



ENHANCING REGIONAL INTEGRATION OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN NORTH AND CENTRAL ASIA THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY

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The fundamental components of any strategy for integration process

- Strong political will;
- Collective win-win cooperation;
- Assessing overall gains and opportunities;
- Do not compare the gains with a single member;
- Assess the aggregate cost and benefits in the mid-term and long term;
- Developing a good understanding of the socio-economic challenges of early stages of integration process;



institutional factors

- Regional Integration is a process not a project;
- Executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the government should synergize their policies and actions to facilitate this process;
- Policy and decision makers should create and enhance the institutional and human capital capacities to engage in such a process;
- The national institutions and bodies should be prepared to engage in a long-term process;
- Establishing or improving regional institutions and arrangements with sufficient powers invested in them for various relevant fields;
- To benefit from various existing sub-regional and regional arrangements to expedite integration process;



Involvement of non-governmental actors in integration process

- The integration process should not be limited to the government bodies and institutions;
- The private sector through engagement of various businesses and economic enterprises could play a pivotal role in facilitating integration;
- The role of academician and civil society organisations to facilitate integration process;
- The role of mass media in awareness raising and enhancing understanding about various aspects of integration process;



Benefiting from existing institutional arrangements

- Utilizing various regional and sub-regional arrangements and institutions for facilitating integration.
- UNESCAP various arrangements and agreements such as Asian Highways, Trans Asian Railways, Dry ports, paperless Trade Agreement, Asian Energy Highway, Asia- Pacific Information Superhighway.
- ECO agreements and institutions in various fields;
- Eurasian Economic Union arrangements and institutions;
- The One Belt, One Road Initiative;



Our resources and our geographical location

- Located between emerging East Asia, South Asia, industrial and developed European Continent, and the Middle East;
- Rich oil, gas and mineral resources;
- Enormous potentials for producing food and agricultural products;
- Well educated young population;
- Astonishing cultural heritages and natural land escapes for expansion of tourism;



Opportunities and Challenges of Transit Transport

- Our geographical location and increasing trade among East Asia with Europe and the Middle East;
- Land transport corridors could transform transit transport as one of the major sectors in the economy and source of income;
- Physical and non-physical barriers continue to constrain transit and integrated intermodal transport system at the national, sub-regional and regional levels;
- Developing logistic and trade facilitation services to facilitate trade and economic cooperation;



Enhancing the benefits of transit transport in our region

- Developing logistic services in transit routes to support transport corridors in our region;
- Establishing businesses and enterprises along transport and transit corridors and connecting them to markets across and beyond the region through efficient and affordable transport;
- Developing integrated intermodal transport through establishing Dry ports to promote efficiency and reduce the cost of transport of goods;
- Reducing the cost of trade through harmonized norms, procedures and standards;
- Promoting sustainable, affordable, safe and environment friendly transport system across the region;

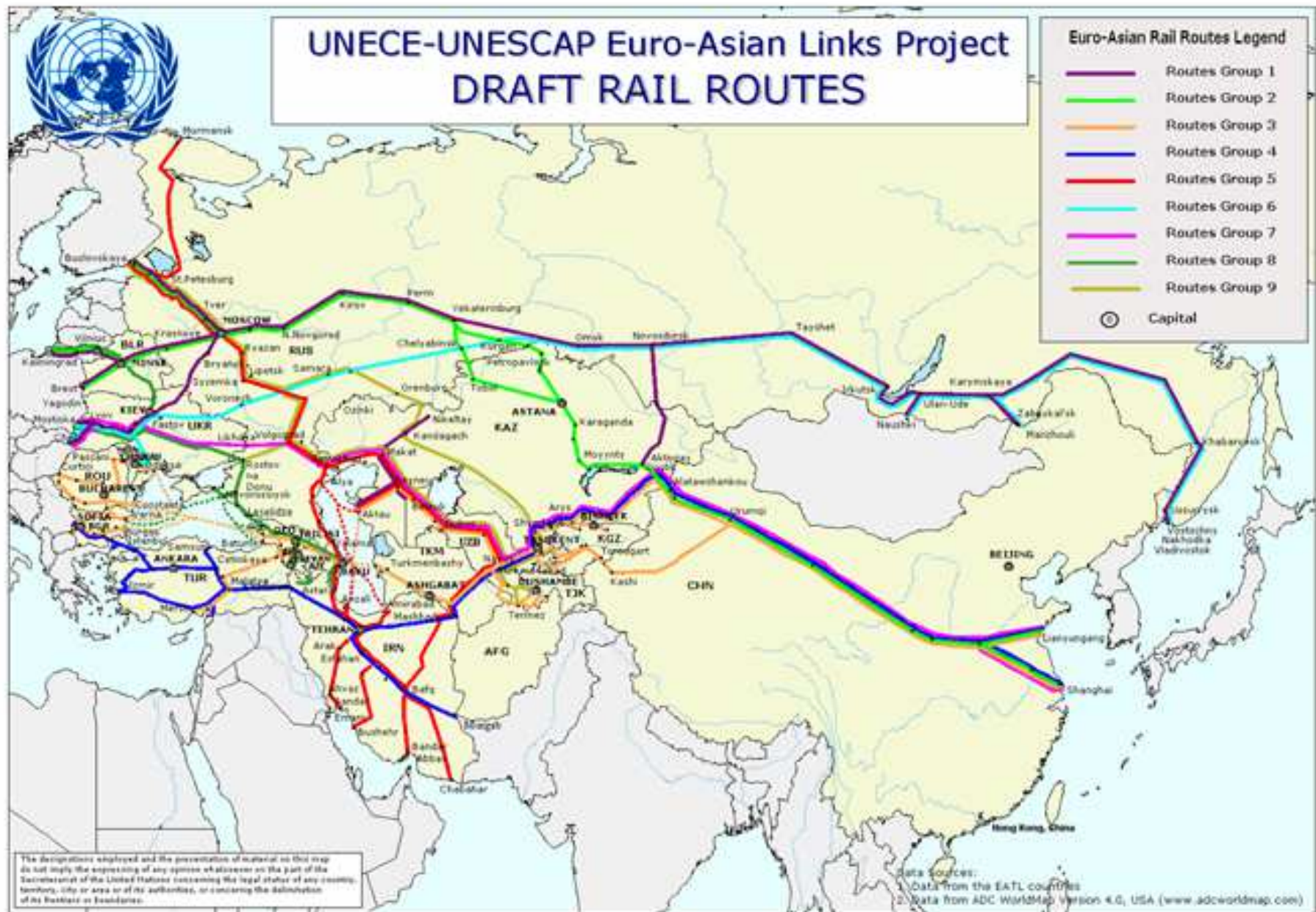
Harmonization of modalities and procedures among various arrangements and agreements

- We do not need to reinvent the wheel and should benefit from the existing arrangements and agreements in the field of transport;
- Various UNESCAP agreements in the field of transport could provide a platform to address the missing links across the region;
- The One Belt, One Road Initiative could provide strong support for developing transport infrastructure;
- The ECO initiatives on operationalization of cargo trains from the Central Asia to the various sea ports;
- The need to harmonize modalities, guidelines and procedures among various initiatives and agreements;

ASIA

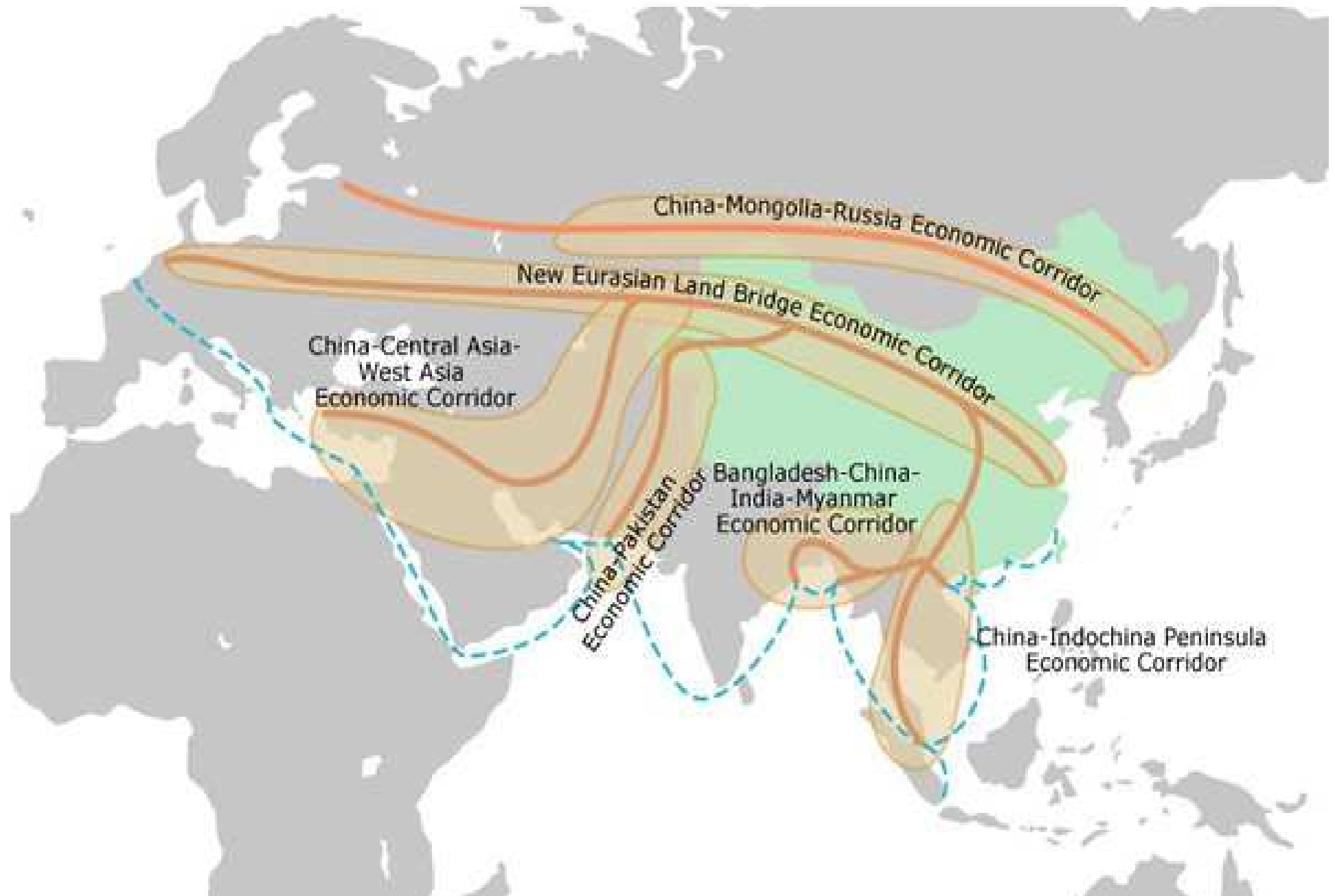


Main Euro-Asian rail routes



Source: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

The BRI: Six Economic Corridors Spanning Asia, Europe and Africa







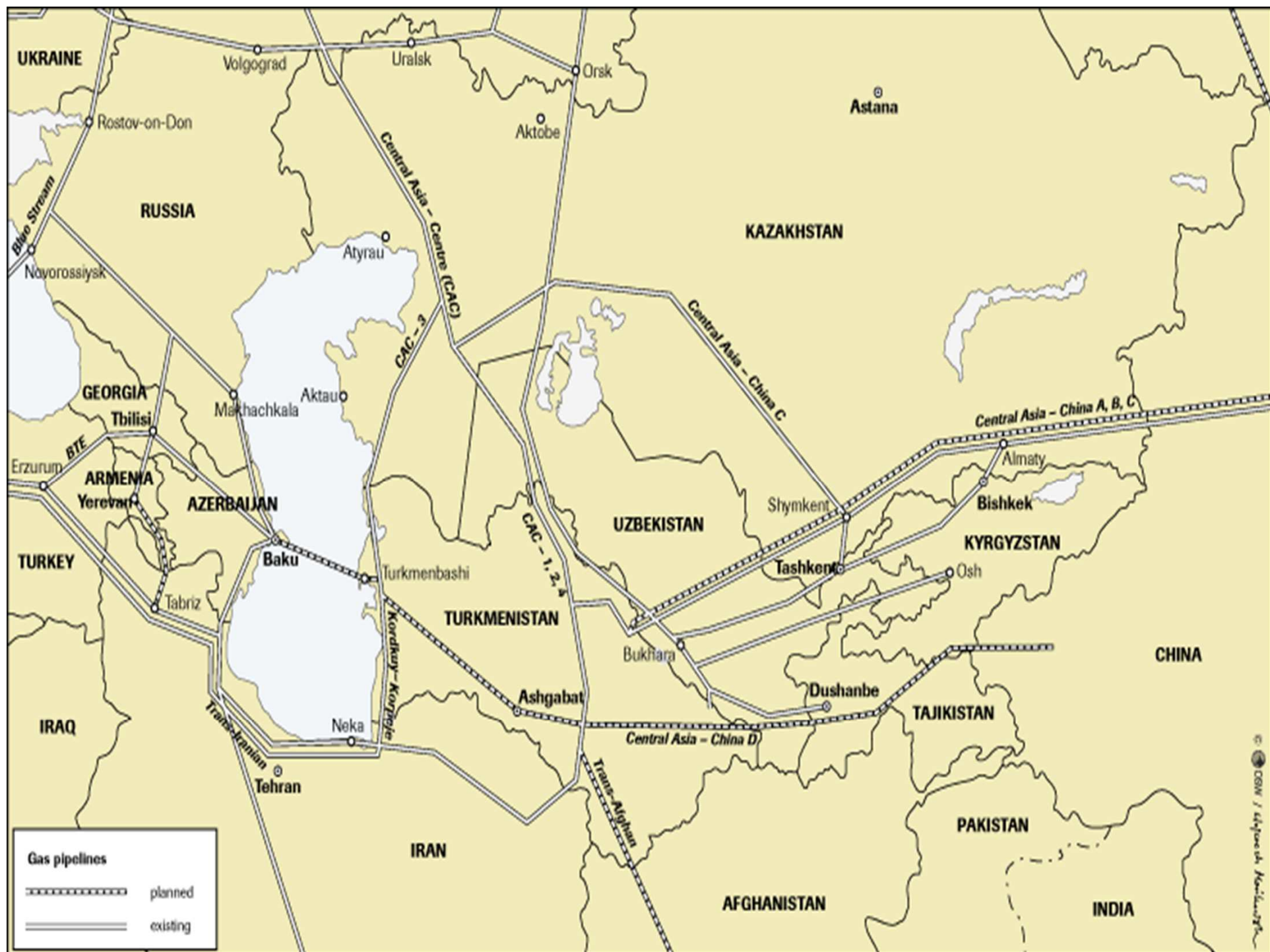
The necessity for energy cooperation at the regional level

- Energy demand in Asia and Pacific forecasted to double by 2050;
- ESCAP initiative through its energy forum to develop a continental energy connectivity and market;
- Trans-boundary and regional energy cooperation will have profound contribution for supplying Central Asian energy resources to address the growing demand;
- CA regional cooperation in the field of energy could provide various opportunities in energy services and expansion of related markets;
- Regional energy cooperation should have a long term vision to make the related investments reasonable, feasible and cost-effective;



Regional cooperation for generating and marketing electricity

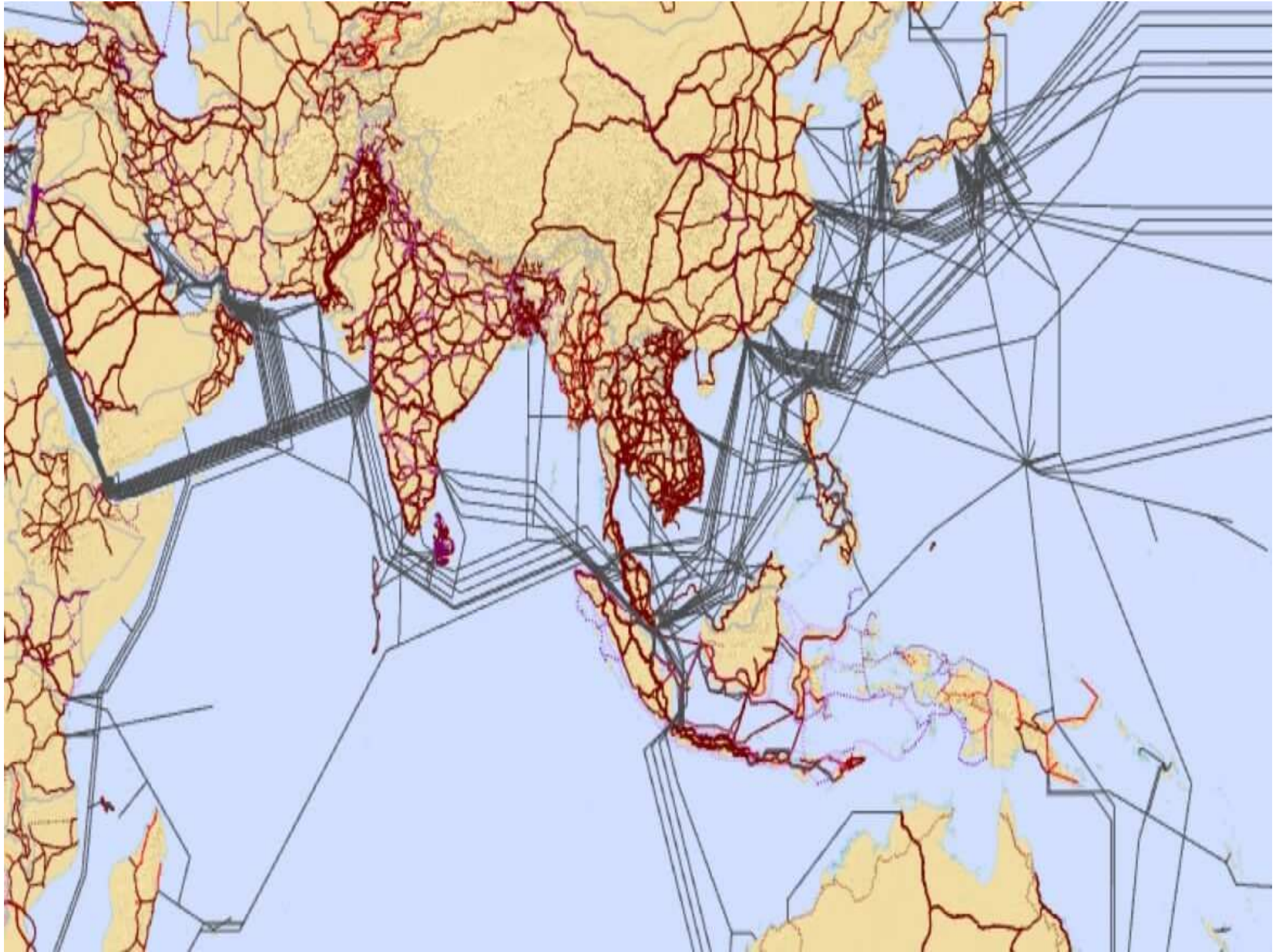
- The need for electricity is increasing very fast in Asia and Electricity black outs have terrible impacts on productive capacity in the continent;
- The ESCAP initiative for an energy highway to use the time zones, oversupply of electricity in some countries and different climate to address this challenge;
- We should not limit ourselves to oil and gas rather the electricity can also provide a new field for expanding energy cooperation;
- Creating a regional electricity market could help to exchange electricity on an affordable price and even transmit electricity to other parts of the continent;
- ECO various initiatives such as ECO Regional Electricity Market, Caspian Energy Grid, and Gas-to-Power/Wire;





Contribution of ICT to sustainable development

- UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway initiative, Master Plan for the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway and Regional Cooperation Framework;
- The contribution of ICT to economic growth, education, health and even increasing the Transport and energy market efficiency;
- Its role in growing people to people connectivity and promoting business connection;
- Facilitating paperless trade, custom procedures and investment at the regional level, which is crucial for sustainable development of the CA region;

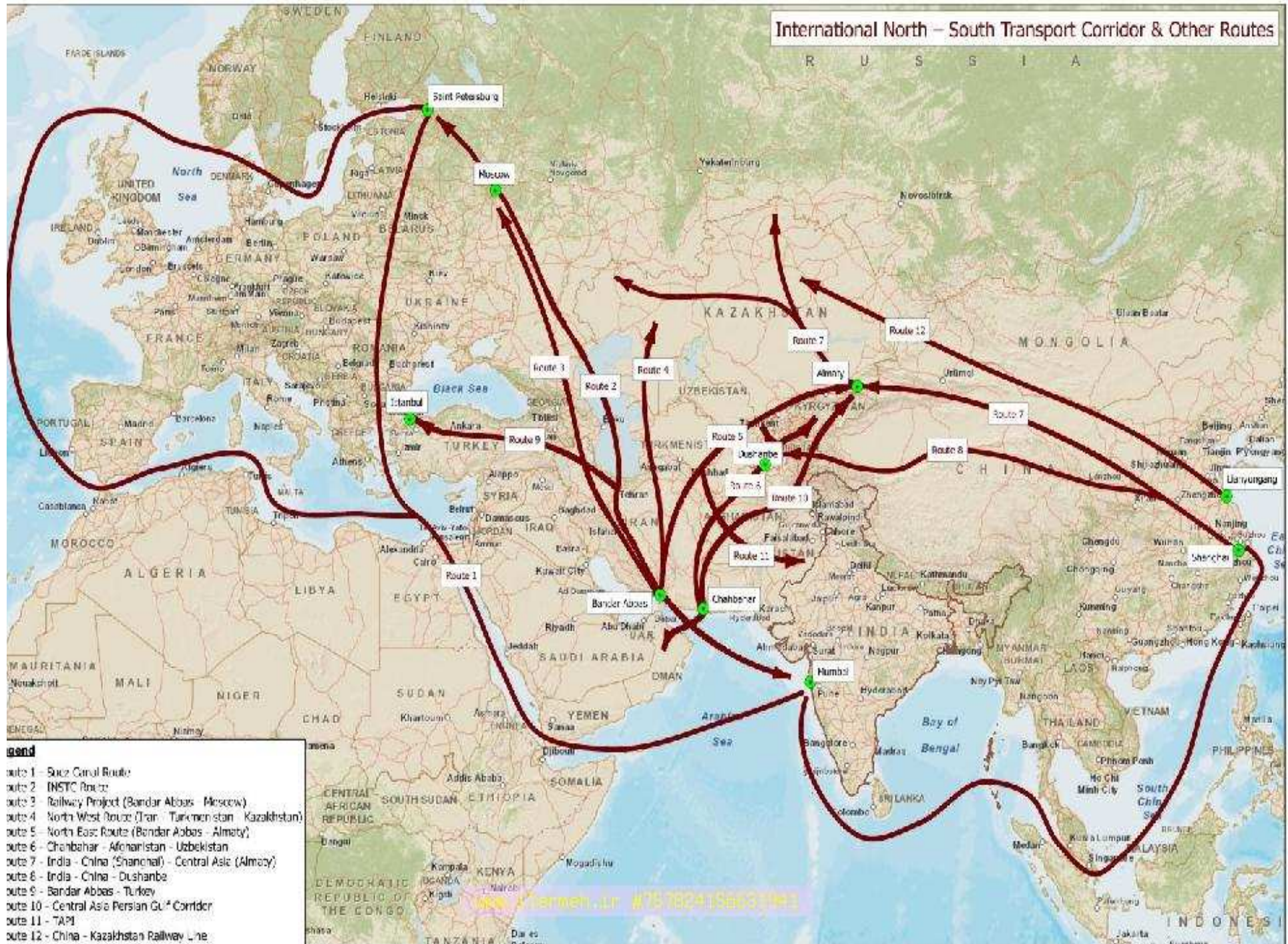




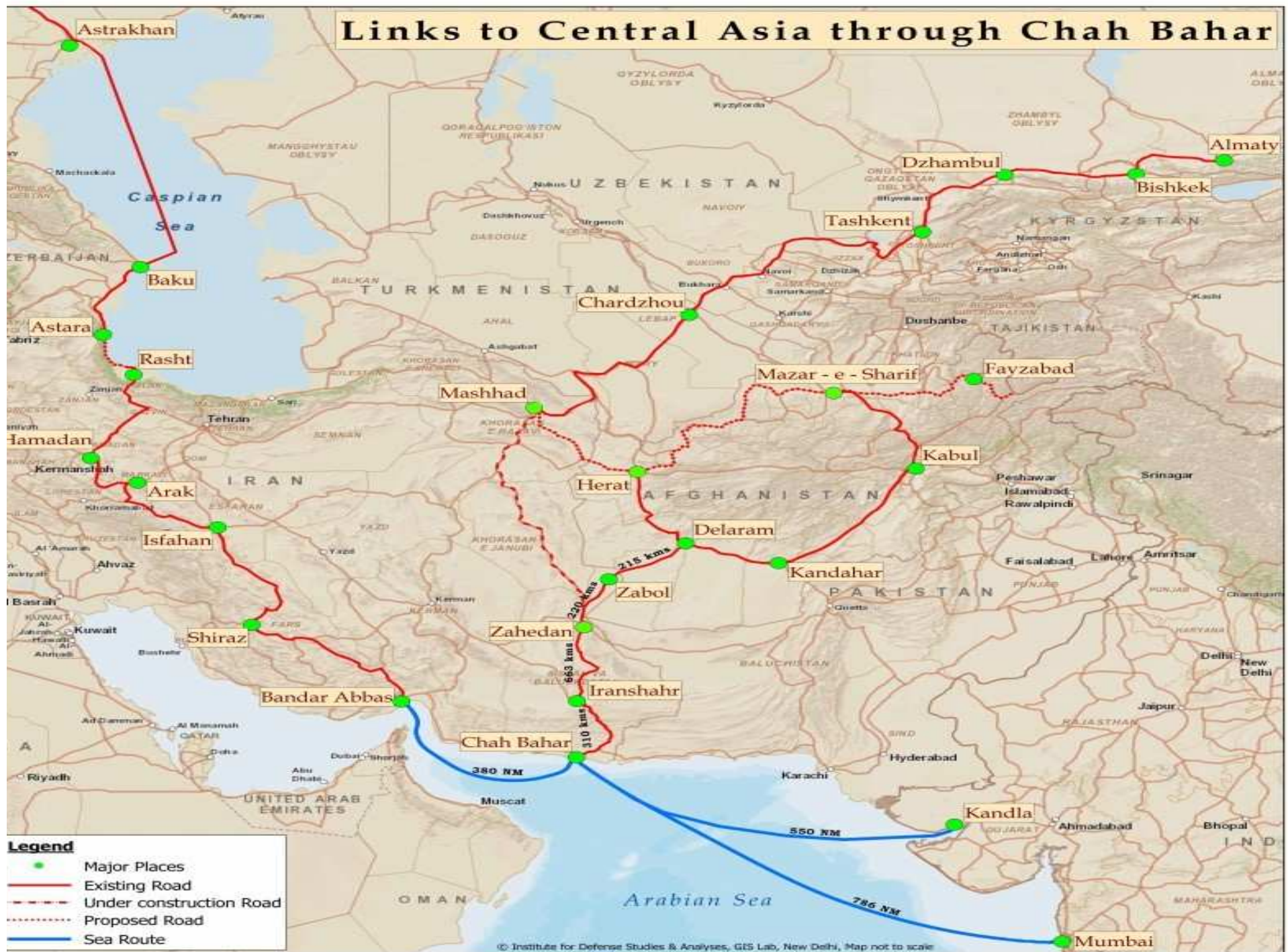
What I.R.Iran can contribute and offer in the field of Transport

- Transit transport from and to South Asia and South-East Asia through its territory and its ports;
- Providing road and railroad connectivity to the Middle East for expanding of CA trade and investment with this region;
- Providing road and railroad connectivity to the Mediterranean sea ports and its littoral countries;
- Providing port and other logistic services for sea transport for land lock CA regional countries;
- Expanding its rail road connectivity with Central Asian Countries, as a more sustainable and environment friendly transport modal;

International North – South Transport Corridor & Other Routes



Links to Central Asia through Chah Bahar









Cooperation of Iran in the field of energy

- Iran has strong capacities in the field of oil and gas exploration and distribution;
- Various energy enterprises in Iran are involved in providing various services in up stream and down stream activities, and are willing to cooperate with their partners in CA countries;
- Creating a regional market for oil, gas and petrochemical products and energy services;
- Seek the opportunities for joint investment in oil and gas refineries and petrochemical plants;
- Consider the possibilities for establishing and developing financial mechanism and instruments for promoting investment in the field of energy at the regional level;

Transit and transport of oil and gas and energy of CA countries

- Iran is willing to swap oil and gas with CA countries;
- Iran stands ready to cooperate with CA countries in transit and transport of their oil and gas and energy products through pipeline to its ports in the Arabian Sea;
- Iran has electricity exchange with 8 neighboring countries including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan and is ready to expand such exchanges with other CA countries;
- Iranian oil shipping company could be used for transport of oil and Gas of CA countries all over the world;
- Iran stands ready to cooperate with CA countries to promote seamless connectivity for data transmission to utilize ICT for facilitating and expanding connectivity in various fields at the regional level.



● Oil Field

| Oil Pipeline

/ Proposed Oil Pipeline

● Gas Field

| Gas Pipeline

/ Proposed Gas Pipeline



