



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

**Training-Workshop Series: Workshop 1 (Online)
6-8 October 2020**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

ESCAP is organizing a series of training-workshops to strengthen subregional connectivity in East and North-East Asia through effective economic corridor management. China, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation signed the Program of China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor on June 2016 aimed towards the expansion and development of the trilateral partnership through implementation of joint projects. There are 32 approved projects under the Economic Corridor Program covering several fields of cooperation (i.e. transportation infrastructure, industrial sector, border-crossing points development, trade facilitation and customs procedures, energy, environment and ecology, agriculture, education and technology, humanitarian). The countries agreed to implement three priority projects on connectivity: transportation infrastructure (i.e. Central railway corridor; Central highway corridor along the Asian Highway Network 3) and energy cooperation.

Mongolia established the Investment Research Center within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on September 2017 to initially support the implementation of the Economic Corridor Program. On September 2018, the three countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding which includes the establishment of the Trilateral Investment Projection Center. This will be the primary institutional support for the Economic Corridor Program once the implementation stage of the priority projects commenced.

Objectives and Scope

The training-workshops aim to build capacity of East and North-East Asian countries to accelerate the implementation of the China-Mongolia-Russia Economic Corridor Program in line with sustainable development.

To achieve this, the training-workshops will focus on both technical and institutional-related areas that would provide the foundations for the initiation of the priority projects under the Economic Corridor Program. These include project management, infrastructure financing, railway and road transport, trade facilitation and institutional support for corridor management. Issues which emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic will also be given focus, including border crisis management and coordination, dry ports, and energy.

Participants

Participation is by invitation only. Participants will be from national government in Mongolia involved with the implementation of the Economic Corridor Program, including: 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.

Organization of the 1st Training-Workshop

The first training-workshop will be held on a virtual platform on 6-8 October 2020.

Using the KUDO platform, the training-workshop will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation in Mongolian language. Training-modules and supporting learning materials will be developed in English and translated in Mongolian language.

Format and Indicative Programme

The 1st online training-workshop combines self-paced learning and interactive lecture sessions with experts. A dedicated knowledge resource page is available serving as information gateway to access all learning materials and lecture recordings.

Participants are expected to allocate time for self-paced learning prior to the interactive lecture sessions.

- a. Self-paced learning – participants are expected to go through the subject reference manual (30-40 pages) and case studies (2-3) for each subject area.
- b. Interactive lecture sessions (3 hrs per subject area) – resource persons will discuss the key points of the subject area (based on the reference manuals) and will work with participants on the case studies through review questions. Participants will have the opportunity to raise their questions during the live session.

Upon request, participants may consider further consulting with resource persons through post-training consultations.

Addendum:

Following the 1st training-workshop, succeeding training-workshops will cover other policy areas, including infrastructure financing, trade facilitation, and institution-related issues of economic corridor management (e.g. institutional/legal framework, corridor performance measurement, etc). Succeeding training-workshops are planned until Q1 2021.