

Regional Conference for Logistics Service Providers

29 June 2017
Bangkok, Thailand

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Regional Conference for Logistics Services Providers took place in Bangkok, Thailand on 29 June 2017. The 48 participants represented Professional Associations or freight forwarders/logistics services providers from 15 countries in ESCAP region.
2. The Conference recognized the importance of active participation of national associations as a way to promote dialogue and share knowledge on issues and developments pertaining to transport and logistics sector and supported the continuation of such platform for discussion.
3. The Conference was briefed of the latest activities, initiatives and projects of ESCAP which are of relevance to the transport and logistics sector.
4. The Conference welcomed the progress in transport facilitation in ESCAP region but stressed that more activities/initiatives are needed to improve seamless cross-border transport connectivity, including through the application of information and communication technology (ICT), as a mechanism to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of logistics services within the ESCAP region.
5. The Conference highlighted the threat of security risk along the logistics supply chain system and the lack of harmonization on security enforcement and risk management among countries and called for ESCAP's consideration to raise awareness of such issues.
6. The Conference noted the important role of coastal shipping and inland navigation in providing logistics services in the region and encouraged the use of such environmentally sustainable mode of transport.
7. The Conference acknowledged the usefulness of the data and information collected for the "Handbook on the Requirements for Cross-Borders Transport along Asian Highway" and supported the publication of the Handbook. The Conference also welcomed the new transport indicators and suggested additional variables for possible consideration.
8. The Conference recognized the importance of gender balance in transport and logistics sector and recommended national associations to take initiatives to promote "women in logistics" ensuring gender inclusiveness in transport and logistics sector.

9. The Conference discussed at length about recurrent issues and new challenges in achieving operational connectivity in ESCAP region, notably issues pertaining to cross-border challenges and mainly related to authorities other than transport.

10. The Conference was extensively informed of good practices and initiatives from participating national associations including:

- Initiatives to attract talent and increase the attractiveness of transport and logistics sector as a career path
- Initial and continuous training programmes for human capacity development

The Conference welcomed the increased support to such initiatives of the private sector by Governments of some of the ESCAP member States.

11. The Conference requested the secretariat to support the newly established AFFA Logistics Institute, notably in developing training curriculum and in providing experience and expertise, through mutual cooperation.

12. The Conference thanked Mr. Dong-Won Han for sharing the experience of the Korea Shipping Association in developing coastal shipping, as well as the presenters from the participating national Associations for sharing recent developments and best practices.

13. The Conference invited the secretariat to continue supporting the private sector and their respective Governments in implementing and using transport facilitation tools (frameworks, models, recommendations, guidelines, and good practices).

14. The participants expressed their gratitude to ESCAP for organizing the Conference and agreed that the next Conference meeting will be held again next year, with details including venue to be decided at a later stage in collaboration with FIATA.

15. The conclusions and recommendations were agreed on 29 June 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand.