

**Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply
Chains through Inter-Regional Land Corridors
and Maritime Routes
Bangkok and online, 22-23 June 2022**

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains through Inter-Regional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes (hereafter, the Forum) was held in Bangkok and online on 22-23 June 2022. The Forum was attended by a total of 99 participants from governments of ESCAP member States, representatives of international organizations, regional agencies, subregional organizations, port authorities, universities, research institutes, transport and logistics industry companies and professional associations, as well as by invited resource persons. The list of participants is attached in Annex 1. The programme of the Forum is attached in Annex 2.

Part I

Land Transport Connectivity Between Asia and Europe and the Role of Inter-Regional Transport Corridors (22 June 2022)

2. Part I of the Forum considered the matters related to the current trends in the development and operation of land transport corridors in the Asia-Pacific region, including transport corridors connecting Asia to Europe, from the perspective of governments, international and subregional organizations, transport/logistics industry and academia.

3. The ESCAP secretariat highlighted the main contents of section on “Advancing Transport Connectivity Between Asia and Europe and the Role of Inter-Regional Transport Corridors” of the background paper prepared for the Forum and shared its vision on measures and priorities for enhancing transport connectivity between Asia and Europe reflecting the latest trends in inter-regional transport and the pandemic and post-pandemic context.

4. Participants of the Forum provided updates and exchanged views on recent activities and projects on development of transport corridors in the region, as well as on latest trends in transport operations between Asia and Europe, focusing, inter alia, on the need to building up resilience and greater sustainability of transport operations along regional and inter-regional land and multimodal transport corridors.

5. Participants of the Forum agreed on utmost importance of further development of transport cooperation between Asia and Europe through priority transport corridors at the service of people and respective economies, despite current challenges being experienced.

6. Participants also highlighted the need for continued support to the development of coordinating and management arrangements for transport corridors, including inter-regional transport corridors, as well as formulation of efficient of regulatory frameworks for transport corridors, including multimodal transport corridors

7. The Forum further noted high importance application of practical measures that, as demonstrated by the pandemic response in Asia and the Pacific and beyond, can help in increasing resilience of transport corridors and other transport linkages to external shocks, such as:

- Development, deployment and implementation of digital solutions for seamless operation of land and multimodal transport routes and corridors,
- Simplification and harmonization of rules regulations that could help in functioning of transport routes/corridors in case of external disruptions,
- Promote planning of possibilities of using, where possible, multiple routes for goods transportation and advanced multimodal transport solutions.

8. Participants also took note the growing significance of exploring and scaling up the use of practical solutions for increasing environmental sustainability of land transport routes and corridors. Such solutions could include promotion of the use of more sustainable modes of transport, such as rail and inland waterway transport, as well as of introduction of other viable means for decarbonization of land/multimodal transport operations. The Forum called for further developing the overall concept and policy frameworks for more environmentally sustainable transport corridors.

9. Against this background, the Forum requested the ESCAP secretariat to:

- Continue provision of support to inter-regional dialogue on land transport connectivity to facilitate exchange of relevant information and updates between ESCAP member States and countries from different regions,
- Continue provision of technical assistance to member States in the implementation of initiatives on development of sustainable transport corridors in the Asia-Pacific Region,
- Strengthen cooperation with implementation partners, including other regional commissions and agencies of the UN secretariat, relevant international and subregional organizations as well as transport and logistics industry professional associations on the matters of transport corridors and inter-regional connectivity.

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Part II

Sustainable Maritime Connectivity (23 June 2022)

10. Participants recalled that sustainable maritime connectivity and port development not only enhanced economic development and regional integration but also contributed, directly and indirectly, to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at global, regional and national levels.

11. Participants recognized the need for a comprehensive, long term and tailored maritime transport development strategy that takes into account multidimensional factors and the diversity and characteristics of each Member country and subregion in the Asia-Pacific region.
12. Participants affirmed that green shipping is a priority in the Asia-Pacific region at a time when a response to climate change is urgently needed. They also recognized the importance of a strategic regional approach to advancing green shipping while meeting global standards and regulations in the Asia Pacific region and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and partnerships to implement national and regional action plans in this area.
13. Participants emphasized that cooperation and partnership with all stakeholders including Member countries, international organizations, sub-regional institutions, Multilateral Development Banks, research institutes, and the private sector, are essential for the practical implementation of Green Shipping Corridors in the ESCAP region.
14. Participants confirmed that the need for additional research on maritime connectivity between ASEAN and the Pacific region was required and recognized that Multilateral Development Banks' work on transport infrastructure investment, knowledge sharing, and partnership greatly contributed to the improvement of transport sustainability in the Asia Pacific region.
15. Participants reaffirmed the Regional Dialogue as a platform to evaluate, monitor and support of new initiatives in the “Interregional and Maritime Connectivity” as one of the 7 priority working areas of the Regional Action Programme (2022-2026).
16. Participants requested to expand research, capacity building and training projects in cooperation with international and regional agencies to strengthen sustainable maritime connectivity and port development, based on awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing Member States
17. Participants requested to develop a regional cooperative system including a step wise approach and detailed action plan for the practical implementation of the Green Shipping Corridor on the selected routes.
18. Participants expressed their appreciation to regional and international experts who delivered presentations on national and subregional issues on sustainable maritime connectivity and port development in the ESCAP region and future policies of sustainable maritime transport and requested that ESCAP’s cooperation on these issues continue and be strengthened through analytical work, capacity building and technical assistance.

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19. The Forum requested the secretariat to report these outcomes to the Committee on Transport at its Seventh session in November 2022.
20. The participants expressed their appreciation to the ESCAP secretariat for organizing and hosting the “Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains through Inter-Regional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes”.
21. These conclusions and recommendations were agreed on 22 June 2022 (Part I) and on 23 June 2022 (Part II) in Bangkok.

**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

**Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains through Inter-Regional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes
Bangkok and online, 22-23 June 2022**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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**Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Connecting to Global Supply Chains
through Inter-Regional Land Corridors and Maritime Routes**

Bangkok and online, 22-23 June 2022

PROGRAMME

Day 1, Wednesday, 22 June 2022	
13:00-13:10 (GMT+7)	<p>Opening and welcoming remarks Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division, UNESCAP</p>
<p>Part I: Land Transport Connectivity Between Asia and Europe and the Role of Inter-Regional Transport Corridors</p>	
13:10-13:30	<p>Progress in enhancing sustainable transport connectivity between Asia and Europe <i>The ESCAP secretariat will provide the context to the meeting and share its vision on measures and priorities for enhancing transport connectivity between Asia and Europe reflecting the latest trends in inter-regional transport</i> Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, UNESCAP</p>
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Current issues in the operation of transport corridors, including transport corridors connecting Asia and Europe <i>Representatives of governments, international and subregional organizations and invited resource persons will highlight recent activities and projects on development of transport corridors in the Asia and the Pacific region, as well as inter-regional transport corridors</i> Mr. Yesukhei Enkhtuvshin, Director of the Investment Research Center of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia Mr. Hayk Tutunjyan, Deputy Director, Department of Transport and Infrastructure, Eurasian Economic Commission Mr. Baurzhan Kussubayev, Head of Policy Development and Monitoring Division, TRACECA Permanent Secretariat Ms. Gladys Mutangadura, Senior Programme Officer, UN-OHRLLS Mr. Roel Janssens, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE</p>

	Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, UNESCAP
15:00 -15:30	<p>Best practices on sustainable land transport corridors: representatives of transport industry</p> <p><i>The invited representatives of transport and logistics industry, members of CCTT, will provide updated information on the latest trends in transport operations between Asia and Europe with a focus on resilience and greater sustainability.</i></p> <p>Ms. Natalia Stepanova, Deputy Secretary-General, International Coordinating Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation (CCTT)</p> <p>Mr. Yudong Wang, General Manager Assistant, Beijing Trans Eurasia International Logistics Ltd</p>

15:30-15:45	<i>Break</i>
15:45 -16:30	<p>Open discussion on the needs and opportunities for a regional cooperation</p> <p><i>Interactive discussion and feedback by member States and participating stakeholders, moderated by the ESCAP Secretariat.</i></p>
16:30-16.45	<p>Conclusions and recommendations</p> <p><i>The ESCAP secretariat will present a summary of the main recommendations of this Forum on the priority areas of development and operation of inter-regional transport corridors</i></p>
	End of Day 1

Day 2, Thursday, 23 June 2022

Part II: Sustainable Maritime Connectivity

13:00-13:20 (GMT+7)	<p>Introduction to the regional dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division, UNESCAP</p>
13:20-13:40	<p>Sustainable maritime connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p><i>UNCTAD secretariat will present analysis data on maritime connectivity in the Asia-Pacific regional and its implications</i></p> <p>Ms. Luisa Antonia Rodriguez Ortega, Economic Affairs Officer Division on Technology and Logistics (DTL), UNCTAD</p>
13:40-14:00	<p>Regional approaches to promote sustainable maritime connectivity in the Pacific region</p> <p><i>SPC secretariat will provide regional strategies to promote sustainable shipping and maritime in the Pacific</i></p>

	Ms. Ore OVIA TOUA, Maritime Training Advisor Conseiller en formation maritime, the Pacific Community (SPC)
14:00-14:20	<p>Prospects on Automated Ports & Autonomous Shipping in the Southeast Asia.'</p> <p><i>Regional expert will provide regional strategies on Automated Ports & Autonomous Shipping in the Southeast Asia.</i></p> <p>Cdr Ang Chin Hup, Senior Researcher, Maritime Institute of Malaysia</p>
14:20-15:00	<p>Sub-regional challenges in the maritime sector and strategies for strengthening maritime connectivity</p> <p><i>Regional experts will deliver the results of analysis of maritime connectivity in sub-regions and the direction of future development.</i></p> <p>Professor Paul Tae-Woo Lee, Director, Institute of Maritime Logistics Ocean College, Zhejiang University Mr. Adrian Sammons, Founder & Managing Director at AMSTEC Pty Ltd,</p>
15:00-15:20	<p>Multilateral banks and sustainable maritime transport and port development in the Asia-Pacific Region</p> <p><i>ADB representative will present on sustainable maritime connectivity and port development in the Asia-Pacific region</i></p> <p>Mr. R. Duncan McIntosh, PhD, Senior Regional Maritime Specialist Transport Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank</p>
15.20- 16:00	<p>Green shipping innovations and best practices: Presentations by experts of the maritime transport sector</p> <p><i>The invited experts from maritime sector will provide updated information on the latest trends in the maritime transport operations with a focus on resilience and greater environmental sustainability.</i></p> <p>Ms. Jeon, Seo-Yeon, Senior Researcher, Maritime Industry and Safety Division, Korea Maritime Institute Mr. Yougsun, Kim, Leader of R & D Team, Hyundai Merchant Marine</p>
16:00-16:15	<i>Break</i>
16:15-16:30	<p>Recommendations for implementation of Green Shipping Corridors in the ESCAP Region</p> <p><i>ESCAP will present Clydebank Declaration and Green Shipping Corridors</i></p> <p>Mr. Sooyeob Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, UNESCAP</p>
16:30-16.50	<p>Open discussion on the needs and opportunities for a regional cooperation</p> <p><i>Interactive discussion and feedback by member States and participating stakeholders, moderated by the ESCAP Secretariat.</i></p>
16:50- 17.00	<p>Conclusions and recommendations</p> <p><i>The ESCAP secretariat will present a summary of the recommendations of this Forum on sustainable maritime transport development</i></p>
	End of Day 2