United Nations ESCAP

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Policy Options for Sustainable Transport Development 27-29 November 2013, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Background and objective:

The Rio+20 Summit renewed global commitment to sustainable development and recognized that transport and mobility are central to sustainable development. In order to fulfill these commitments Asian countries need to adopt and implement various innovative policies, strategies and approaches thereby ensuring economic, environmental and social sustainability of transportation systems.

ESCAP in collaboration with KMI and KOTI is organizing a regional expert group meeting with the objectives to: (i) present findings of a joint study on policy options for sustainable transport development; (ii) exchange views and share knowledge, policies and best practices on selected aspects/key elements of sustainable transport development; (iii) discuss ways to enhance coordination of policies and strategies at national and city level and implementation proven best practices in their country/city. On the final day of the meeting (29 November 2013) KOTI will invite the participants to a site visit to sustainable urban transport system.

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting.

2. Regional overview of sustainable transport policies and practices

This session will feature introduction to global transport mandates (Rio+20 outcome) and policies relating to sustainable transport development including integrated transport planning and outline state, trend and scenarios of sustainable transport development in Asia and identify policies gaps.

3. Sustainable urban transport system

Half of the world's population now live in towns and cities, while 90 per cent of the world's urban expansion is taking place in the developing world. The resulting pattern of urban growth in many Asian cities is unsustainable and authorities are finding it difficult to provide sustainable and inclusive transport to meet the mobility needs of people. This session will consider sustainable urban transport issues in Asian context and discuss policies and examples such as integrated urban transportation planning, provision of public mass transportation, transport demand management measures and emerging technological options with success stories.

4. Non-motorized transport

Non-motorized transport is a viable and important contributor to interconnected urban inter-modal mobility solution. In order to promote it infrastructure for non-motorized transport, such as walkways and cycleways are necessary. Some policy options include the designation of pedestrian and car-free zones, provision and enforced separation of non-vehicular mode from vehicular, provision of free or rental cycles — along with bicycle parking areas near stations —Improvement of non-motorized infrastructure enhances safety as well. This session looks as the various policy options need to promote two popular forms of non-motorized transport are walking and cycling and discusses examples.

5. Green ports, coastal shipping, maritime transport and inland waterways

Water transport is often more efficient than roads and railways. Therefore policy efforts are required to increase share of water transport and railways. This session will present green ports development policies, the issues and solution to improving the use of inland waterways and coastal shipping in Asia and technology options for improving sustainability of maritime transport including successful examples from Asia and other parts of world.

6. Institutional aspect and coordination of policies at national/local/city level

One of the challenges is to ensure policy coordination at national and local/city governments. This session discusses institutional aspects and ways to enhance coordination among various stakeholders in implementation of policies, strategies and best practices.

7. The way forward and next steps.

This session will discuss applicable policies and best practices for sustainable and inclusive transport development in Asia and consider the way forward and next steps.

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