

Summary Report of Side Event

**3 & R Q Q H F W D Y O L W Transport Through Artificial Intelligence
(AI)**

During the 78th Session of the Commission of UNESCAP

**Organized by UNESCAP, Government of Mongolia, UN-OHRLLS,
International Think Tank for LLDCs**

**Held on Wednesday 25 May 2022 at UNESCAP
16:15 pm- 17:30 pm ±Bangkok Time
5:15 am ±6:30 am ±New York Time**

become a core element for the pandemic response under-recovery strategies at all levels. He noted that Inclusive transport connectivity is crucial for landlocked developing countries to achieve the

Transport Connectivity for LLDCs: Dry ports and Intermodal linkages, Mr. Fedor Kormilitsyn, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, UNESCAP

Mr. Kormilitsyn began by stating that dry ports are important intermodal linkages along transport corridors and to some extent they substitute sea-ports for LLDCs. He mentioned that some of the LLDCs, such as Lao PDR, Azerbaijan and Mongolia are interested in Dry-Ports and need more detailed national assessments, and identification of best activities on dry ports, because they have several facilities that have been nominated as dry ports, and it is very important to do a quality check of the facility, thus, updating a list of dry ports of top priority. He said that after the assessment of the Mongolia Ports, the results will be reported to the national workshop. He commended the cooperation of the Sub-region Office for East and North-East Asia and for taking the lead in funding and developing and designing the activities.

Mr. Kormilitsyn noted that the UNESCAP plan for Mongolia in 2022, is also to assess the further needs for the country to upgrade the dry ports to make them more efficient even during pandemics. UNESCAP also has a program for LLDCs in the Asian dry ports to ensure quality control of dry ports for compliance with the objectives. He emphasized that dry ports are inter-modal linkages that are designed, and the concept is designed to make them intermodal hubs on transport corridors. He went on to state that dry ports should be emphasized as key elements for transport corridors, especially intermodal transport corridors.

Mr. Kormilitsyn mentioned that China- Mongolia- Russia economic corridor is a big project which embraces not only transport but also economic aspects. He mentioned that UNESCAP takes part in developing some roads on the corridor which is the inter-governmental agreement on international road transport along the highway network concluded between China, Mongolia and Russian Federation. He highlighted the support that UNESCAP had provided towards implementation of the agreement. He mentioned that due to COVID-19 pandemic, transport operations under the Agreement were disrupted and remain inactive, however, Parties remain interested.

He noted that UNESCAP stands dedicated to offering any support and assistance on road and rail transport for better connectivity. He ended by expressing hope that Mongolia will be able to develop inland transport facilities such as dry ports and transport corridors which will be efficient transport modes even during pandemics.

Smart Connectivity along the Asian Highway Network, Mr. Edouard Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division, UNESCAP transport corridors.

Mr. Chong began his presentation by stating, that the presentation is based on three topics which are, Digitalization and smart transport solutions to enhance international road connectivity, supporting Automated Road Freight Vehicles through Artificial Intelligence, and Operational challenges connecting North and Central to South-East Asia along International Corridors. Mr. Chong mentioned that international transport connectivity in the ESCAP region faces several challenges, which impede seamless international road freight transport, and some of them pertain the border crossing requirements, for example, manual processing of administrative papers that

corridor to increase traffic and promote national infrastructure projects in particular, tollway connecting China-Russia. In terms of sea access, the country was working on sea access program 1 ó Corridor line to Russian Far East, and sea access program 2 ó Corridor line to Chinese Eastern Sea Ports.

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Mr. Enkhtuvshin mentioned that COVID-19 pandemic had brought some challenges including: bottlenecks

He went on to say that the gas pipeline is projected to be around 965 kilometres and it will supposedly transfer 50 million cubic meters of gas each year from North to south.

Mr. Enkhuvshin concluded by pointing out the importance of more intensified connectivity in the region, expansion and creation of more economic corridors, especially the expansion of the regional highway route and also the need to enhance existing trilateral Programme with more smart connectivity components like AI, Green corridor transportation, and more digitalization sector.

Building Digital Infrastructure to shape the Artificial Intelligence Landscape: the Asia and Pacific, Dr. Chang Yong Son, Expert on ICT and Development UNESCAP

Dr. Son firstly thanked the organizer for organizing the event. He emphasized th H

Dr. Song mentioned, that the 2021 UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Transformation provides concrete pathways to global cooperation (2020). He also discussed the three pillars of the AP-IS Action Plan (2022-2026), which are connectivity for all, digital tech and digital data, under UNESCAP which aims to serve as a blueprint to facilitate cooperative actions to accelerate sustainable ICT development in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Closing remarks, H.E. Mr. Tumor Amarsanaa, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative of Mongolia to the UNESCAP

Mr. Amarsanaa thanked and congratulated all for organizing and attending the side event. Mr. Amarsanaa gave a background of the Bangkok time App that calculates the time in different time zones. He emphasized the time app in relation to the use of digitalization in the follow-up of goods, considering how the COVID pandemic had caused disruptions in the flow of goods in the international trade. He finally underscored the use and importance of AI in the future. He

