Overview of ESCAP study on facilitation of international railway transport

Regional Meeting on Facilitation of International Railway Transport
13-15 October 2014
Bangkok, Thailand

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Outline

1. Background- The need and importance of railway transport

2. Current operational status or railway transport in the region

3. Existing organizations and initiatives for promotion of international railway transport

4. Existing legal instruments related to facilitation of international railway transport

5. Key issues in facilitation of international railway transport
1. Background - the need and importance of railway transport

- Rapidly increasing inter-regional trade
- Growing importance of sustainable transport
- Entry into force intergovernmental agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network in 2009
- Increasing importance of multi-modal transport with focus of modal complementary rather than modal competition
2. Current operational status of railway transport in the region

- Operational status of railway lines
- Break-of-gauge
- New initiatives for development of railway links in the region
- Missing links
Cargo rail transport in OSJD member countries in ESCAP
TAR route length spread over different gauges
**Break-of-gauge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Break of Gauge(mm)</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1,435-1,000</td>
<td>China- Viet Nam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>1,435-1,520</td>
<td>China- CIS countries, Mongolia, Russian Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>1,435-1,676</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran- Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>1,435-1,520</td>
<td>Islamic Republic of Iran- CIS countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>1,435-1,520</td>
<td>Turkey- CIS countries</td>
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</tbody>
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New approaches and initiatives for development of international railway transport

ECO transport corridors
- ECO rail development plan (2012) has identified 5 corridors to promote inter-regional transport
- Corridor identification based on consensus and willingness of countries to develop them, already operational and involve ECO member states

OSJD transport corridors
- In 2009, OSJD formalized 13 railway transport corridors among their member countries
- High volume of freight handled or expected to be handled

Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway Project
- Aims to link Baku with Kars in Turkey
- Construction of 98 kms of line (60 Km in Turkey and 30 Km in Georgia)
- Will provide access to Azerbaijan and Georgia access to Turkish sea ports

Marmaray Project in Turkey
3. **Existing organizations and initiatives for promotion of international railway transport**

**Organizations**

- Organization for cooperation between railways (OSJD)
- International organization for international carriage by rail (OTIF)
- International Union for Railway (UIC)
- International rail transport committee (CIT)
- Coordinating council for Tran Siberian transportation (CCTT)
- Asian Railway Association
Trans-Siberian Railway

http://eng.rzd.ru/dbmm/images/49/121/12503
Subregional initiatives for promotion of railway transport

- Singapore Kunming Rail Link (SKRL) Project
- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
- Common-wealth of independent states (CIS)
- Eurasian Economic Community
- Strategic framework for connecting Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) railways
4. *Existing legal instruments to support facilitation of railway transport*

**International conventions and agreements**

- **OSJD agreements**
  - Agreement on international goods transported by rail (SMGS)

- **Convention concerning international carriage by rail (COTIF)**
  - Uniform Rules concerning the contract of international carriage of goods by Rail (CIM)

- **International convention on the Harmonization of frontier control of goods (Annex 9)**

- **Convention on International Customs Transit Procedures for carriage of goods by Rail under cover of SMGS consignment notes**

- **Initiative on Unified Railway Law**
Subregional agreements

- ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement
- Protocol 6 on Railway Border and interchange stations- ASEAN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit
- CIS agreements
- Bilateral agreements in South Asia and South-East Asia
5. **Key challenges and possible solutions in facilitation of international railway transport**

- Participate in international railway organizations
- Subregional and bilateral agreements
- Issue of Break-of-gauge
- Harmonization of consignment note
- Use of Advance Passenger/cargo information system
5. Key challenges and possible solutions in facilitation of international railway transport

- Standardization of railway infrastructure and rolling stock
- Coordination of regulatory controls and railway inspections at interchange stations
- Arrangement for exchange of wagons
- Use of new technologies in train operations as well as in container tracking
- Developing human resources for cross-border rail operations
Huge potential for railway freight
Thank you for your attention

Questions/Comments?

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