



## **Regional Expert Group Meeting on Policy Options for Sustainable Transport Development**

**27-29 November 2013  
Incheon, Republic of Korea**

### **Opening Statement by Mr. Dong-Woo Ha Director, Transport Division, ESCAP**

Distinguished delegates from member Governments, Provinces and Cities,  
Distinguished representatives of international organizations and institutions,  
Professors, researchers and international experts,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to the Regional Expert Group Meeting on Policy Options for Sustainable Transport Development. This meeting is a joint collaboration among ESCAP Transport Division, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office, Korea Maritime Institute and Korea Transport Institute. I would like express my appreciation to Dr. Sung Gwi Kim, President, Korea Maritime Institute, Dr. Gyeng-Chul Kim, President, Korea Transport Institute and my colleague Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Head of ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office for their excellent cooperation in organizing this meeting and their presence here to participate in the meeting.

I am also very pleased to note that we have the participation of senior government officials, mayors, vice-mayors and senior representatives from provinces and cities, professors and international experts, and I am confident that this good mix of participants will result in a very rich and useful discussion during the next three days.  
Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, renewed the global commitments to sustainable development and recognized that transport and mobility are central to sustainable development. The United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, has repeatedly stated that transport policy is a core priority if we are to achieve sustainable development. In order to fulfill these commitments Asian countries and cities will need to consider adopting and implementing various innovative policies, strategies and approaches to ensure economic, environmental and social sustainability of transportation systems.

Governments and Cities of our region face many challenges; The need for enhanced regional connectivity for trade flows and people's mobility; The growing vehicle fleet and associated increase in fuel consumption and emissions from motorized transport; Rapid urbanization, and the need for efficient urban mobility; Getting more freight and mobility with the maritime sector: Satisfying the huge rural transport demand with low carbon locally resourced solutions.

Many Governments and Cities of the region are already taking various initiatives to enhance sustainability of transportation systems. Such initiatives include modal shift from road to rail and shipping: more use of inland and coastal waterways, expansion of the high quality rail networks; and in urban areas, expansion of public transport networks, construction of mass transit systems, infrastructure to facilitate walking and cycling, vehicle demand management, congestion management, and emissions reduction policies.

However, much needs to be done; particularly coordination between national and city governments need to be strengthened to evaluate policy options, to make the best policy decisions and to optimize strategy and actions for developing sustainable and inclusive transportation systems.

In this context, the objectives of this meeting are to: (i) exchange views and share knowledge on policies and best practices of key elements of sustainable transport development; (ii) discuss ways to enhance coordination of policies and strategies at national and city levels; and (iii) discuss the ways forwards and next steps.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The meeting programme is designed to provide a platform to discuss various key aspects of sustainable transport development. We will begin with a session on regional overview of sustainable transport policies and practices. There will be two special sessions on sustainable urban transport system followed by a session on non-motorized transport. Tomorrow, we will continue with a session on another transport sector of green ports, coastal shipping, maritime transport and inland waterways. Then our discussion will focus on an important area of institutional aspect and coordination of policies at national and city levels. We will also discuss the way forward and next steps towards developing sustainable transport systems.

During the meeting, we will hear from academicians, representatives of international organizations and member countries and cities who will share their experiences and present cases on sustainable transport policies.

The outcome of this discussion and your feedback will be valuable inputs to the publication “Policy Options for Sustainable Transport Development” that ESCAP plans to publish jointly with our collaborating partners, KMI and KOTI.

On the third day, Friday, 29 November, a site visit for all participants is organized by KOTI. I am sure all participants will enjoy the opportunity to visit public bike sharing system in Ansan city, Seoul-Hanam BRT line and Gwanghwamoon pedestrian zone.

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Korea and KMI for their financial contribution to this meeting and KOTI for arranging the site visit. I would also like to reiterate our thanks to my colleagues of ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office for their excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

In concluding, I wish you all to have a very fruitful discussion. I am confident that the meeting will be helpful in learning from each other about various policy options for sustainable transport development and practical cases that you can bring home to initiate discussions on how to enhance sustainability of transportation system in your countries and cities.

I wish you all a pleasant stay in Incheon.

Thank you.

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