbon transport priorities. They also discussed implementation action and the development of a cooperation framework for the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport with a special focus on countries in East and North-East Asia and North and Central Asia moving forward.

4. The Workshop started with an opening session where ESCAP representatives presented the structure and objectives of the workshop and welcomed all participants. The Subregional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop is aligned with the objectives of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026), which was adopted by ESCAP Transport Ministers at the end of 2021 and will contribute directly to its implementation.

5. A presentation of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport followed, which included an overview of its rationale, background, planned activities, and expected outcomes. The objectives of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism are to, 1) deepen regional collaboration through the sharing of experiences, information and best practice knowledge, and identify the common interests and priorities across different

subregions, 2) provide a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement, to enable discussion as well as other ways of collaboration and 3) enhance the policy dialogue on transport and climate change.

6. The Workshop presented an overview of effective low carbon transport policies, where representatives from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Asian Development Bank (ADB), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and ESCAP shared examples of effective transport measures that can reduce carbon emissions. These measures included various types of direct and indirect incentives and infrastructure needs of the electrification of transport (GGGI), integrated urban mobility approaches, such as public transport investments, non-motorized transport, traffic management technologies, parking management, and institutional capacity development (ADB), the implementation of relevant laws, targets, standards, and regulations for transport and climate change (GIZ), and the use of tools (e.g. Sustainable Urban Transport Index) and assessment frameworks to reduce transport emissions, while increasing sustainable transport use and public transport ridership (ESCAP). The representatives then iterated their key messages, including the development of sustainable transport infrastructure and system on a national level to provide strong signals to the private sector, the need for political will, mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of sustainable and electric mobility, and implementing national policies and transforming commitments to action.

7. Financial policies for electric vehicles that use renewable energy were discussed as incentives that could be provided through different energy and transport pricing instruments.

8. Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat's representative started the session on national goals on low carbon transport in East and North-East Asia with an overview of the Trilateral Transportation Mechanism, which is a cooperation among China, Japan and the Republic of Korea on the establishment of environmentally friendly logistics and achieving carbon neutrality in the transport sector. It was highlighted that China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea's combined share in world GDP reached 25.5 per cent in 2021 and the total foreign trade volume of the three countries is continually increasing, reaching 8.31 trillion USD, which implied the importance for low-carbon shipbuilding and transport.

9. A representative from China presented current low carbon transport policies, including traffic demand management strategies, promotion of public and non-motorized transport, electrification of public transport, green vessel development, low carbon infrastructure construction, and the use of clean energy in transport hubs and stations. Cooperation on climate change among different ministries was also led by the Premier of the State Council in China. A representative from Mongolia shared their challenges to implement low carbon transport policies, which included the current political system and gaps in transport infrastructure

investment, including for public transport. Nevertheless, low carbon transport policies in place and planned will support the country's transition to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

10. Representatives from the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), SLOCAT Partnership, International Road Transport Union (IRU), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) shared regional and global low carbon transport initiatives that their respective organizations are leading that all participating countries are welcome to join. These initiatives included the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport initiative and forum, which led to the Achi 2030 Declaration that focuses on making transport more environment-friendly, people-friendly, resilient, and low carbon. A tracking system of the Declaration is managed in partnership with the Asian Transport Outlook, a data tool by the ADB. The representative from the SLOCAT Partnership shared the news of the establishment of a World Sustainable Transport Day on 26 November, declared by the United Nations General Assembly to emphasize the contribution of sustainable low emissions and energy-efficient modes of transport to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and the SDGs. The creation of a multi-stakeholder advisory council is under consideration. The representative from IRU highlighted the need for efficient logistics, improving collective mobility, efficient vehicles, driver training, and talent appeals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Low hanging fruits, such as driver training, EcoTrucks, fleet renewable, and the use of United Nations conventions to improve border crossing procedures were further emphasized. Such measures could turn economic intermodal corridors into green corridors, providing gains in fuel consumption and carbon emission reductions.

11. For passenger transport, UNEP has developed numerous projects on the electrification of two and three wheelers, as well as buses across East Asia, Southeast Asia, and East Africa. The finance of electric buses, such as through the mobilization of green bond schemes, was also introduced. The Workshop signaled the need for more financing and innovation of electric-bus procurement.

12. ESCAP member States in North and Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan) presented their national goals and priorities in low carbon transport. Existing policies include regulatory framework and economic incentives for electric vehicles, automated driving, and low carbon urban transport, rail, maritime and inland waterway, and air transport development to reduce fuel use and carbon emissions, as well as the increased use of renewable energy, such as hydropower. Sustainable development goals have been integrated into national development strategies (Tajikistan), along with the concept of smart cities (Turkmenistan) that have applied intelligent transport systems to reduce travel time, congestion and emissions.

13. A representative from the Asian Transport Outlook presented an overview of avoid, shift and improve measures that can promote the electric mobility transition and sustainable transport in general.

14. Subregional synergies include access to funding, development of clean and energy efficient public transport, coordination and cooperation between ministries and among other stakeholders, and identification of renewable energy sources. On the other hand, common challenges include increasing transport demand and emissions, funding and financing of transport infrastructure and services, renewal of public transport fleet, implementation of low carbon transport plans and roadmaps (policy to action), as well as the high cost of low carbon transition and required data sharing and analysis.

15. Representatives from the UNFCCC, UNECE, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the University of California, Davis presented regional and global initiatives that are relevant to countries in East and North-East Asia, and North and Central Asia. The representative from the UNFCCC highlighted the critical role of transport in climate change mitigation efforts in the Asia Pacific region, especially given the region's unique economic and geographical conditions, as well as the need for medium-term targets (2030 and 2040) and the establishment of inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, which require careful planning, financial support and clear guidelines from central authorities.

16. The representative from UNECE highlighted the activities of the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, a global regulatory forum for the automotive sector, aimed at decarbonizing transport, while the representative from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Kingdom of the Netherlands shared details of the Global Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Zero Emission Freight Initiative, which aims to transition to zero-emission freight vehicles by 2040 through the development of policy recommendations. The representative from the University of California, Davis presented a study on the transition to zero emission vehicles, focusing on three key trends, namely, countries manufacturing vehicles have been more proactive in the zero emission vehicle transition, net importers of oil and petroleum products are more likely to have energy efficiency policies, and high-income countries generally lead in environmental legislation. However, collaboration across regions should occur to promote peer-to-peer learning.

17. The Workshop requested ESCAP to provide support on capacity building, knowledge sharing, technical assistance, field trips, and data sharing. The Workshop also discussed next steps moving forward within the context of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport, which included the incorporation of best practices to enrich the knowledge sharing component of the mechanism.

18. The Workshop emphasized the importance of maintaining sub-regional dialogues, favoring their detailed focus on individual countries over broader regional conversations.

19. The ESCAP secretariat expressed gratitude to all country representatives, international organizations, and research institutes for their participation at the Workshop for their engagement and contributions.

20. The documents and presentations made during the Workshop are available on the ESCAP event webpage, https://www.unescap.org/events/2023/regional-cooperation-mechanism-low-carbon-transport-east-and-north-east-asia-north-and.

21. Post-workshop evaluation has also shown that the workshop has achieved its stated objectives and the participants have found it useful for their current work. Additional comments included the value of information sharing, learning about different countries' experiences, exchange of knowledge and best practices, and the development of key messages on low carbon transport priorities in the subregions.

22. These major conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop were adopted on 22 June 2023, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

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Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOP

Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport:
East and North-East Asia, North and Central Asia
Subregional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop

21 – 22 June 2023
9:00 – 16:30 (GMT +6)

Conference Hall (Second Floor)
ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
Almaty, Kazakhstan and Online

Introduction

Following the launch of the ESCAP Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport in August 2022, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is conducting a series of subregional consultation and capacity building workshops to mobilize transport ministries and key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region to engage in the transport and climate change policy process and to help advance the goals of the Paris Agreement through transport strategies. This proposed activity is aligned with the objectives of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2022–2026) and will contribute directly to its implementation.

The third subregional consultation and capacity building workshop in the series is focused on the East and North-East Asia (ENEA) and North and Central Asia (NCA) subregions. ESCAP member States from these two subregions are invited to share their 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.

Although the focus of the subregional consultation and capacity building workshop will be driven by countries' priorities, it will touch upon cross-cutting themes for different transport modes, including the improvement of vehicle efficiency, transport system optimization, modal shift, increasing NDC ambitions through specific transport targets, climate finance, renewable energy, just transition, and gender equality.

Objectives

This workshop will focus on the identification of subregional low carbon transport priorities, implementation action and the development of a cooperation framework for the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport. It will also strengthen the capacity of countries to engage in transport and climate change policy dialogues and processes. In

addition, the consultation and capacity building workshop will provide a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement.

Meeting Registration Link

https://forms.office.com/e/uwgGZzfFV5

Programme
Day 1: Wednesday, 21 June 2023

Opening of the Subregional Consultation and Capacity Building Workshop	
Time (GMT +6) **9:00 – 9:15**	The Opening Session will present the structure and key objectives of the workshop, including a keynote statement. Speakers: • **Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP • **Ms. Elvira Mynbayeva**, Officer in Charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia, ESCAP
Session 1: Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport	
9:15 – 10:15	The Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport was launched in August 2022 and supported by ESCAP member States as mandated in the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Development (2022-2026). This discussion session will present an overview of the Regional Cooperation Mechanism, including its rationale, background, planned activities, and expected outcomes. ESCAP will also share complementary low carbon transport initiatives in the pipeline. Speaker: • **Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP ***Questions and Discussion***
Coffee Break (15 min)	
Session 2: Overview of Effective Low Carbon Transport Policies	
10:30 – 12:00	There are many ways to reduce carbon emissions in the transport sector. This session will present an overview of the different groups of low carbon transport policies, as well as existing policy assessment and evaluation tools. Effective policies have been implemented in different parts of the world and could be categorized into the following groups. • Improved design, operations and planning of transport systems • Electrification

	• Low-carbon fuels and energy vectors • Mode shift and demand management • Innovation and up-scaling ***ESCAP member States are encouraged to share effective low carbon transport policies that have been implemented in their own countries.*** Speakers: • **Mr. Changsun Jang**, Lead in Transport and Sustainable Mobility, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) • **Mr. Lloyd Wright**, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB) • **Ms. Ly Tuyet Dang**, Team Leader, NDC-TIA Vietnam, German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) • **Mr. Madan B. Regmi**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP
Lunch Break (60 min)	
Session 3: National Goals for Low Carbon Transport in East and North-East Asia	

13:00 – 14:30	This session provides an opportunity for ESCAP member States in the ENEA subregion to present their national goals, strategies and relevant projects or initiatives for low carbon transport.
	
	Speakers:
	• **Mr. Li Nianwei**, Leader of Statistics Team & Program Officer, Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS)
	• ESCAP Member States in ENEA
	  ○ China
	  ○ Mongolia

Coffee Break (15 min)	
Session 4: Global and Regional Low Carbon Transport Initiatives	
14:45 – 16:15	There are numerous global and regional low carbon transport initiatives that have encouraged the acceleration of the transition to low carbon transport. This session will introduce some of these initiatives and identifies relevant initiatives for countries in the ENEA and NCA subregions. Speakers: • **Mr. Nikola Medimorec**, Director, Data Analysis and Research, SLOCAT Partnership • **Mr. Jens Hügel**, Senior Adviser, International Road Transport Union (IRU)

	• **Ms. June Yeonju Jeong**, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) • **Mr. Ganesh Raj Joshi**, Researcher, United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)
Wrap Up of Day 1	
16:15 – 16:30	Discussion outcomes from Day 1 will be highlighted in this session. Speaker: • **Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP

Day 2: Thursday, 22 June 2023

Session 5: National Goals for Low Carbon Transport in North and Central Asia	

Time (GMT +6)
 	
9:00 – 10:30
	This session provides an opportunity for ESCAP member States in the NCA subregion to present their national goals, strategies and relevant projects or initiatives for low carbon transport.
	
	Speakers:
	• ESCAP Member States in NCA
	  ○ Kyrgyzstan
	  ○ Russian Federation
	  ○ Tajikistan
	  ○ Turkmenistan

Coffee Break (15 min)	
Session 6: Subregional Synergies and Differences	
10:45 – 12:15	Synergies and differences in low carbon transport policies from different ESCAP subregions will be discussed in this session. Common challenges will also be highlighted. Speakers: • **Mr. Adwait Limaye**, Data Analyst, Asian Transport Outlook, Asian Development Bank • **Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP • ESCAP Member States
Lunch Break (60 min)	
Session 7: Linkages Between Regional and Global Dialogues	
13:15 – 14:45	The linkages between regional and global dialogues on low carbon transport need to be further strengthened in order to advance the goals of the Paris Agreement through greater collaboration. This session will be focused on transport and climate change policy processes, where transport stakeholder engagement will be discussed.

	ESCAP member States are encouraged to present the transport and climate change policy making processes, including stakeholders involved, in their own countries, as well as to share their experiences participating in global dialogues. Speakers: • **Ms. Juhi Bansal**, NDC, LT-LEDS Expert for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) • **Mr. Francois Cuenot**, Mechanical Engineer, Sustainable Transport Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) • **Mr. Herman Sips**, Senior International Policy Coordinator Sustainable Mobility, Ministry Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands • **Ms. Maria Santos Alfageme**, Consultant, University of California, Davis
Coffee Break (15 min)	
Discussion and the Way Forward	
15:00 – 16:30	This session includes a discussion on possible models and collaboration framework, such as the creation of informal working groups and sharing of data and information, to lead the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport forward. Countries' priorities and preferences that can shape concrete next steps will be discussed. ***ESCAP member States are encouraged to share their opinions on the way forward based on their low carbon transport priorities.*** Speakers: • **Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng**, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, ESCAP • ESCAP Member States ***Questions and Discussion***

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CHINA

Mr. Rui Wu, Branch Director, Division of Environment and Resource, Transport Planning and Research Institute, Beijing

Mr. Jinchi Xi, Second-level Researcher, Ministry of Transport, Beijing

KYRGYZSTAN

Mr. Nurmat Musabekov, Chief specialist, Transport Development, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Bishkek

MONGOLIA

Ms. Erdenechimeg Eldev-Ochir, Executive Director, Asian Infrastructure Research Institute, Ulaanbaatar

NETHERLANDS (Kingdom of the)

Mr. Herman Sips, Executive Director, Senior International Policy Coordinator Sustainable Mobility, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Ms. Anastasiia Kuznetsova, Advisor, FSBI Research Center for Complex Transport Projects, Ministry of Transport, Moscow

Ms. Arina Zhezherova, Head of the Department, Scientific support of low-carbon development of the transport complex, FSBI "Research Center for Complex Transport Projects, Ministry of Transport, Moscow

Ms. Daria Koroleva, Consultant, Deputy Head of the Department, FSBI "Research Center for Complex Transport Projects, Ministry of Transport, Moscow

Ms. Zhanna Noskova, Consultant, Division of Intersectoral coordination, Department of Strategic Development, Ministry of Transport, Moscow

TAJIKISTAN

Mr. Dilovar Jalolov, Leading specialist, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Transport, Dushanbe

TURKMENISTAN

Mr. Kerim Toylyyev, Chief Specialist, Department of International Relations, Logistics and Multimodal Transportation of the Agency for Transport and Communications under the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan, Ashgabat

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ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Development Bank (ABD)

Mr. Lloyd Wright, Senior Urban Development Specialist, Central and West Asia Department

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)

Mr. Changsun Jang, Lead in Transport and Sustainable Mobility

International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Mr. Jens Hügel, Senior Adviser

Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat

Mr. Nianwei Li, Senior Adviser, Leader of Statistics Team and Program Officer

United Nations Centre for Regional Development

Mr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Researcher

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Mr. Francois Cuenot, Mechanical Engineer, Sustainable Transport Division

United Nations Environment Programme

Ms. Yeonju (June) Jeong, Asia-Pacific Sustainable Mobility Lead

Mr. Sean Cooke, Programme Manager

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Ms. Juhi Bansal, NDC, LT-LEDS Regional Expert, UNFCCC-IGES Regional Collaboration Centre for Asia and the Pacific

OTHER ENTITIES

Asian Transport Outlook

Mr. Adwait Limaye, Data Analyst

German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

Ms. Ly Tuyet Dang, Team Lead

Institute of Transportation Studies - University of California Davis

Ms. Maria Santos Alfageme, Researcher

SLOCAT Partnership

Mr. Nikola Medimorec, Director, Data Analysis and Research

SECRETARIAT

Mr. Madan B. Regmi	Economic Affairs Officer Transport Research and Policy Section Transport Division
Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng	Economic Affairs Officer Transport Research and Policy Section Transport Division
Mr. Mamadou Sacko	Intern Transport Research and Policy Section Transport Division
Ms. Lei Zou	Intern Transport Research and Policy Section Transport Division
Ms. Elvira Mynbayeva	Programme Management Officer ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

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