Session 1: The role of the Asian Highways network in enhancing road transport (freight and passenger) connectivity among BBIN countries
Asian Highway Network

- Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network
- Over 141,000 km of roads
- 32 countries
- Support intra and inter-continental connectivity
Asian Highway Network: BBIN

- All BBIN countries are parties to the AHN
- Main routes crossing BBIN are: AH1 and AH2, as well as AH41, AH42, AH45 and AH46
- Plays very important roles for freight and passenger connectivity
- Economic and social lifeline notably for landlocked countries (LLDCs), i.e. Bhutan and Nepal
- Road quality has improved drastically over years, encourage upgrading to Class 2 and Class 1 roads, bridges etc.
- Bottlenecks remain, lower grade roads remain, congestions, safety
- Some BCP facilities can be improved, and procedures streamlined to improve seamless connectivity
- Transloading/lack of road permit system
Study project on “Supporting Policies for Green and Resilient Transport Infrastructure along the Asian Highway Network”

• Aim to strengthen sustainable regional transport connectivity by collecting and disseminating best practices in development of green and resilient road infrastructure along the Asian Highway network.

• Collection of highway construction and design standards from diverse Asian Highway countries

• Collection of best practices from both ESCAP and non-ESCAP countries, LLDCs, SIDs etc.

• Inventory of best practices

Recommended criteria:
❖ Selection of Environmentally Friendly Route Alignment
❖ Design Considerations
❖ Terrain and topography
❖ Wildlife
❖ Hydraulics/hydrology
❖ Land use
❖ Air quality
❖ Water quality
❖ Soil quality
❖ Construction waste management
❖ Noise and vibration
Session 1 will discuss key segments and corridors of strategic importance for the BBIN subregion along the Asian Highways (AH) network, their current status, border crossing requirements, policy challenges, and priorities for their future development.