

Seminar on Legal Aspects of Inter-subregional Connectivity

12 February 2014
Phuket, Thailand

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Seminar on Legal Aspects of Inter-subregional Connectivity was held at Phuket, Thailand, on 12 February 2014.
2. The Seminar was attended by the participants from Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Russian Federation, Viet Nam. Representatives from Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI) Secretariat, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) also attended the Seminar. List of participants and programme are attached as Annexes I and II.
3. The participants from ADB, ECO, GTI Secretariat and Russian Federation presented their experience on transport cooperation among the countries of their respective subregions, including issues related to the formulation and implementation of subregional agreements on cross-border and transit transport, and shared their views on the ways to further promote subregional transport cooperation and connectivity.
4. The Seminar discussed the ways for international cooperation to achieve greater level of harmonization of the existing subregional legal instruments for cross-border and transit transport.
5. The Seminar noted the existence of some inconsistencies between the provisions of some subregional agreements in the geographically overlapped countries and with some bilateral agreements on transport, leading to difficulties in interpretation and practical implementation of such provisions.

6. The Seminar suggested to develop the basic principles in the formulation and implementation of agreements on cross-border and transit transport to provide common basis for their harmonization.

7. The Seminar also suggested to use the approach of the amendments to the existing subregional agreements as much as possible to meet the new requirements for cross-border and transit transport instead of formulation of new agreements.

8. The Seminar noted that the experience in formulation and practical implementation of the existing subregional agreements on cross-border transport in subregions, and suggested to promote sharing of experience among subregions through the meetings among the secretariats of relevant subregional organizations, programmes and initiatives, which might be hosted on rotation basis by those secretariats, including back to back with relevant transport meetings.

9. The Seminar proposed to create a knowledge base on the main conditions for international road transport and on the existing agreements on cross-border and transit transport. In this respect, the Seminar requested the UNESCAP secretariat to develop a questionnaire to collect views on the specific needs for data to be included into the knowledge base, and circulate the questionnaire to member countries and subregional organizations, programmes and initiatives.

10. The participants of the Seminar expressed gratitude to the UNESCAP secretariat for organizing the Seminar.

11. The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar on Legal Aspects of Inter-subregional Connectivity were adopted on 12 February 2014 in Phuket, Thailand.

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