

Connectivity in the context of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals

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Contribution of connectivity to achieving SDGs



“Improvements in regional connectivity related to transport, information and communications technology and trade are of critical significance in achieving sustainable development”

Opportunities for regional cooperation (as identified by SDG 2030 Regional Roadmap)

Enhance sustainable transport connectivity

- Expand and integrate the Asian Highway network, the Trans-Asian Railway network and the network of dry ports to allow maximum modal integration and expansion of connectivity to rural areas; develop and integrate maritime connectivity and implement regional transport facilitation frameworks and other technical standards for operationalizing transport connectivity; develop regional standards including harmonization of technical standards of transport infrastructure, sustainable urban transport index, regional road safety goals, targets and indicators and handbooks on road safety;

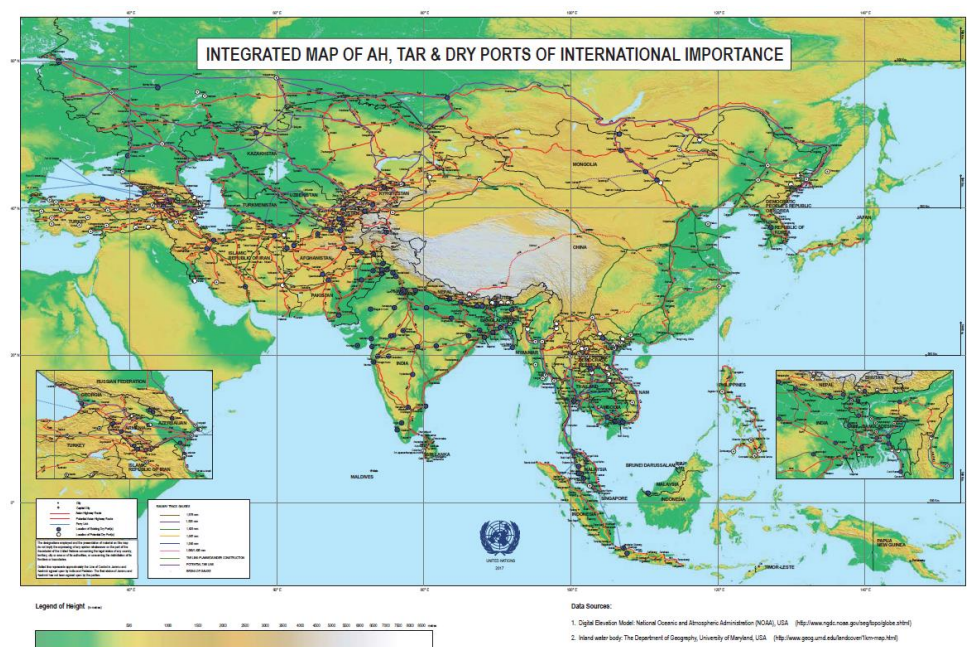
Implement the Asia-Pacific information superhighway

Develop sustainable trade

-Enable paperless trade and e-commerce and review the current approaches towards regional integration to improve their efficacy, in particular to simplify and harmonize trade and supporting regulations and procedures to make the benefits of trade accessible for all

Examples of connectivity initiatives/programmes/projects in SDG implementation context

Development of sustainable transport connectivity through integration of regional transport networks



Examples of connectivity initiatives/programmes/projects in SDG implementation context

Development of dry ports to improve intermodal freight transport and promote sustainable modal split

Dry Port Development

Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports. An international treaty that entered into force in 2016, which provides a uniform definition of a dry port of international importance, guiding principles for development and operation of dry ports of international importance and the list of dry ports of international importance to be brought into conformity with those guiding principles.

“Promotion of the regional framework for the planning, design, development and operation of dry ports of international importance”, ESCAP resolution 74/2 on the regional framework which is a supporting tool for the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports. Capacity-building provided to nineteen member countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

Examples of connectivity initiatives/programmes/projects in SDG implementation context

New emphasis on sustainable urban transport

Sustainable Urban Transport Index (SUTI) to assess and improve urban transport policies

SUTI endorsed as a tool to assess and improve urban transport policies in 2018.

Key results achieved

Nepal: removal of suspended cables in urban areas, improved footpaths, more cycle tracks, prospective plans for flyovers and subways.

Sri Lanka: transit-oriented land use and transport-planning with priority bus lanes, multimodal transport hubs and a monorail system.

Indonesia: plans to integrate multimodal public transport through the light rail and mass rail transit systems.

Viet Nam: more infrastructure for walking, cycling and intermodal transfer facilities into the already approved transport master plan.

Examples of connectivity initiatives/programmes in SDG implementation context

Digital trade facilitation – a tool to reduce trade costs in the region

The ESCAP Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific provides a unique platform for member States to implement seamless electronic exchange of trade data and documents.

The implementation of this agreement is expected to reduce trade costs by 25 per cent. ESCAP has supported the development of electronic trade data exchange between China, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea. An ESCAP-led community of practice, United Nations Network for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific has created a dedicated Task Force on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange for Northeast Asia, with experts from Customs and other border agencies

Examples of connectivity initiatives/programmes/projects in SDG implementation context

Bridging the digital divide in Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Network for Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (UNNExT) and Taskforce on Cross-border Electronic Data Exchange for Northeast Asia

Years: 2009 – present

Countries: China, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia and the Russian Federation

Donors: China, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

Supports national, subregional and transcontinental single window and paperless trade initiatives, leading to establishment of the Task Force on Cross-Border Electronic Data Exchange for Northeast Asia.

Key results achieved:

Provided technical support to members of the Task Force, including capacity-building trainings on business process re-engineering, data harmonization, electronic message design, and virtual and physical meeting facilities.

Identified common trade processes and documents, including certificate of original, customs declaration and cargo manifest; began harmonizing common trade processes for future cross-border electronic data exchange.

Completed a pilot-based cross-border electronic exchange (of certificates of origin) between Mongolia and the Republic of Korea, demonstrating the viability of cross-border electronic data exchange and fostering knowledge sharing; revealed at the Forum on Trade Digitalization for Sustainable Regional Integration in March 2019.

Examples of connectivity initiatives/programmes/projects in SDG implementation context

Bridging the digital divide in Asia and the Pacific

Interactive Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Transmission Map

Years: 2012 – present

Countries: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation

Partner: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Key results achieved:

Interactive Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Transmission Maps reveal missing links in terrestrial transmission

ESCAP assisted in its efforts to bring affordable access to ICT and broadband connectivity in the region

Mapping of regional terrestrial routes reveals missing links and investment opportunities for the development of a coherent Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway

Main transport construction projects identified, enabling fibre-optic cables to be laid in coordination with railway and road construction to ensure appropriate cost savings

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