

**ASSESSMENT OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORT**

Bangkok, Thailand
1-3 November 2010

Summary Assessment

The second session of the Committee on Transport was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 1-3 November 2010. A questionnaire was distributed towards the end of the session to obtain feedback from participants on its relevance, effectiveness and quality, to enable the secretariat to improve on its preparations for and servicing of future sessions. The response rate to the questionnaire was good with 71.4 percent or 20 of 28 participating delegations responding. However, it must be kept in mind that the overall number of Committee session participants was very low, which means that the responses cannot be generalized.

The present assessment has been conducted on the basis of the feed-back received from delegations together with a qualitative analysis of the draft report of the session, bearing in mind the terms of reference for the Committee on Transport as contained in resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission.

I. Attendance

The Committee session was not very well attended, with only 32% (N = 20/62) of ESCAP members and associate members participating.

The majority seventeen (17) or 85 % respondents indicated that their delegation was from the Capital – Ministry of Transport, Railways and or related agencies, One (1) indicated that their delegation was from the Embassies in Bangkok, and one (1) indicated that their delegation was a combination of representatives from the Capital and the Embassy in Bangkok, and one did not specify the composition of their delegation.

Some delegations provided comments and suggestions on how to encourage higher and wider representation from their countries at the Committee sessions, including: (a) expanding invitation to relevant institutions and agencies (b) To avoid having session during a time when other intergovernmental meetings are held. (c) ESCAP should try to fund more than 1 representative to the meeting or alternatively cover accommodation and air-ticket costs to assist countries with financial constraints.

II. Ownership

The sense of ownership by participants of the Committee was strong, as demonstrated by 40% (N=8/20) of respondents indicating that the Committee session was owned and driven by member States to a great extent and 55% (N=11/20) to a good extent, and 45% (N=9/20) responding that the overall outcome of the deliberations was a result of a collaborative effort to a great extent and 50% (N=10/20) to a good extent. Sixty-five percent (N=13/20) of respondents felt that the draft report adequately reflected the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Committee to a great extent and 35% (N=7/20) to a good extent. Additionally, 65% (N=13/20) indicated that the secretariat's in session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session to a great extent, and 35 % indicated to a good extent.

III. Relevance

The feed-back indicates that participants were of the view that the agenda items of the Committee were timely and relevant to issues and trends regarding transport development in the Asian and Pacific region. The majority 95% (N=19/20) of respondents agreed to a great extent and 5% (N=1/20) indicated to a good extent. Eleven respondents or 55 % agreed to a great extent that the agenda items reflected the needs and priorities of their countries, while 35 percent of the respondents (N=7/20) agreed to a good extent, and 10% were neutral or did not provide an answer (N=2/20). Fifteen respondents (75 %) agreed to a great extent that the benefits of their delegation's attendance justified the costs (travel, time opportunity cost of absence from the office), while 20% (N=4/20) agreed to a good extent, and 5% did not provide an answer. (N=1/20).

The most relevant agenda items for the delegations in attendance included (in order): (1) Issues and challenges in transport related to promoting regional connectivity: transport policy, infrastructure, facilitation and logistics. (2) Proposed structure of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports (3). Review of the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, Phase 1 (2007-2011).

IV. Efficiency

The feed-back indicates that member States were satisfied with the efficiency of organization and conduct of the Committee session, with 65%(N= 13/20) indicating that they were satisfied to a great extent and 20% (N=4/20) indicating that they were satisfied to a good extent and less than 15% (N=3/20) were either neutral or did not provide an answer. The majority of the respondents agreed to a good extent that the pre-session documents conveyed clear messages 75% (N=15/20), while 20% (N=4/20) indicated to a great extent. A majority indicated that the pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner, 55% (N=11/20) to a greater extent and 30% (N=6/20) indicated to a good extent while 15% (N=3/20) were either neutral or did not provide an answer. More than half of respondents agreed to a greater extent that the Committee used efficiently the time provided 60% (N=12/20), while 30 % (N=6/20) indicated to a good extent. The majority of participants also indicated that the conference services provided by the secretariat were efficient 65% (N=13/20) indicating to a greater extent and 25% (N= 5/20) indicating to a good extent while 10% (N=2/20) were either neutral or did not provide an answer.

V. Outcomes in light of ESCAP resolution 64/1

The responses regarding the outcomes relating to the general terms of reference for the Committee were positive the majority felt that the Committee was successful in addressing its Terms of Reference. The session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on Transport development addressed effectively the issues outlined in resolution 64/1 that should be addressed by all Committees subsidiary to the Commission. The majority of participants indicated that they were satisfied with the committee session addressing its terms of reference in particular; to review and analyze regional trends, 45% (N=9/20) indicating to a greater extent, and 55% (N=11/20) indicating to a good extent.

Many felt that the committee session succeeded in identifying priorities and emerging issues 60% (N=12/20) to a greater extent while 40% (N=8/20) indicated to a good extent, and promote dialogue on regional and subregional approaches 45% (N=9/20) indicated to a greater extent and 55% (N=11/20) indicated to a good extent, Additionally many

participants indicated to a greater extent that the committee session succeeded in promotion of a collaborative approach to address development challenges at the regional and sub regional levels, 50% (N=10/20) indicating to a greater extent and 45% (N=9/20) indicating to a good extent. Overall the majority of respondents felt that the Committee was able to fulfill its terms of reference to a good extent. Of those 70% (N=14/20) felt that there was no need to further improve the way the committee had addressed its terms of reference, while 30% (N=4/17) felt that there was room for improvement such as:

1. Initiating open discussions on relevant issues.
2. Enhancing negotiations amongst different countries
3. A more focused discussion, instead of generalized discussions on specific topics
4. Allocate more time to discuss country experiences to encourage consensus on draft report and recommendations.

VI. Most and least successful

Some participants felt that the most successful feature of the committee session included but not limited to; The regional Expert Group Meeting on technical and operational issues, especially relating to the dry port development agreement, Learning and sharing experiences with regional countries and collaboration with other member states, good organization and management.

Of the least successful features of the session were; Intergovernmental agreements and investments were mainly driven by specialized agencies/private sector, while member countries did not fully address issues. There were no draft resolutions submitted to the committee for its consideration and submission at its 67th session and insufficient participation on issues subject to disagreements by member states.

Conclusion

In general, participants at the second session of the Committee on Transport were satisfied with the ownership, relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the Committee. However, this assessment concludes that the second session was affected negatively by the low participation of member States.

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Annex I. Questionnaire results

A. Overall relevance of the session

1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	No Answer
a. The agenda items were timely and relevant to issues and trends regarding transport development in the Asian and Pacific region.	95 % (19)	5% (1)	0% -	-	-	-
b. The agenda items reflected the needs and priorities of my country.	55% (11)	35% (7)	5% (1)	-	-	5% (1)
c. The benefits of my delegation's attendance justified the costs (travel, time, opportunity cost of absence from the office).	75% (15)	20% (4)	0% -	-	-	5% (1)

B. Organization

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	No Answer
a. The pre-session documents conveyed clear messages concerning the issues placed on the agenda.	75% (15)	20% (4)	5% (1)	-	-	-
b. The pre-session documents were issued in a timely manner.	55% (11)	30% (6)	5% (1)	5% (1)	-	5% (1)
c. The Committee used efficiently the time available for discussions.	60% (12)	30% (6)	0% -	5% (1)	-	5% (1)
d. The conference services provided by the secretariat were efficient.	65% (13)	25% (5)	5% (1)	-	-	5% (1)
e. The organization of work prior to/in between Committee sessions contributed to the effective functioning of the Committee.	65% (13)	20% (4)	10% (2)	-	-	5% (1)

C. Substantive outcome of the session

3. To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)	No answer
<p>a). Agenda item 4: Review of the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase 1 (2007-2011):</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States review and are invited to report progress with respect to the implementation of the Regional Action Programme.</i></p>	80% (16)	10% (2)	10% (2)	0% -	0% -	0% -
<p>b) Agenda Item 5, Issues and challenges in transport related to promoting regional connectivity: transport policy, infrastructure, facilitation and logistics</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States gain an overview of major issues, challenges and current initiatives in transport in the region and deliberate on activities to be implemented under Phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2012-16)</i></p>	60% (12)	35% (7)	5% (1)	0% -	0% -	0% -
<p>c) Agenda Item 6, Proposed structure of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports:</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States gain an overview of the proposed structure and development strategy for the formulation of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports.</i></p>	55% (11)	40% (8)	5% (1)	0% -	0% -	0% -

3. To what extent did the deliberations on the following substantive agenda items meet the expected outcomes as described below?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)	No answer
<p>d) Agenda Item 7, Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Transport, November 2011:</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States are informed of the proposed agenda and preparatory activities for the ministerial conference.</i></p>	60% (12)	35% (7)	0% -	5% (1)	- -	- -
<p>e). Agenda Item 8, Consideration of future Programme Focus:</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States provide recommendations on the focus of the short and longer-term work of the secretariat in the area of transport, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2010-2011, draft strategic framework for 2012-2013.</i></p>	30% (6)	40% (8)	25% (5)	5% (1)	0% -	0% -
<p>f). Agenda Item 9, Consideration of draft resolution(s) for submission to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session.</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States endorse proposed resolution(s) by member state (s) for submission for the consideration of the Commission, at its sixty-seventh session.</i></p>	35% (7)	30% (6)	15% (3)	5% (1)	0% -	15% (3)
<p>g). Agenda Item 10, Other matters</p> <p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States are informed and decide on any outstanding concerns related to the Committee on Transport.</i></p>	25% (5)	40% (8)	10% (2)	5% (1)	5% (1)	15% (3)

D. Committee's General terms of Reference

5. To what extent did the Committee Session succeed in addressing its Terms Of Reference?	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	No Answer
a. Review and analyze regional trends.	45% (9)	55% (11)	0% -	0% -	0% -	0% -
b. Identify priorities and emerging issues, particularly those with implications for the work of the secretariat.	60% (12)	40% (8)	0% -	0% -	0% -	0%
c. Promote dialogue on regional and subregional approaches and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes.	45% (9)	55% (11)	0% -	0% -	0% -	0%
d. Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges at the regional and subregional levels.	50% (10)	45% (9)	5% (1)	0% -	0% -	0%

E. Participation

7. To what extent do you feel that...	To a great extent (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Not at all (5)	No answer
a. The Committee session was owned and driven by member States?	40% (8)	55% (11)	0% -	5% (1)	0% -	0% -
b. The overall outcome of the deliberations is a result of a collaborative effort by members of the Committee?	45% (9)	50% (10)	5% (1)	0% -	0% -	0% -
c. The draft report adequately reflects the discussions, decisions and recommendations of the Committee?	65% (13)	35% (7)	0% -	0% -	0% -	0% -
d. The secretariat's in-session interventions contributed to effective conduct and outcome of the session?	65% (13)	35% (7)	0% -	0% -	0% -	0% -

8. My delegation's attendance at the Committee session was:	
85% (17)	mainly from the Capital – Ministry of Transport, Railways , or related agencies
0% (0)	mainly from the Capital – Ministry of foreign Affairs
5% (1)	mainly by representatives in Bangkok (Embassy)
5% (1)	a combination of the above
5% (1)	other:

Annex II. Additional comments

[Verbatim from the completed questionnaires]

1. What was the most relevant agenda item for your delegation?

- Agenda item 6.
- Agenda item 5.
- Agenda item 6.
- Agenda item: 4, 5, 6, 7
- Agenda item 5.
- Agenda item 4 and 5.
- Agenda item 5.
- Agenda item 5.
- Item no. 5 and 6 were the most relevant agendas for our delegation.
- Agenda item 6.
- Agenda item 6.
- Agenda item 6.
- Agenda item 4 and 5.
- Agenda item 4 and 5.
- All agenda items are relevant.

2. How can the Committee more effectively address its terms of reference (5 (a-d) above)?

- Initiate open discussions on these issues.
- More and more negotiations among the Nations.

- By extend experts and know how to lower emerging economy like Bhutan.
- Issues are discussed in a general manner. These should be more focused on specific topics.
- More time could have been allocated for discussing country experiences, which would possibly have led into a better and more straight forward agreement on draft report/ recommendations.

3. Is there anything that could have been done to encourage higher and wider representation from your country at the Committee session?

- ESCAP can extend invitation to more officials of related Institutions.
- To avoid convening the session at and around a time when other intergovernmental meeting related to transport is scheduled. We have not had representatives from Ministry of Transport because ASEAN-Japan Transport Ministers Meeting was held in the same or an adjacent week.
- The invitation need to be circulated among different agencies in my country.
- We feel representation from two organizations namely Nepal Intermodal Transportation Development Board in addition to Ministry of Physical Planning and Works for input in connection with Dry Port Development and Management and other transport development and management would be more fruitful.
- Due to financial constraints of my government, more than one representative to attend this meeting should have been funded by ESCAP.
- To cover accommodation and air ticket cost would be encourage to the participation of Turkish delegation to the meetings. Because 4th quarter of the fiscal year (Oct-Dec) is very strict time for organization of covering these kinds of costs.

4. What was the most successful feature of the Committee session?

- Adopting the proceedings of the session.
- Discussion by expert group on Technical and operational issues.
- Active intervention of member countries. Intensive discussion on the subject issue (dry port). Sharing experiences among the countries.
- The Regional Expert Group Meeting convened in conjunction with the session enabled delegates to acquire in-depth knowledge of the challenges that face member states in developing dry ports.
- Dry Port Development Agreement.
- Very good hospitality.
- Good organizing and managing.
- Sharing of views, experience and collaboration of member States.
- Learning experience from regional countries.
- Very fruitful discussions. Especially on a target of the agenda.

5. What was the least successful feature of the Committee session?

- Future programs and intergovernmental agreement and investment drive from specialized agencies/private sector.
- Member countries did not fully address the issues.
- No draft resolutions were submitted to the Committee for its consideration and submission to the commission at its 67th session.
- Some discussion overflow on unrelated issues of a particular session made the session less relevant.
- When the session closed before the scheduled time on the second day of the meeting.
- Insufficient participation in debating on issues subject to disagreement.

6. Please provide any additional comments you may have on the Committee session and further suggestions on how we may improve on secretariat preparations for and the servicing of future session:

- We think the secretariat on the support and effective session. Further updates can be done through the internet, to better prepare for the next meetings.
- All participating member countries should submit their countries reports through presentations on the main topic and they should be informed before they come to attend the meeting.
- Keep going on current level, which is in a excellent manner.

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Annex III. Achievement of substantive outcomes

Agenda Item	Substantive Outcome	Quantitative survey response	Qualitative assessment based on a review of the draft report of the session
<p>Agenda item 4: Review of the Review of the implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase 1 (2007-2011):</p>	<p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States review and are invited to report progress with respect to the implementation of the Regional Action Programme.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 85% agree to a great extent and 10% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved 	<p>The substantive outcomes were met to a great extent. Experience was shared and recommendations made. However, the views of participants illustrates that there was room for improvement.</p> <p>Experiences were shared by the panelists with regard to Transport and development including the importance of the review of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for transport and development. The committee also noted the development priorities were now increasingly focused on international transport corridors, including multilateral agreements as part of the national transport development master plans.</p> <p>The Committee emphasized the importance of transport access and connectivity for regional economic development and noted the role that dry ports played in developing an integrated intermodal transport and logistics network for the region and landlocked countries.</p>
<p>Agenda item 5: Issues and challenges in transport related to promoting regional connectivity: transport policy,</p>	<p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States gain an overview of major issues, challenges and current initiatives in transport in the region and deliberate on activities to be implemented under Phase II of the Regional Action Programme (2012-16)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 20% agree to a great extent and 50% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved 	<p>The substantive outcomes were met to a good extent. Experience was shared and recommendations were made, however, the views of participants illustrates that there was room for improvement.</p> <p>The Committee shared experiences and lessons learned about policies and initiatives from countries in the region related to the integration of transport development by</p>

<p>infrastructure, facilitation and logistics</p>			<p>endorsing thematic areas and actions at regional and national levels for promoting regional transport connectivity, for possible inclusion in the draft regional Action Programme for transport development in Asia and the Pacific phase II (2012-2016).</p> <p>The Committee shared experiences and lessons learned regarding the persisting challenges in the region, especially difficulties in cross-border and transit transport in member countries. The Committee recommended that member countries establish and/or strengthen national coordination through national transport facilitation committees or national trade and transport facilitation committees.</p> <p>The Committee requested the secretariat to continue its assistance in formulating and implementing sub-regional agreements on transport facilitation.</p>
<p>Agenda item 6 Proposed structure of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports:</p>	<p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States gain an overview of the proposed structure and development strategy for the formulation of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 55% agree to a great extent and 40% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved 	<p>The Committee stressed the importance of development of an intergovernmental agreement on dry ports to establish a reliable integrated intermodal transport and logistical system for Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>The Committee requested the secretariat to proceed with the development of a draft intergovernmental agreement on dry ports, for consideration by further sub-regional and regional meetings, taking into account the suggestions and comments made by delegations during the session.</p>
<p>e) Agenda Item 7 Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on</p>	<p><i>Expected Outcome: Member States are informed of the proposed agenda and preparatory activities for the ministerial conference.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 60% agree to a great extent and 35% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved 	<p>The Committee requested the Secretariat to proceed with the preparations for the ministerial conference on transport as contained in document E/ESCAP/CTR(2)/4</p>

Transport, November 2011:			
Agenda Item 8 Consideration of future Programme Focus:	<i>Expected Outcome: Member States provide recommendations on the focus of the short and longer-term work of the secretariat in the area of transport, taking into account the programme direction and priorities outlined in the strategic framework for 2010-2011, draft strategic framework for 2012-2013.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 30% agree to a great extent and 40% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved, while 25% were neutral 	The Committee requested the secretariat to prepare the draft programme of work, 2012-2013.
Agenda Item 9 Consideration of draft resolution(s) for submission to the Commission at its sixty- seventh session.	<i>Expected Outcome: Member States endorse proposed resolution(s) by member state (s) for submission for the consideration of the Commission, at its sixty-seventh session.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 35% agree to a great extent and 30% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved, while 15 % did not give an answer 	There were no draft resolutions submitted to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 10, <i>Other matters</i>	<i>Expected Outcome: Member States are informed and decide on any outstanding concerns related to the Committee on Transport.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appx. 25% agree to a great extent and 40% to a good extent that outcomes were achieved and 15 % did not give an answer 	There were no other matters raised.