

**Regional Seminar on Development of Efficient and Effective Logistics Systems**  
Hangzhou, China; 7-8 May 2013

**MEETING CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Regional Seminar on Development of Efficient and Effective Logistics Systems was held in Hangzhou, China; 7-8 May 2013, and was attended by officials from member state governments and subregional organizations/institutions, private sector representatives and research institutes. A list of participants is provided as Annex 1.
2. The Seminar agenda included presentations by country/organization representatives on their experiences in developing national logistical capacity, including improvement of infrastructure, development of information systems for the use of the logistics sector, enhancement of national policy framework for logistics and cooperation with the private sector. The Seminar also discussed the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-NET) from the perspective of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea as well as the NEAL-NET secretariat, and private sector users. Field visit was also organized to the China Transport and Logistics Public Information Sharing Network (LOGINK). Full Seminar programme is provided as Annex 2.
3. The major conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar were as follows:
  - a) The Seminar recognized that the four pillars of efficient and effective logistics systems are legal framework, reliable infrastructure, effective information sharing and well-developed human resources.
  - b) The Seminar highlighted the benefits of a comprehensive national logistics policy to promote the development of the logistics industry. It noted that efforts by the private sector alone can result in scattered information systems, and there is a role for the government and international organizations like ESCAP to take in promoting the formulation of national logistics policy, development of efficient and effective logistics systems and integrated information sharing platforms nationally and in the region and also world scale.
  - c) The Seminar recognized that the most time-consuming and costly phase of implementation of integrated information systems is the development of unified data and also data interchange standards. It was suggested that ESCAP considers undertaking studies supporting the development of regional standards for data sharing.
  - d) The Seminar recognized NEAL-NET as regional best practice for international cooperation in data sharing for logistics. ESCAP was requested to provide support for exploring similar initiatives in the region. Participants from China, Korea Maritime Institute (the Republic of Korea) and Nomura Research Institute (Japan) offered their support in these efforts. The Seminar also noted that further expansion of NEAL-NET can lead to harmonization of logistics data, which could be used a basis for the promotion of a

standardized electronic transport document. The Seminar recommended to further develop NEAL-NET with a target of a future global network for exchange of logistics data.

e) The Seminar requested ESCAP to promote information sharing on best practices and practical implementations of efficient and effective logistics systems by organizing seminars, workshops, regional studies and pilot projects. The Seminar also welcomed cooperation with other UN agencies like UNECE for geographically wider information sharing.

f) The Seminar recognized that countries in the region are at very different stages of development and have differing priorities and concerns. It was suggested that ESCAP organizes specialized activities for countries with similar needs, like landlocked countries, to take into account the different needs of the logistics industries.

g) The Seminar noted the importance of capacity building in the industry to fully benefit from the development of information systems. Countries request ESCAP to provide support for training and technical implementation of ICT initiatives, such as National Single Window, particularly for road, rail and inland waterway transport.

h) The Seminar requested ESCAP in cooperation with other agencies of the UN to prepare background paper, which describes the best practice on logistic information sharing.

i) The Seminar agreed on the importance of finding a balance between facilitation and security. Efficient transport can contribute significantly to the economic and social development of countries, but free movement of goods and people cannot compromise the security concerns of the control authorities.

4. The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar were adopted in Hangzhou, China; 8 May 2013.

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