



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND
THE PACIFIC**

Seminar on Legal Aspects of Inter-subregional Connectivity

12 February 2014
Phuket, Thailand

OPENING STATEMENT

by Mr. Dong-Woo Ha, Director, Transport Division

*Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Seminar on Legal Aspects of Inter-subregional Connectivity as mandated in the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016), which was adopted by the Ministerial Conference on Transport held in Bangkok in March 2012.

*Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Across the Asia-Pacific region, subregional intergovernmental organizations and programmes have been active in promoting physical and institutional connectivity within their respective subregions. Under the framework of subregional organizations and programmes, over 40 agreements related to transport facilitation have been signed to promote and facilitate cross-border transport by road and railway. They are at the different stages in the implementation. Many of the agreements are overlapped in geographical scopes.

With increasing demand for development of regional connectivity and intra-regional trade, effective implementation of the subregional agreements has become an important but challenging task for most regional member countries, as it requires involvement of multiple government authorities, amendments to domestic legislation, streamlining existing formalities and procedures, and restructuring functions of some agencies and authorities. Strong political support from member countries, as well as financial and technical support from international organizations and institutions is needed in order to successfully implement such agreements.

The main objective of this Seminar is to provide an opportunity for the subregional organizations and programmes as well as their participating countries to share information and experience on the formulation and implementation of main subregional agreements related to cross-border and transit transport facilitation in the region, to promote the implementation of the subregional agreements

*Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

In the past two days you participated in the First Meeting of the Regional Network of Legal and Technical Experts on Transport Facilitation. I hope that the findings of the studies on subregional agreements related to transport facilitation, which were conducted under the Regional Network and presented to the Meeting, would be helpful for further sharing of experience during this Seminar.

I am confident that with your professional expertise, the Seminar will have a fruitful discussion and will enhance cooperation between the subregions in the field of transport facilitation within and across the subregions.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

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