

Regional Meeting on
**Design Standards for Road Infrastructure Safety Facilities
for the Asian Highway Network**

Bangkok, 30 and 31 August 2017

Meeting report

1. The Regional Meeting on Design Standards for Road Infrastructure Safety Facilities for the Asian Highway Network was held in Bangkok on 30 and 31 August 2017. The programme of the meeting is attached as annex 1 to the present report.
2. The meeting was attended by participants from Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. Representatives of the International Road Assessment Programme and the Korea Expressway Corporation also attended the Meeting.
3. The Meeting reaffirmed that the Asian Highway Network is of paramount importance in supporting regional integration and cohesion, and provided a framework for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The ESCAP secretariat presented the findings and recommendations of its work relating to the development of design standards for road infrastructure safety facilities for the Asian Highway network. It highlighted that these findings and recommendations supported the objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) and served the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 3 on good health and well-being that seeks to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020.
5. The secretariat further stressed that these findings and recommendations were aligned also with the Declaration on Sustainable Transport Connectivity in Asia and the Pacific adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Transport held in Moscow in December 2016 and endorsed by the Commission at its 73rd session through resolution 73/4 of May 2017, in particular Annex VI to the Declaration entitled "Regional Road Safety Goals, Targets and Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2016-2020" which vows to develop the Asian Highway network as a model of road safety.

6. The Meeting agreed that the social and economic impact of road crashes in the ESCAP region could no longer be ignored and acknowledged that addressing the issue of road safety was a shared responsibility. In this respect, the Meeting recognized the need for collective action and welcomed the coordinating role of ESCAP in spearheading regional initiatives to reduce the number and severity of road crashes.
7. The Meeting recognized the strong correlation between infrastructure design and road safety and in this regard noted that Asian Highway roads in the primary class have the best safety record, while those below class III have the worst record.
8. The Meeting further acknowledged that, as regional transport connectivity improves, more road traffic could be expected to cross national borders between countries with different road signs, signals and markings, and that this situation posed a heightened risk of accidents to international drivers. In this respect, the Meeting recognized that the realization of harmonized driving conditions across the region should receive high priority and welcomed the work of the secretariat on design standards for road infrastructure safety facilities.
9. The Meeting recognized that the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network already contained a number of provisions relating to design standards for Asian Highway routes and agreed that the Agreement provided a good institutional platform for the coordinated development of road safety infrastructure facilities following harmonized standards.
10. In this respect, the Meeting acknowledged that the current stipulation on road safety contained in the Agreement could be strengthened and also acknowledged the work of the secretariat in developing a draft annex IV to the Agreement to provide guidance on design standards for road infrastructure safety facilities.
11. The secretariat presented the design standards for road infrastructure safety facilities to be addressed in the draft annex IV to the Agreement and the related design guidelines. Recognizing the wide range of local conditions/constraints existing across the region, the secretariat highlighted that in preparing the draft annex, it had endeavoured to strike a balance between keeping the standards broad enough to be considered by member countries, yet laying down important requirements that are precise enough to be meaningful in saving lives.
12. Following the presentations by the secretariat, participants shared their respective experience and challenges, and engaged in constructive discussions with a view to enhancing the draft annex and the related design guidelines.
13. The Meeting also acknowledged that some countries may already have road infrastructure safety systems equal or above the design standards proposed for inclusion in the draft annex.

14. The Meeting took note of the information provided by the secretariat on how the Agreement worked in relation to proposing, circulating, considering and adopting amendments.
15. While reviewing the draft annex, the Meeting acknowledged that more facilities could be included in the annex in future. However, it recognized that it was a good start towards addressing a number of infrastructure-related safety issues and reducing the number of road crashes and associated fatalities. In this respect, the Meeting requested the secretariat to finalize the draft annex on the basis of the discussions of the Meeting and agreed to have the finalized annex proposed as an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network for consideration of the Working Group on the Asian Highway at its 7th meeting scheduled to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 12 and 13 December 2017.
16. The delegation of the Republic of Korea informed the Meeting that its government will formally propose the amendment to the secretariat so that it can be tabled for consideration of the Working Group at its 7th meeting. The delegations of Japan and the Russian Federation informed the Meeting that the draft annex proposed by the secretariat was still under consideration by the relevant authorities in their countries. The Meeting agreed that the draft annex be titled Asian Highway Design Standards for Road Safety.
17. The secretariat used the Meeting to brief participants on its work relating to the establishment of an intergovernmental international road organization.
18. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the Korea Expressway Corporation for its briefing via a short video on the status of research towards the development of smart highways in the Republic of Korea. It also expressed its appreciation to the representative of the International Road Assessment Programme for sharing the work of his organization in providing user friendly tools to measure the level of safety of individual roads and its recent initiative on developing an Apps software to make school trips safer.
19. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the Korea Expressway Corporation for its financial assistance towards organizing the meeting. It also expressed its gratitude to the secretariat for its extensive work in developing the draft annex and for convening the Meeting.
20. The regional meeting on design standards for road safety infrastructure facilities for the Asian Highway network adopted the present report on 31 August 2017.

Regional Meeting on
Road Safety Facility Standards for the Asian Highway
 Bangkok, 30-31 August 2017

PROGRAMME OF THE MEETING

Day 1

Wednesday, 30 August 2017

	REGISTRATION of participants – Ground floor	08.30 – 09.00
	OPENING remarks Mr CHARTIER Pierre <i>Chief, Transport Infrastructure Section Transport Division, ESCAP</i> Dr CHO Sung-Min <i>Director Research & Development Korea Expressway Corporation</i>	09.00 – 09.40
	ESCAP's PROJECT on standards for road safety facilities along the Asian Highway Network Mr AHMED Ishtiaque, ESCAP's Transport Division	09.40 – 10.00
	COFFEE break	10.00 – 10.30
	REVISED DRAFT ANNEX IV on road infrastructure safety facility standards for the Asian Highway network Mr KWONG TH Glenn Julian, International Consultant	10.30 – 11.30
	LUNCH break	11.30 – 13.00
	GROUP DISCUSSION on revised Annex IV on road infrastructure safety facility standards for the Asian Highway network	13.00 – 14.30
	SECRETARIAT's COMMUNICATION on the establishment of an International Road Organization Mr CHARTIER Pierre, ESCAP's Transport Division	14.30 – 15.00
	COFFEE break	15.00 – 15.30



GROUP ACTIVITY on the use of the iRAP online software to rate road infrastructure

15.30 – 16.30

Mr SMITH Greg, Regional Director, iRAP

Day 2

Thursday, 31 August 2017



REVISED GUIDELINES on road infrastructure safety facilities

09.00 -10.00

Mr KWONG TH Glenn Julian, International Consultant



COFFEE break

10.00 – 10.30



GROUP DISCUSSION on revised detailed technical guidelines

10.30 – 11.30



LUNCH break

11.30 – 13.00



REVISED DRAFT ANNEX IV on road infrastructure safety facility standards for the Asian Highway network

13.00 – 14.00

(! incorporating comments received on previous day)



EXPERIENCE SHARING

14.00 – 15.00

Smart Highways

Video by KOREA EXPRESSWAY CORPORATION

Making school trips safer – the new star rating App

Mr SMITH Greg, Regional Director, iRAP

Seeing Asian on the Asian Highway

Movie by KOREA EXPRESSWAY CORPORATION



COFFEE break

15.00 – 15.30



EXPERIENCE SHARING (cont'd)

15.30 – 16.00



ADOPTION of meeting report

16.30 – 17.00