



Strengthening Subregional Connectivity in East and North-East Asia through Effective Economic Corridor Management

**Training-Workshop Series: Workshop 1 (Hybrid)
6-8 October 2020, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

SUMMARY REPORT

1. The 1st training-workshop on strengthening subregional connectivity in East and North-East Asia through effective economic corridor management was held on 6-8 October 2020 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. China, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation signed the Program of China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor in June 2016 aimed towards the expansion and development of the trilateral partnership through implementation of joint projects. There are 32 approved projects under the Corridor Program covering several fields of cooperation.
2. The training-workshop, the first of a series, focused on policy areas in line with the agreed priority projects under the Corridor Program as well as in response to emerging challenges and issues from the COVID-19 pandemic. These include transport corridors, dry ports, and energy transit.
3. About sixty government officials participated in the training-workshop, including eight local officials from agencies involved in border crossing points. The broad-based participation included officials from national government in Mongolia involved with the implementation of the Corridor Program: Investment Research Center; Ministry of Road and Transport Development; Ministry of Energy; Customs General Administration of Mongolia; Inter-Agency Working Group on Dry Ports; related agencies/policy institutes working on road transport and energy; representatives from border authorities (i.e. road, customs, health), etc.
4. In view of constraints in conducting physical meetings, a hybrid approach was adopted. The training-workshop combined self-paced learning and interactive lecture sessions. An online knowledge resource portal was created, housing all learning materials and proceedings from the training-workshop.¹ ESCAP worked closely with experts in developing the learning materials as well as in conducting the live lectures.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/resources/strengthening-subregional-connectivity-east-and-north-east-asia-through-effective-economic>

5. ESCAP worked closely with partners in delivering the training-workshop. Mongolia's UN Country Team, through UNDP, provided logistical support on meeting arrangements. Mr. Tapan Mishra (Mongolia's UN Resident Coordinator) delivered remarks during the opening session highlighting "One UN" response. Ms. Oyu Vasha (Director General, Economic and Trade Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) also joined the opening session reiterating the support of the Government of Mongolia. Investment Research Center (under MFA) mobilized the participants during their self-paced learning and co-facilitated the interactive discussions during the lecture sessions.

6. The interactive discussions during the lectures demonstrated participants' keen interest. Participants indicated that the early dissemination of the learning materials helped in their preparations during the self-paced learning period prior to the lectures. Several participants raised queries on good practices related to the policy areas being discussed. To this end, ESCAP staff and resource persons drew attention to several reports (ESCAP reports included) listed out in the reference readings of the learning materials for participants' further consideration. Given the interest, learning materials to be developed for the succeeding training-workshops would include a section on good practices.

7. Going forward, follow-up actions include:

- a. **Knowledge resource page** – SOENEA to update the page with new reference materials (video/audio recordings of lecture sessions, summary report, evaluation). Participants were encouraged to disseminate the information to their colleagues/network.
- b. **Print outs of learning materials** – Given the high interest on the learning materials, SOENEA to coordinate with Investment Research Center on printing additional copies for dissemination.
- c. **Succeeding training-workshops** – SOENEA to consult relevant officials (through Investment Research Center) on the specific issues/sub-topics to focus on under the policy areas to be covered in succeeding workshops: railway, trade facilitation; feasibility studies for agreed priority projects under the Corridor Program, including infrastructure financing. In parallel, SOENEA to coordinate with relevant Divisions' focal points (TD, TIID, MPFD) in preparation for succeeding training workshops (indicative schedule: Dec 2020 and Jan 2021).