Navigating the Future: Regional Conference on Autonomous Vehicles in Asia and the Pacific

9-10 September 2026

United Nations Conference Center, CR-4, Bangkok, Thailand and online

Programme

Time	Content
Wednesday, 9 September 2026	
9:00-9:15	**Opening Remarks** • **Mr. Nam Hyuk Kim** Minister and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Thailand • **Mr. Pasan Kulvanit** Director, Institute of Innovative Robotics and Autonomous Vehicles, Department of Science Service, Thailand • **Mr. Shombi Sharp** Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP
9:15-9:20	**Group Photo**
9:20-10:35	**Presentation of the Regional Policy Guidebook** *(ESCAP presentation)* • Overview of the project and key findings • Emerging technological trends in autonomous vehicles • Key policy and regulatory considerations • Discussion • **Mr. Mohan Yin** presenting on behalf of **Mr. Chengliang Yin** ESCAP National Consultant, Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China • **Mr. Jung Hwan Kim** ESCAP National Consultant, Republic of Korea • **Ms. Mollie D'Agostino** ESCAP National Consultant, Executive Director Mobility Science, Automation, and Inclusion Center (MoSAIC), Senior Policy Analyst, University of California Davis, USA • **Ms. Katrin Luger** Chief, Transport Research and Policy Section, Transport Division, ESCAP
10:35-10:50	**Coffee Break**
10:50-11:50	**From Policy to Deployment: Lessons from Early AV Adoption** *(country presentations)*

	• What has worked? • What challenges remain? • How have governments, industry, and researchers interacted? • What lessons are relevant for Asia-Pacific countries just starting out? 1. **Mr. Seoktae Kwon** Senior Research Fellow, Korea Automobile Testing & Research Institute (KATRI), Republic of Korea 2. **Ms. Hanbing Wu** Head, Department for Intelligent and Connected Vehicles, China Automotive Standardization Research Institute (CASRI), China Automotive Technology and Research Center (CATARC), Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China 3. **Ms. Melody Drummond Hansen** Chief Strategist, Acute Strategy, USA
11:50-12:25	**Perspectives from Nascent and Interested Countries: Opportunities, Priorities and Questions for Autonomous Mobility** *(country presentations)* • Why are AVs relevant? • What opportunities and concerns exist? • What type of support or knowledge sharing would be most valuable? 1. **Mr. Rahmatullah Sherzai** Project Manager, City of Toronto, Canada (online) 2. **Mr. Ivan Edward Francisco** Chief Transportation Development Officer, Road Transport Project Development Division, Department of Transportation, the Philippines (online) 3. **Mr. Tshongtu** Chief Program Officer (CPO), Services and Management Division, Bhutan Construction and Transport Authority, Bhutan
12:25-13:30	**Lunch Break**

13:30-14:45	**From Pilots to Scale: What Conditions Are Needed for Successful AV Deployment?** *(private sector presentations)* • Key lessons learned from AV pilot projects and early deployment initiatives • Regulatory and institutional conditions needed to support large-scale deployment • Infrastructure, connectivity, and digital readiness requirements • Financing, investment, and sustainable business models • Public-private partnerships and stakeholder collaboration • Key milestones and pathways for transitioning from pilot projects to widespread deployment. 1. **Ms. Janette Qi** Director of Public Affairs, WeRide, China (online) 2. **Mr. Jayce Lim** Head of Strategy, CSO, Rideflux, Republic of Korea (online) 3. **Ms. Melody Drummond Hansen** Chief Strategist, Acute Strategy, USA 4. **Mr. Steffonn Chan** Director Global Remote Operations MOIA (Volkswagen), Germany 5. **Mr. Kai Liu** Senior Director of Strategy and Business Development, Pony.ai, China (online)
14:45-15:45	**Beyond Passenger Cars: AV Applications for Public Services, Mobility and Logistics** *(private sector presentations)* • Current and emerging applications of autonomous vehicles beyond passenger cars, including public transport, freight and logistics, ports, airports, and other specialized services • Potential benefits of these use cases and their implications for transport systems across Asia and the Pacific 1. **Mr. Minsang Yu** Chief Strategy Officer, Global Policy Office, Autonomous A2Z, Republic of Korea (online) 2. **Mr. Terry Zhou** Managing Director, Zelos, China 3. **Mr. Tongzhou Bai**

	Senior Engineer,Global Sustainable Transport Innovation and Knowledge Center (GSTIKC), China 4. **Mr. Vadim V. Pugachev** Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs, Vehicle Regulations & Homologation, Navio, Russian Federation (online)
15:45-16:00	**Coffee Break**
16:00-17:00	**Panel Discussion: Could Autonomous Vehicles Work for My Country? Needs, Realities and Practical Pathways** • What autonomous vehicles can — and cannot — realistically do today • Where AVs could add meaningful value to different transport systems and national contexts • What infrastructure, regulatory and institutional conditions are needed for successful deployment • What a realistic first pilot or initial application could look like for countries at an early stage • Costs, business models and how governments can assess whether an AV application is viable and worth pursuing Moderator: **Ms. Mollie D'Agostino** Executive Director Mobility Science, Automation, and Inclusion Center (MoSAIC), Senior Policy Analyst, University of California Davis, USA Panelists: 1. **Mr. Saidjafar Saidzoda** Head of Land Transport Department, Ministry of Transport, Tajikistan 2. **Mr. Md. Faruq Sufian** Senior Assistant Secretary, Road Transport and Highways Division, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Bangladesh 3. **Mr. Jason So** Associate Professor, Ajou University, Republic of Korea 4. **Ms. Yuhan Xiao** Training & Research Manager, International Association of Public Transport (UITP) (online) 5. **Mr. Steffonn Chan** Director Global Remote Operations MOIA (Volkswagen), Germany 6. **Mr. James Fishelson** Executive Director of California PATH, University of California, Berkeley, USA

17:00	**End of Day 1**

Thursday, 10 September 2026	
09:00-9:45	**Safety, Operations and Trust in Autonomous Mobility** *(expert presentations)* • Practical guidelines for AV safety standards • Data governance and privacy in connected and autonomous mobility • Ethical accountability and cybersecurity resilience in autonomous transport systems 1. **Mr. Eric Teoh** Vice President of Research and Statistics, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, USA (online) 2. **Mr. Earl Adams** VP for Policy & Regulatory Affairs, PlusAI, USA (online) 3. **Ms. Vera Huang** International Business Manager, Shenzhen Bus Group, China (online)
9:45-10:55	**Autonomous Vehicles and Developing Countries: Opportunities, Challenges and Pathways Forward** *(moderated round table discussion)* • Harnessing the benefits of AV technology for developing economies • Potential opportunities for developing countries, including improvements in road safety, mobility access, freight and logistics efficiency, and public service delivery • Pathways for developing countries to benefit from emerging AV technologies and related innovation ecosystems • The role of international cooperation, knowledge-sharing, and public-private partnerships in supporting AV readiness Moderator: **Mr. Jason So,** Associate Professor, Ajou University, Republic of Korea Panelists: 1. **Ms. Awanthi Senaratne** Additional Secretary (Transport Development), Ministry of Transport, Highways and Urban Development, Sri Lanka 2. **Mr. Nurmat Musabekov** Head of Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Kyrgyz Republic

	3. **Mr. James Fishelson** Executive Director of California PATH, University of California, Berkeley, USA 4. **Mr. Max Zhao** VP Head of Southeast Asia, Neolix, China 5. **Mr. Stefan Heuer,** Senior Vice President, Mobility-Asia Pacific, TUV Rheinland Thailand Ltd. 6. **Mr. Yi Guo** Managing Director, Green Smart Transport Institute
10:55-11:15	**Coffee Break**
11:15-12:00	***From Policy to Practice: The AV Approval Challenge and Regional Cooperation*** *(interactive group activity and platform introduction)* **Making the Call: An Autonomous Vehicle Approval Interactive Simulation** Simulated AV approval exercise. Based on a given deployment scenario, participants will assess and rate a range of policy and regulatory considerations—including safety, testing, data governance, liability, infrastructure readiness and operating conditions—and use their assessments to decide whether, and under what conditions, the proposed AV service should be approved. **Introducing the ESCAP Autonomous Vehicles Partnership (AVP)** Introduction to the AVP as a regional platform for continued knowledge-sharing, peer learning and cooperation on autonomous mobility beyond the conference.
12:00-12:15	**Closing Remarks**
12:15	**End of Day 2 and Departure**