

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Meeting on Strengthening the capacity of ESCAP member States to harmonize standards on weights, dimensions and emissions of road vehicles for facilitation of transport along the Asian Highway network

Bangkok, Thailand 19 September 2019

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Regional Meeting on Strengthening the capacity of ESCAP member States to harmonize standards on weights, dimensions and emissions of road vehicles for facilitation of transport along the Asian Highway network was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 September 2019.
2. The Meeting was attended by 31 participants from invited countries including the delegates of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Philippines, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam; as well as resource persons and the secretariat.
3. The Meeting was organized under the project on Strengthening the capacity of ESCAP member States to harmonize standards on weights, dimensions and emissions of road vehicles for facilitation of transport along the Asian Highway network, being implemented by the secretariat with financial support from the Government of China.
4. The secretariat and resource persons shared study finding on (i) existing national, bilateral and multilateral standards of weights, dimensions and emissions for road freight vehicles as well as enforcement mechanisms for both national and foreign road freight vehicles of their respective countries; (ii) recommendations on harmonized standards on weights, dimensions and emissions of road freight vehicles for Asian Highway countries; (iii) policy recommendations including institutional steps for implementation of the proposed harmonized standards.
5. The Meeting recognized the benefits of harmonization on standards on weights, dimensions and emissions of road freight vehicles as a mean to facilitate effective, efficient and seamless international road transportation along the Asian Highway network. They recognized the necessity for in-depth discussion at the preparatory meeting before the submission of the results of the study to the Committee on Transport for consideration and, if deemed appropriate, adoption or other follow up actions.
6. In this context, the Meeting also encouraged ESCAP member States to take necessary institutional steps for its implementation. The Meeting acknowledged that the proposed recommended standards would be applicable only to international road transport along the Asian Highway Network; even though it could be expanded to cover all national territory as decided by respective countries.
7. As such, the Meeting requested the secretariat to continue provide relevant support and assistance to member States on the implementation of the proposed standards, as well

as enforcement mechanisms, through further consultations/studies, depending on budget availability

8. The Meeting also recognized the importance of updated and high-quality statistical data on the infrastructure status of the Asian Highway network as data is the basis to conduct good research and analysis; as well as benchmarking tools for policymakers' decision making; hence requested the secretariat to maintain the Asian Highway Database. In this context, the Meeting also acknowledged that some countries require technical assistance in data collection and requested the secretariat to provide appropriate support through conducting trainings/meetings.
9. The participants thanked the secretariat for organizing the Regional Meeting, Government of China for the financial support to the project.
10. These Conclusions and Recommendations were agreed on 19 September 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.