WORLD SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT DAY

26th November 2023 | bit.ly/SustTransportDay24

ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Session 3: Supporting regional cooperation for sustainable and inclusive transport connectivity among BBIN countries

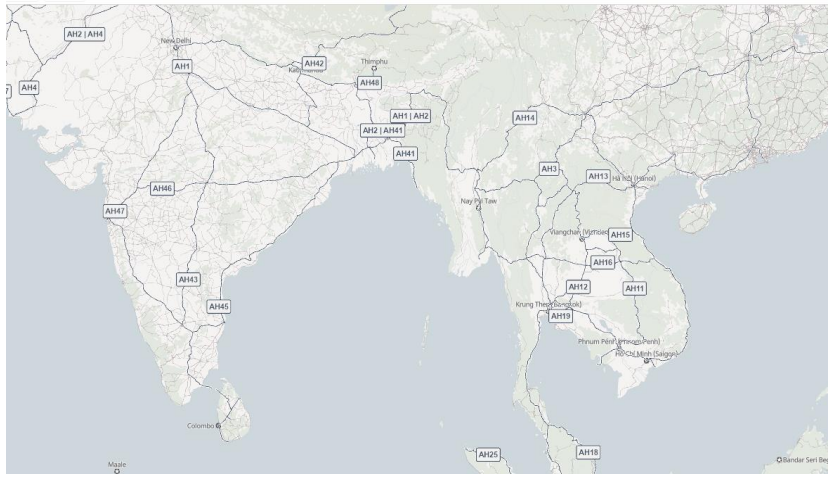
Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest

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Transport Division
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Subregional Capacity Building Workshop
Supporting policies on low carbon and resilient transport infrastructure:
Promoting Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN Countries
Shillong, Meghalaya, India 22-23 November 2024

ESCAP's role in supporting seamless land transport connectivity in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Highway Network



- Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway network
- Entered into force in July 2005
- 30 Parties

Trans-Asian Railway Network



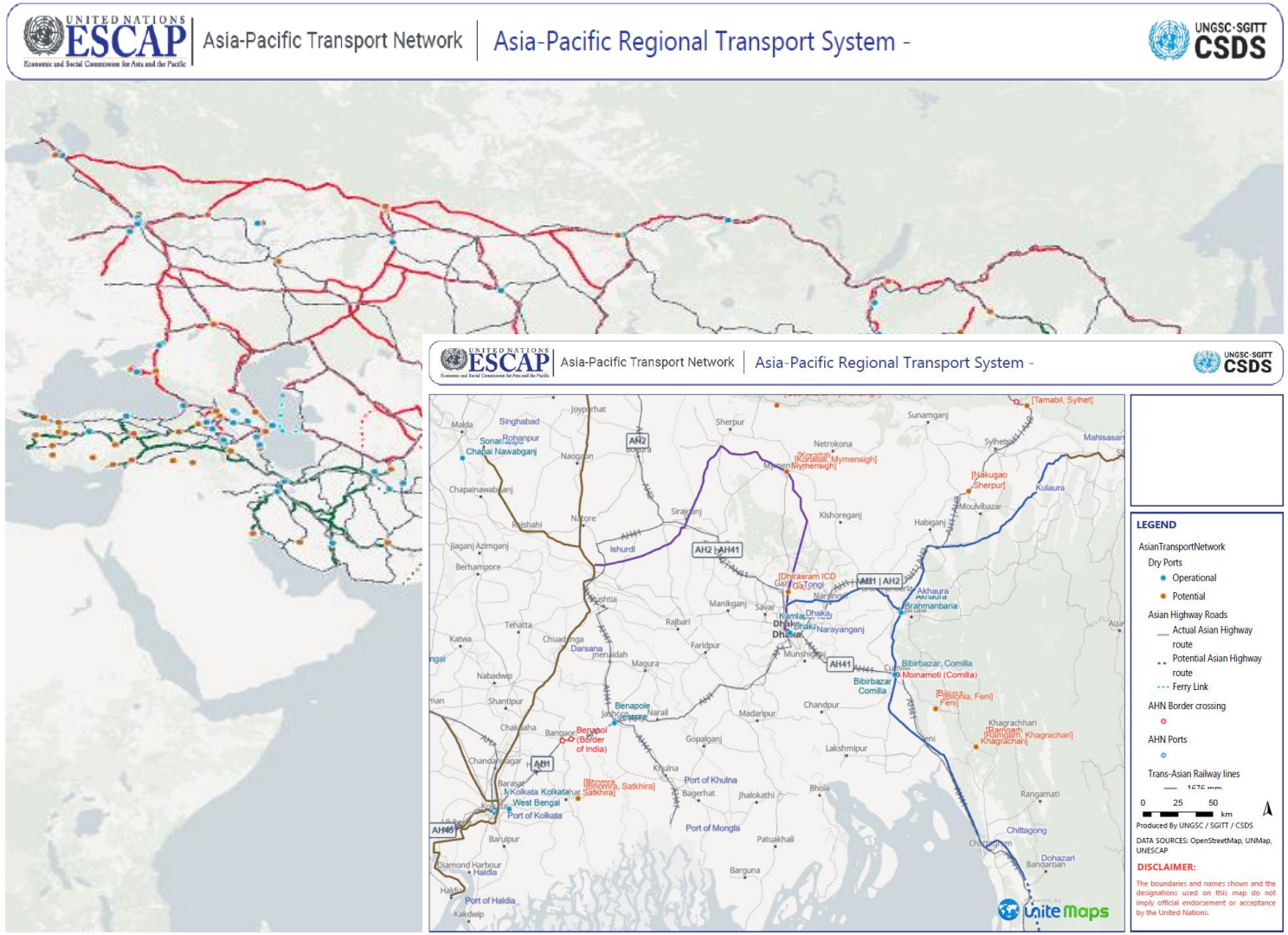
- Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network
- Entered into force in June 2009
- 21 Parties

Dry Ports



- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
- Entered into force in April 2016
- 17 Parties

BBIN in the context of the regional transport connectivity for Asia and the Pacific



ASIAN HIGHWAY ROUTES	
TOTAL	**14,999.6**
Bangladesh	1,749.2
Bhutan	136.3
India	11,808.5
Nepal	1,305.7

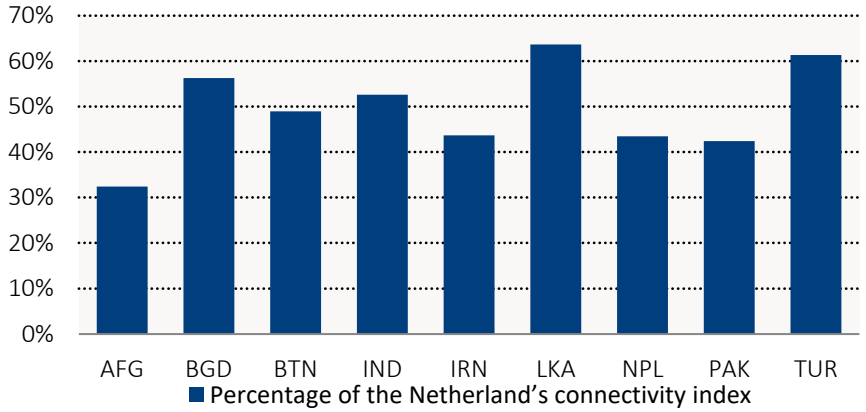
TRANS-ASIAN RAILWAYS (Km)		Missing links (Km)
TOTAL	16,190	1,516
Bangladesh	1,965	334
India	13,296	282
Nepal	929	900

Opportunities for a more sustainable freight transport in BIIN countries

Holistic approach to connectivity

- Addressing infrastructure shortages
- Removing obstacles to cross-border freight transport
- Tackling transit issues

Connectivity gap for South and Southwest Asia countries
(*percentage of the index of the most connected country in 2021*)



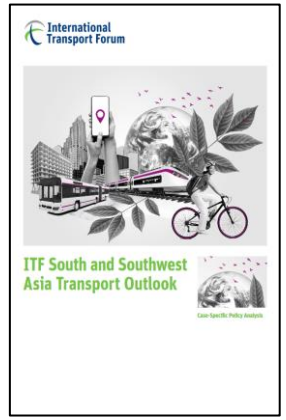
Promote multimodality

- Railway development
- Inland waterways and maritime ports
- Intermodal linkages (dry ports)

Non-urban freight demand by mode and scenario for South and Southwest Asia to 2050



Note: Figure depicts ITF modelled estimates. *Recover*, *Reshape* and *Reshape+*, which refer to the three scenarios modelled, which represent increasingly ambitious post-pandemic policies to decarbonise transport.



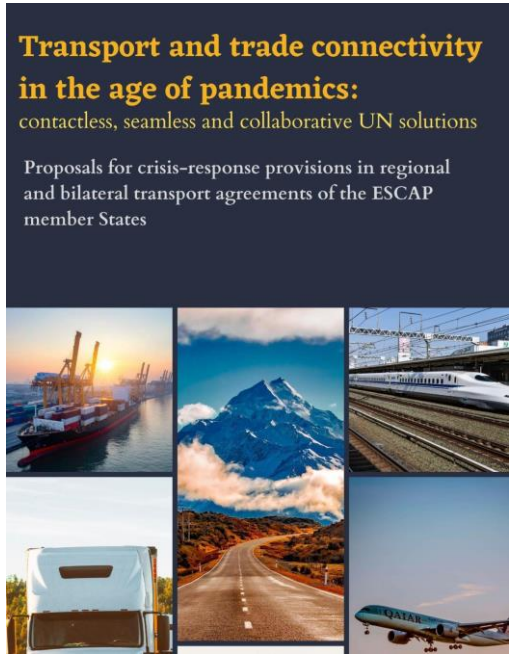
Asia-Pacific perspective on the operational connectivity challenges

ESCAP
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport		Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport	
Road transport permits & traffic rights	Visas for professional drivers & crews	Standards for railway infrastructure, facilities and equipment	Break-of-gauge
Temporary importation of road vehicles	Insurance of vehicles	Different legal regimes for railway transport contracts	Coordination of regulatory controls and inspections at border-interchange stations
Vehicle weights & dimensions	Vehicle registration & inspection certificates		

Recommendations for subregional transport agreements

- **Sub-regional agreements on transport (SRAs) are different in structure and in nature:**
  - Comprehensive agreements
  - Agreements covering particular issues
- **SRAs contain many similar provisions related to road transport facilitation**
- **In some cases, their provisions are harmonized and contain no legal conflict**
- **In some cases, the provisions of SRAs are of declarative nature which impose no concrete obligations**
- **Difficulties in implementation remains the key issue for SRAs efficiency**



ESCAP's comparative study on subregional agreements in Asia and the Pacific (2015)

1. **Assessment of:**
   - possibility of negotiating SRAs in reasonable time when planning new SRAs;
   - possibility of subsequent practical implementation of the concluded SRAs;
   - realistic tasks which can be solved through SRAs which are planned or being negotiated

2. Potential contracting parties should also identify legal issues which can be efficiently settled through bilateral agreements

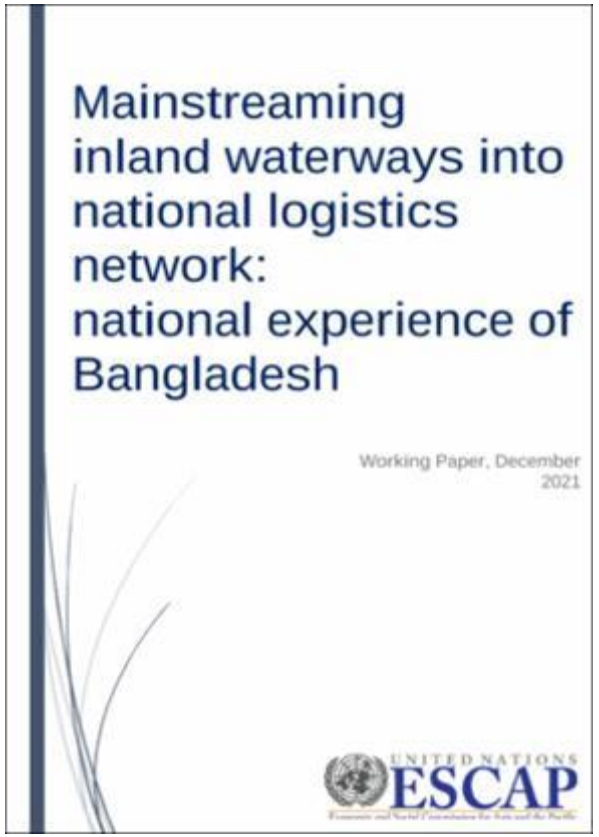
3. Potential contracting parties can utilize "modular approach" for designing SRAs

4. "Step-by-step" approach to implementation mechanisms

4. The proposed model subregional agreement can serve as a common framework for subregional agreements on transport facilitation

Transport Facilitation Tools and Best Practices to be incorporated

- **Transport facilitation Tools : https://www.unescap.org/resources/transport-facilitation-tools**
- **Logistics Information System Manual: https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/training-manual-standard-logistics-information-system**
- **Study report on Weights, dimensions and emissions, including recommended standards: https://www.unescap.org/resources/strengthening-capacity-escap-member-states-harmonize-standards-weights-dimensions-and**
- **Study report on CCWA project: https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/strengthening-capacity-operationalizing-sustainable-transport-connectivity-along-china**
- **IWT Bangladesh to support logistics connectivity: https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/mainstreaming-inland-waterways-national-logistics-network-national-experience-bangladesh**

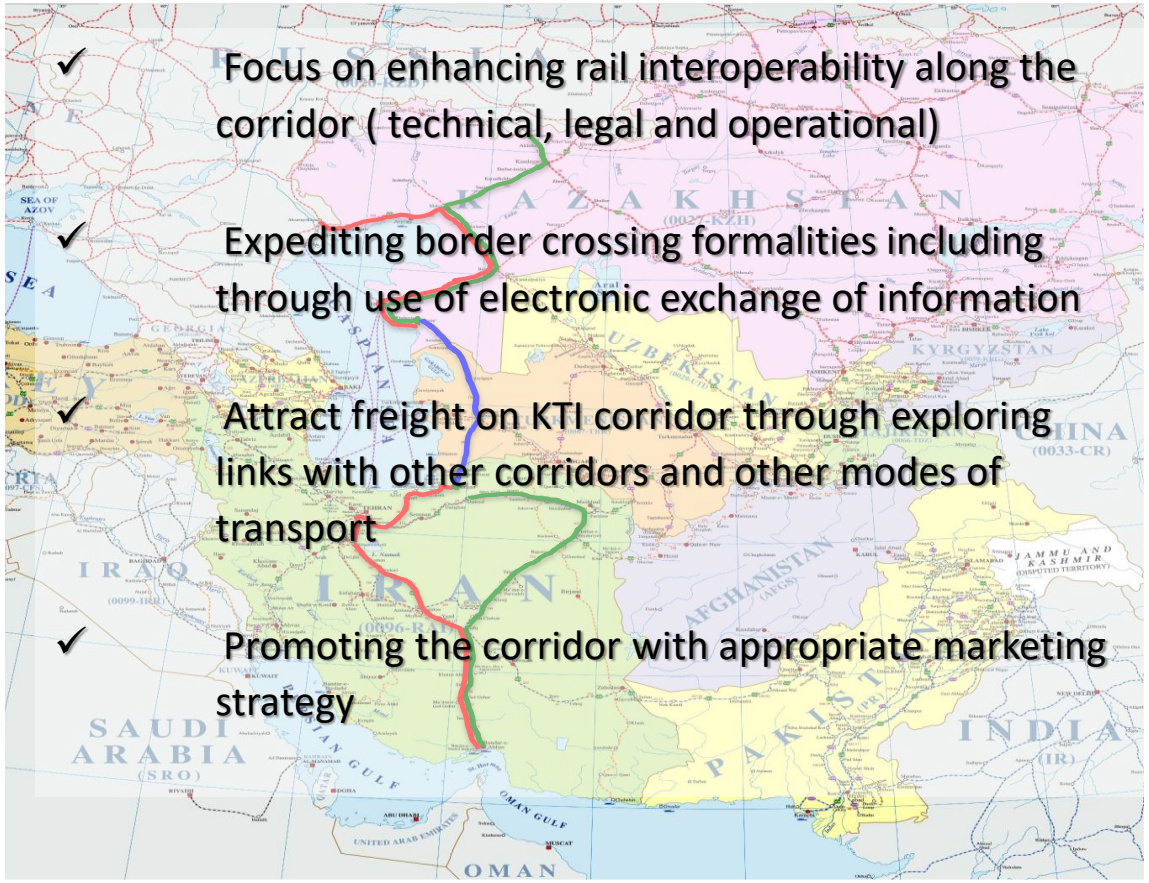


Examples of the region's multilateral/sub-regional transport cooperation

Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network



Operationalization of the Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan- Islamic Republic of Iran (KTI) rail corridor



Thank you for your kind attention!

For more information:

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