FOR PARTICIPANTS ONLY

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# STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK

(Item 4 of the provisional agenda)
*Note by the secretariat*

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## Introduction

1. The Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network is a treaty outlining a coordinated plan for the development of highway routes of international importance in Asia. The present document gives details of the obligations of the Parties to the Agreement and the current status of implementation of the Agreement.

2. The main obligations of the Parties to the Agreement are:

(a) To adopt the Asian Highway network as a coordinated plan for the development of highway routes of international importance which they intend to undertake within the framework of their national programmes (article 1);

(b) To bring the Asian Highway routes into conformity with the classification and design standards (article 3);

(c) To place Asian Highway routes signs on all routes within five years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement (article 4).

## A. Status of implementation of the Agreement

### 1. Accession, signatures and ratifications/acceptance/approval

3. The Agreement entered into force on 4 July 2005. As at 15 September 2005, 28 member States have signed the Agreement and 20 of those are Parties to the Agreement. The current status of signatories to the Agreement is given in annex I to the present document.

4. Member States can join the Agreement by accession, which is a one-step action to become a Party to the Agreement. A model instrument of accession is attached as annex II.

5. After completing the national procedure for ratification, acceptance or approval of the Agreement, signatory States should inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations. A model instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval is attached as annex III.

6. Reservations may not be made with respect to any of the provisions of the Agreement, except as provided in article 14, paragraph 5 of the Agreement, whereby any State may, at the time of definitive signature or of depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, deposit a reservation stating that it does not consider itself bound by the provisions of article 14 relating to conciliation. A model instrument of reservation/declaration is attached as annex IV.

7. In this regard, those member States who have not yet signed the Agreement may update the Working Group on the progress made towards accession to the Agreement and signatory member States may update on the progress made towards ratification, acceptance or approval of the Agreement.

## 2. Conformity with the classification and design standards

8. The Asian Highway network now comprises over 141,000 kilometres of roads passing through 32 member States.

9. The Asian Highway classification and design standards classifies the Asian Highway routes into four classes: Primary, Class I, Class II and Class III. It specifies Class III as the minimum desirable standards and thus provides guidelines for the construction, improvement and maintenance of the Asian Highway routes. A summary of Asian Highway classification and design standards is attached as annex V. The Parties shall make every possible effort to comply with the Class III standards both in constructing new routes and in upgrading and modernizing existing ones.

10. Based on the information in the Asian Highway database, 2006, out of 141,000 kilometres 12,265 kilometres (8.7 per cent) of the network do not meet the minimum desirable standards. The progress made since the first meeting of the Working Group held in December 2005 is encouraging. If the member States continue to upgrade Asian Highway with the same pace, all Asian Highway routes would meet minimum specified standards in next three years. However, there would be a continuous need to upgrade the routes to higher standards and to maintain the routes. A table showing the current status of the Asian Highway in member States is attached as annex VI.

11. In this regard, member States may update the Working Group on their progress and plans for further upgrading the Asian Highway routes.

## 3. Asian Highway route signs

11. The Agreement requires the Parties to place the Asian Highway route signs as described in the Agreement within five years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement for the State concerned (refer annex I).

12. Republic of Korea has placed Asian Highway route signs. Bhutan and Cambodia are also planning to install the Asian Highway route signs.

13. Further, in order to improve visibility and understanding of the Asian Highway routes, member States are encouraged to indicate corresponding Asian Highway route numbers on national maps and encourage similar notation on commercially produced maps.

14. In this regard, member States, keeping in view of the date of entry into force of the Agreement, may update the Working Group on their progress and plans for placing route signs.

15. The Working Group is invited to encourage participation of member States in the implementation of the Agreement to promote and develop road transport in Asia and with neighbouring regions.

*Annex I*

**SIGNATORIES TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON THE ASIAN HIGHWAY NETWORK AS AT 15 SEPTEMBER 2007**

| No. | Signatory | Type of signature, followed by ratification/acceptance/approval | Date of signature | Date of entry into force |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Afghanistan | Simple, reservation article 11<br>Ratified on 8 January 2006 | 26 April 2004 | 8 April 2006 |
| 2. | Armenia | Simple<br>Ratified on 6 June 2005 | 26 April 2004 | 5 September 2005 |
| 3. | Azerbaijan | Simple<br>Ratified on 5 May 2005 | 28 April 2004 | 3 August 2005 |
| 4. | Bhutan | Simple<br>Ratified on 18 August 2005 | 26 April 2004 | 16 November 2005 |
| 5. | Cambodia | Simple<br>Approved on 5 April 2005 | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 6. | China | Definitive | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 7. | Georgia | Simple<br>Approved on 9 December 2005 | 26 April 2004 | 9 March 2006 |
| 8. | India | Simple<br>Ratified on 16 February 2006 | 27 April 2004 | 17 May 2006 |
| 9. | Indonesia | Simple | 26 April 2004 | |
| 10. | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Simple | 26 April 2004 | |
| 11. | Japan | Definitive | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 12. | Kazakhstan | Simple | 26 April 2004 | |
| 13. | Kyrgyzstan | Simple<br>Ratified on 30 August 2006 | 26 April 2004 | 28 November 2006 |
| 14. | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Simple | 26 April 2004 | |
| 15. | Malaysia | Simple | 24 September 2004 in New York | |
| 16. | Mongolia | Simple<br>Ratified on 25 July 2005 | 26 April 2004 | 23 October 2005 |
| 17. | Myanmar | Simple, reservation article 11<br>Ratified on 15 September 2004 | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 18. | Nepal | Simple | 26 April 2004 | |
| 19. | Pakistan | Simple<br>Ratified on 19 October 2005 | 26 April 2004 | 17 January 2006 |
| 20. | Philippines | Simple | 2 November 2005 in New York | |
| 21. | Republic of Korea | Simple<br>Ratified on 13 August 2004 | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 22. | Russian Federation | Definitive | 27 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 23. | Sri Lanka | Simple<br>Ratified on 24 September 2004 | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 24. | Tajikistan | Simple<br>Accepted on 10 April 2006 | 26 April 2004 | 9 July 2006 |
| 25. | Thailand | Simple<br>Ratified on 13 March 2006 | 26 April 2004 | 11 June 2006 |
| 26. | Turkey | Simple | 26 April 2004 | |
| 27. | Uzbekistan | Definitive | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |
| 28. | Viet Nam | Simple<br>Approved on 3 August 2004 | 26 April 2004 | 4 July 2005 |

*Annex II*

**MODEL INSTRUMENT OF ACCESSION**

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

**ACCESSION**

**_____**

**WHEREAS** the ***Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network*** was **adopted *on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok*** and opened for signature ***in Shanghai, China from 26 to 28 April 2004 and thereafter at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 May 2004 to 31 December 2005*** ,

**NOW THEREFORE I**, [***name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs***] declare that the Government of [***name of State***], having considered the above-mentioned ***Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network***, accedes to the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have signed this instrument of accession at [***place***] on [***date***].

[Signature]

*Annex III*

**MODEL INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION, ACCEPTANCE OR APPROVAL**

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

**[RATIFICATION / ACCEPTANCE / APPROVAL]**

**WHEREAS *the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network*** was **adopted *on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok*** and opened for signature ***in Shanghai, China, from 26 to 28 April 2004***,

**AND WHEREAS** the said ***Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network*** has been signed on behalf of the Government of **[name of State]** on **[date],**

**NOW THEREFORE I**, **[name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs]** declare that the Government of [name of State], having considered the above-mentioned ***Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network***, **[ratifies, accepts, approves**] the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out the stipulations therein contained.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have signed this instrument of **[ratification, acceptance, or approval]** at **[place]** on **[date].**

[Signature]

*Annex IV*

**MODEL INSTRUMENT OF RESERVATION / DECLARATION**

**(To be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs)**

**[RESERVATION / DECLARATION]**

**I,** [name and title of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs],

**HEREBY DECLARE** that the Government of [name of State] makes the following [reservation / declaration] in relation to article [**14** ***(5) of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network adopted on 18 November 2003 in Bangkok***:]

[Substance of reservation / declaration]

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and seal.

Done at [place] on [date].

[Signature and title]

***Annex V***

**ASIAN HIGHWAY CLASSIFICATIONS AND DESIGN STANDARDS**

| Highway classification | | Primary (4 or more lanes) | | | | Class I (4 or more lanes) | | | | Class II (2 lanes) | | | | Class III (2 lanes) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Terrain classification | | L | R | M | S | L | R | M | S | L | R | M | S | L | R | M | S |
| Design speed (km/h) | | 120 | 100 | 80 | 60 | 100 | 80 | 50 | | 80 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 30 |
| Width (m) | Right of way | (50) | | | | (40) | | | | (40) | | | | (30) | | | |
| | Lane | 3.50 | | | | 3.50 | | | | 3.50 | | | | 3.00 (3.25) | | | |
| | Shoulder | 3.00 | | 2.50 | | 3.00 | | 2.50 | | 2.50 | | 2.00 | | 1.5 (2.0) | | 0.75 (1.5) | |
| | Median strip | 4.00 | | 3.00 | | 3.00 | | 2.50 | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | | N/A | |
| Minimum radii of horizontal curve (m) | | 520 | 350 | 210 | 115 | 350 | 210 | 80 | | 210 | 115 | 80 | 50 | 115 | 80 | 50 | 30 |
| Pavement slope (%) | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | | | | 2 - 5 | | | |
| Shoulder slope (%) | | 3 - 6 | | | | 3 - 6 | | | | 3 - 6 | | | | 3 - 6 | | | |
| Type of pavement | | Asphalt/cement concrete | | | | Asphalt/cement concrete | | | | Asphalt/cement concrete | | | | Dbl. bituminous treatment | | | |
| Maximum superelevation (%) | | 10 | | | | 10 | | | | 10 | | | | 10 | | | |
| Maximum vertical grade (%) | | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Structure loading (minimum) | | HS20-44 | | | | HS20-44 | | | | HS20-44 | | | | HS20-44 | | | |

*Notes*: Figures in parentheses are desirable values.

Minimum radii of horizontal curve should be determined in conjunction with superelevation.

The recommended width of the median can be reduced with the proper type of guard fence.

The Parties should apply their national standards when constructing structures such as bridges, culverts and tunnels along the Asian Highway.

*Annex VI*

**STATUS OF THE ASIAN HIGHWAY IN MEMBER STATES**

(length in km)

| Country | Primary | Class I | Class II | Class III | Below III | Other# | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | 0 | 10 | 2,314 | 77 | 1,846 | 0 | 4,247 |
| Armenia | 0 | 147 | 710 | 109 | 0 | 0 | 966 |
| Azerbaijan | 0 | 97 | 1,017 | 348 | 0 | 0 | 1,462 |
| Bangladesh | 0 | 20 | 1,718 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 1,768 |
| Bhutan | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 161 | 0 | 167 |
| Cambodia | 0 | 0 | 453 | 879 | 3 | 0 | 1,335 |
| China* | 14,859 | 2,255 | 5,788 | 3,237 | 42 | 0 | 26,181 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 0 | 492 | 0 | 15 | 220 | 735 | 1,462 |
| Georgia | 0 | 17 | 924 | 160 | 0 | 0 | 1,101 |
| India | 90 | 3,787 | 1,962 | 5,690 | 121 | 0 | 11,650 |
| Indonesia | 409 | 188 | 1,734 | 1,550 | 55 | 34 | 3,970 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 752 | 2,468 | 7,933 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11,153 |
| Japan | 1,111 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,111 |
| Kazakhstan | 0 | 557 | 4,671 | 6,835 | 793 | 0 | 12,856 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0 | 60 | 981 | 338 | 316 | 0 | 1,695 |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,032 | 285 | 0 | 2,317 |
| Malaysia | 795 | 67 | 733 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,595 |
| Mongolia | 0 | 16 | 432 | 595 | 3,243 | 0 | 4,286 |
| Myanmar | 0 | 147 | 0 | 1,585 | 1,271 | 0 | 3,003 |
| Nepal | 0 | 0 | 208 | 1,098 | 8 | 0 | 1,314 |
| Pakistan | 358 | 1,272 | 349 | 2,224 | 1,174 | 0 | 5,377 |
| Philippines | 0 | 134 | 928 | 1,917 | 388 | 150 | 3,517 |
| Republic of Korea | 466 | 255 | 186 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 907 |
| Russian Federation | 0 | 1,532 | 13,085 | 670 | 1,759 | 0 | 17,046 |
| Singapore | 11 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Sri Lanka | 0 | 49 | 337 | 151 | 113 | 0 | 650 |
| Tajikistan | 0 | 20 | 707 | 977 | 221 | 0 | 1,925 |
| Thailand | 182 | 2,926 | 1,187 | 813 | 2 | 0 | 5,110 |
| Turkey | 1,251 | 885 | 797 | 2,312 | 0 | 0 | 5,245 |
| Turkmenistan | 0 | 60 | 0 | 2,120 | 24 | 0 | 2,204 |
| Uzbekistan | 0 | 1,185 | 1,111 | 670 | 0 | 0 | 2,966 |
| Viet Nam | 0 | 338 | 2,018 | 85 | 190 | 0 | 2,631 |
| **Total** | 20,284 | 18,998 | 52,283 | 36,487 | 12,265 | 919 | 141,236 |
| *Percentage* | 14.4 | 13.5 | 37.0 | 25.8 | 8.7 | 0.7 | 100.0 |

*Source*: Asian Highway Database, 2006, and updates from member States.

**Notes*: China has 10,529 kms of agreed AH routes and 15,400 kms of potential AH routes.

**#** Other includes sea and river ferries and unknown classification.

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