Summary Assessment

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Ministerial Conference on Transport
Fourth session
14-17 December 2021

I. Introduction

In accordance with Resolution 73/4, the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport convened from 14 to 17 December 2021 in Bangkok and via videoconference due to ongoing COVID-19 related travel restrictions in many countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It comprised two segments: the senior officials segment (14 and 15 December 2021) and the ministerial segment (16 and 17 December 2021).

An online questionnaire assessing the relevance, effectiveness and quality of the meeting was conducted. The main purpose of the assessment is to support the secretariat’s ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of the session.

The Conference i) discussed strategies for scaling up sustainable transport initiatives in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen regional cooperation; ii) assessed the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2017-2021); iii) considered and adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme [Full title] (2022-2026) aligned with the three pillars of sustainability and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Attendance

The fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport was attended by 66 per cent of all ESCAP members and associate members (41 of 62) with 34 participants at the ministerial level. In total, there were 296 registered participants, of whom 83 were female (28 per cent). A number of other entities, including Permanent Observers, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental organizations, participated in the meeting. From these entities, there were 49 participants of whom 10 were female (23.26 per cent). Therefore, the total number of participants from both governments and other entities is 345 individuals and the total number of female participants is 85 (24.64 per cent).

III. Respondent’s Profile

A total of 35 individual respondents from 31 members and associate members, 4 from other entities provided feedback to the questionnaire. Of these 35 respondents, 25 respondents are male, 10 are female.

1 The rating scale is 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).
### IV. Relevance

Overall, respondents highly agreed that the agenda items reflected the present development trends and issues in the Asia-Pacific region; and that the issues discussed were useful for their government/organization. The respondents gave a slightly lower rating on discussing relevant gender issues as pertaining to the meeting objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please rate your agreement of the following statements</th>
<th>Ratings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The issues discussed reflected the present development trends/issues in the transport sector in the Asia-Pacific region.</td>
<td>Average: 4.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The issues discussed were relevant to the needs and priorities of my country/territory.</td>
<td>Average: 4.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The Conference discussed related gender issues and concepts.</td>
<td>Average: 4.03</td>
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### V. Effectiveness

The respondents agreed that the Conference effectively highlighted regional transport development trends and issues. The Conference was effective in i) identifying priority areas and emerging issues in the region, and ii) strategic direction in moving towards the sustainable transport connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region. The Conference highly promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to transport. The Conference documents and presentations were of high quality, concise and clear. Enough time was available for discussion.

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<tr>
<td>1. The Conference effectively highlighted regional transport development trends and issues.</td>
<td>Average: 4.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Conference effectively identified priority areas and emerging issues in the region.</td>
<td>Average: 4.4</td>
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</table>
3. The Conference effectively identified strategic direction in moving towards the sustainable transport connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region.  
Average: 4.5

4. The Conference effectively promoted dialogue on regional and subregional approaches to transport.  
Average: 4.4

5. Enough time was available for discussion  
Average: 4.2

6. The Conference documents and presentations were of high quality, concise & clear  
Average: 4.5

VI. Efficiency

Generally, the respondents rated positively on the efficiency of the meeting, in particular, they were highly satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the meeting and the communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the meeting. They highly agreed that the meeting was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme and the duration of the meeting was appropriate.

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<th>Please rate your agreement of the following statements</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. I am satisfied with the administrative and logistical arrangement of the Conference.</td>
<td>Average: 4.53</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. The Conference was organized in a timely manner and according to the programme.</td>
<td>Average: 4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The communications from ESCAP to the member States on the preparation for the Conference were effective.</td>
<td>Average: 4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. The duration of the Conference was appropriate</td>
<td>Average: 4.47</td>
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VII. Performance of the virtual tool

Overall, the respondents were satisfied with the technology and they were of the view that the test run session one day before the Committee was well-organized and helpful.

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<tr>
<td>1. The virtual tool was easy to use</td>
<td>Average: 4.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. I was able to hear others clearly (audio quality)</td>
<td>Average: 4.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. I was able to see other clearly (video quality)</td>
<td>Average: 4.43</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Internet connectivity is satisfactory</td>
<td>Average: 4.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The duration of the virtual meeting was appropriate</td>
<td>Average: 4.41</td>
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<td>6. The screen sharing feature was effective</td>
<td>Average: 4.38</td>
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</table>
7. Interaction tools (raise hands, live polls, Q&A, etc.) were used effectively  
Average: 4.26

8. Adequate technical support from ESCAP was provided during the meeting  
Average: 4.41

9. The Test Run session one day before the Committee was well-organized and helpful  
Average: 4.33

VIII. Results achieved

The results achieved through this meeting indicated by respondents included:
- Strategic Direction for Sustainable Transport in the Region
- Learning of best practices from other countries for possible consideration of application
- Policy remarks from member states should be provided.
- Ministerial Declaration and Regional Action Plan Phase II
- Collaboration between Asia and Pacific states on transport connectivity and strategies towards a carbon neutral environment
- Understand the reality of the regional transport better.
- Adoption of the Regional Programme for Fiji and alignment to sustainable and green transport for Fiji, Pacific and the SIDs.
- This will help in overall development of sustainable transport system in Asia and Pacific region.
- The best result of this conference was to provide possibility and facilitate dialogue between member states and getting them to know about transportation strategies of each other and helping to converging their goals in line with achieving common interests.
- The results planned during this conference have been achieved. The Action Plan for 2023-2026 and the Ministerial Declaration were adopted
- First of all, exchange of views, countries heard the views and proposals of other participating countries
- The speeches of the conference participants touched upon very important points that occur within the framework of the participants of the UNESCAP countries in the field of sustainable transport development with the aim at reducing harmful emissions of substances and the measures taken by the Ministries of Transport in the UNESCAP region on the operation of electric vehicles and vehicles running on gas fuel.
- All are good in this conference
- Received experience and knowledge of the Sustainable Transport Development of the member countries and we can undertake appropriate actions based on Regional Action Programme.
- Sector related knowledge and concepts were attained through this conference.
- Objective was achieved and very fruitful conference
- Gain knowledge from this event
- Understanding about Logistics around the world
- To gain more knowledge concerning the transport development and related matters
- Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and the Regional Action Programme
- RAP (2022-2026) will bring required transformational changes in the transport sector of Asia towards achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement

IX. Comments and suggestions

The respondents provided comments and suggestions for improvement of future sessions:

- Providing direct link to the participants will be efficient. Registration procedure was little confusing with temporary passwords not received and need to try time and again.
- Early publish of country statements on the Conference website would be much appreciated.
- There is hope that the borders will open, and we will be able to meet face to face.
- Thank you for ensuring Fiji’s participation in the forum as well as thank you for facilitating interventions and Fiji’s Hon Minister’s Statement on Maritime Connectivity.
- Duration of virtual conference should be reduced.
- Everything was organized in an excellent manner, thank you.
- In order to improve the ESCAP intergovernmental meetings, I would like them to be held not only in virtual mode, but also in person. The exchange of views during the negotiations of ministers in the tete-a-tete format gives a more effective result than meetings in the videoconference format.
- To improve the intergovernmental meetings of ESCAP, it is necessary to increase the number of meetings of the participating countries.
- To organize such event more often at the UNESCAP level.
- Sometimes we cannot log in KUDO.
- Physical meeting is more convenient and effective, so future events of the conference should be in physical if the CONVID-19 restrictions are relaxed.
- Very systematic conference and highly appreciated.
- This is very good virtual program.
- After Covid-19 Hope see all participants.
- Everything well organized, Congratulations!

**X. Conclusion**

Overall, delegations agreed that the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport was well organized and fruitful. The session was relevant to the needs and priorities of member countries and the region and promote regional cooperation and multilateralism in transport related area. The efficiency and effectiveness of the session also received positive feedback, in particular, the organization of the session was conducted in a timely manner and according to the programme. More attention could be paid to gender related issues.

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