



*High-level Regional Roundtable on Telecommunications
Connectivity in Central Asia*

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*Opportunities for enhancing connectivity in
Central Asia: linking ICT and transport*

**Irfan Rahim, Chief
Transport Infrastructure Section, Transport Division
UN ESCAP**

Transport for Sustainable Development

The Future We Want



**The Executive Secretary of ESCAP
Dr. Shamshad Akhtar**

“Strengthening connectivity is vital in our efforts to advance regional cooperation and integration. This is why ESCAP places such high priority on the development of innovative financing mechanisms for addressing the missing Trans-Asian Railway network links, upgrading the Asian Highway network routes, and the development of dry ports of international importance.”

Content

What is the presentation about?

- Overview of ESCAP's intergovernmental agreements on transport connectivity
- Linking ICT and transport infrastructure
- Possible amendments

ESCAP Inter-governmental Agreements

Transport Connectivity

- Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway (AH) Network

Entered into force in July 2005

- Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) Network

Entered into force in June 2009

- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports

Yet to enter into force

ESCAP Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway (AH) Network

What is Asian Highway Network?

The Asian Highway Network consists of highway routes of international importance:

- within Asia, including highway routes substantially crossing more than one subregion such as: East and North-East Asia, South and South-West Asia, South-East Asia and North and Central Asia;
- highway routes within subregions, including those connecting to neighbouring subregions; and
- highway routes located within member States which provide access to: (a) capitals; (b) main industrial and agricultural centres; (c) major air, sea and river ports; (d) major container terminals and depots; and (e) major tourist attractions.

ESCAP Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway (AH) Network

Overview

- 1950s – the concept
- 1960 – first time reference to AH at the 16th session of the Commissions
- Status: 29 Parties
- Entry into force: 4 July 2005
- Number of routes: 47
- Total length: 142,000 (2010)

ESCAP Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway (AH) Network

Parties and signatory to the Agreement

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan,
Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China,
DPRK, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran (IR), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,
Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines,
Republic of Korea, Russian Federation,
Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey,
Uzbekistan, Viet Nam

Signatory only: Malaysia is a signatory – recent developments are encouraging.



Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans- portation Network

of Railway Lines of International Importance

The Railway network consists of the railway lines of international importance, which refer to:

1. Lines currently used for regular international transport;

2. Lines, either existing, under construction, or planned, that are to be used for regular international transport;

3. Lines ensuring continuous transport across seas or lakes and connecting terminals in different States or within one State;

4. Lines passing points, gauge interchange stations, ferry terminals and rail-connected container terminals where Customs facilities/services are provided.