

Regional Conference/Forum for Logistics Service Providers and Multimodal Transport Operators

23 June 2016
Jakarta, Indonesia

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Regional Forum of Logistics Services Providers took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 23rd June 2016. The 58 participants represented Professional Associations or freight forwarders/logistics services providers from 14 countries in ESCAP region as well as the ASEAN secretariat (list of participants attached).
2. The Forum praised the platform provided by this event, which celebrates ten years of existence, acknowledged its usefulness and expressed strong support for its continuation.
3. The Forum welcomed the progress in transport facilitation in ESCAP region but stressed that more activities are needed, for example on effective implementation of existing commitments (e.g. subregional agreements, conventions) and for improving maritime transport operational connectivity, notably on effective and efficient hinterland connectivity, which was mentioned as a priority area.
4. The Conference discussed at length about recurrent issues and new challenges in achieving operational connectivity in ESCAP region, notably issues related to
 - climate change, in terms of emissions standards, but also encompassing making operations more efficient (transport and transit rights to reduce empty backhauls and loading/unloading at borders, harmonizing weight standards to avoid sub/optimal loading etc);
 - capacity building, in terms of improving the skills of logistics services providers to enhance quality of services
5. The Forum recognized that ESCAP Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport and Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport, as well as the existing and forthcoming facilitation models and tools were relevant and useful for the facilitation of cross border transport and transit, and the efficient development of high quality logistics services.
6. The participating Association shared their operational experiences and challenges. The Forum welcomed developments in Malaysia and Thailand notably concerning training programmes that have been established in cooperation with academia and Government. The Forum was informed of the intention of ASEAN Freight Forwarders Association (AFFA) to

put in place, as an intermediary solution and where needed, a transport facilitation scheme based on prime movers' swap at borders. The secretariat was invited to consider providing technical assistance on steps leading to the acceptance in cross border transport of trailers (chassis) involved in such a scheme.

7. The Forum invited the secretariat to continue supporting the private sector and their respective Governments in implementing and using transport facilitation tools (frameworks, models, recommendations, guidelines, and good practices). More specifically, Associations from Cambodia and Lao PDR requested the secretariat to organize national seminars/workshops for capacity building in logistics; the Association from Bangladesh expressed the additional need for assistance to their Government to elaborate and adopt a comprehensive Transport Policy.

8. The Forum recommended that the secretariat continues to support their Governments in establishing legal frameworks relevant for transport facilitation and logistics.

9. The Forum proposed the establishment of a Group of Women in Logistics and invited the secretariat to consider possibilities of supporting such an initiative, which would fit into the United Nations global mandates related to gender balance.

10. The Forum noted the forthcoming ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport (Moscow, Russian Federation, 28 November-2 December 2016) and its importance for setting the vision for the coming ten years and adopting a specific Plan of Action on transport connectivity across the region and beyond for the next five years.

11. The participants expressed their gratitude to ESCAP, FIATA and ILFA for organizing the meeting and agreed that the next meeting will be held in principle in the first half of July 2017, with details including venue to be decided at a later stage.

12. The conclusions and recommendations were agreed on 23 June in Jakarta, Indonesia.

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