

Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

12th Session
13-14 March 2007
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2009

(Item 6 of the Agenda)

Note by the UNECE / UNESCAP

1. This document presents the draft Programme of Work 2008-2009 of the SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC).
2. The draft Programme of Work 2008-2009 has been developed in line with the Almaty Programme of Action (2003) and the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2006). It has been drafted by the UNECE / UNESCAP for consideration by the Project Working Group during its 12th session on 13-14 March 2007 in Dushanbe.
3. The period of 2005-2007 has been covered by 2005-2006 Programme of Work, adopted at the 10th session of the PWG-TBC in Issyk-Kul in March 2005, the Work Plan 2005-2007 for all sectors, including transport, approved by the SPECA Regional Advisory Committee in May 2005 in Astana, and the Implementation Plan of SPECA Work Plan 2005-2007, developed to combine both documents.

Issues for consideration

At its 12th session, in Dushanbe-Tajikistan, the PWG-TBC is invited to:

- (a) Review and, if necessary, modify the Draft Work Programme 2008-2009;
- (b) Adopt the Programme.

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK 2008-2009

In line with the Almaty Programme of Action (2003)

and the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2006)

1. Organization of regular sessions of SPECA PWG-TBC

Activity 1.1. The Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MOTC RK) / UNECE/ UNESCAP organize and convene the 13th session of SPECA PWG-TBC in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2008; and the 14th session of the PWG-TBC at a venue to be confirmed later in 2009 with active participation of the SPECA Member States and the support of NIITK.

2. Bilateral consultations on border crossing issues between SPECA member states

Activity 2.1. UNECE/ UNESCAP organize and facilitate bilateral consultations on border crossing issues of interest to Kazakhstan between Kazakhstan and its immediate neighbours at the 13th session of SPECA PWG-TBC in Almaty, Kazakhstan in 2008; and of interest to Azerbaijan between Azerbaijan and its neighbours across the Caspian Sea at the 14th session of the PWG-TBC in 2009 with active participation of the SPECA Member States.

3. Development and implementation of sub-regional project proposals of common interest to SPECA countries

Activity 3.1. Subject to funding availability, UNESCAP/ UNECE/ MOTC RK / NIITK and SPECA countries develop / implement sub-regional projects of common interest.

4. Establishment and maintenance of SPECA PWG-TBC databases on (1) road routes of international importance; (2) rail routes of international importance; (3) intermodal transport infrastructure; and (4) border crossing

Activity 4.1. UNESCAP/ UNECE/ MOTC RK / Research Institute on Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan (NIITK) establish and maintain the databases with inputs of necessary data/information from SPECA countries.

5. Preparation of the SPECA Guide on road wayside facilities

Activity 5.1. UNESCAP/ UNECE/ MOTC RK / NIITK coordinate preparation of the SPECA Guide on road wayside facilities with inputs of necessary data/information from SPECA countries.

6. Identification and isolation of major bottlenecks impeding smooth and efficient international transport in the SPECA region

Activity 6.1. UNECE/UNESCAP provide assistance to SPECA countries upon request in identifying / isolating / addressing major bottlenecks for international transport.

Activity 6.2. SPECA countries employ UNESCAP Time/Cost-Distance methodology to perform time and cost analysis of selected routes and border crossings for international transport in the SPECA region.

7. Establishment or strengthening of national facilitation coordinating mechanisms for improved collaboration between all stakeholders involved in international transport from the public and private sectors

Activity 7.1. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA countries, in the form of workshops, seminars or advisory services, in establishing or strengthening national facilitation coordinating mechanisms.

8. Enhancement of legal frameworks for international transport to reflect suitable legal regimes for international land transport facilitation

Activity 8.1. UNESCAP reviews implementation of Commission resolution 48/11 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures and considers inclusion of additional conventions, if necessary.

Activity 8.2. UNECE/ UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA countries, in the form of workshops, seminars or advisory services, on accession to, and implementation of, major international facilitation conventions.

Activity 8.3. SPECA countries take steps to sign or accede to facilitation instruments, including the important international conventions recommended for accession at the 2nd session of SPECA PWG-TBC.

9. Accession to multilateral agreements on infrastructure including AGR, AGC, AGTC, Intergovernmental agreements on Asian Highway and Trans Asian Railway Networks to prioritize infrastructure development of international importance

Activity 9.1. UNESCAP organizes meetings of the Working Group on the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks to ensure coordinated development of each of the networks.

Activity 9.2. SPECA countries sign/ ratify/ accept/ approve/ accede to the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway intergovernmental agreements and participate in the Working Groups.

Activity 9.3. SPECA countries sign/ ratify/ accept/ approve/ accede to key UNECE infrastructure agreements (AGR, AGC, AGTC) and participate in the relevant Working Groups.

10. Promotion of demonstration runs of container block-trains and international train services operating in the SPECA region

Activity 10.1. UNESCAP collaborates with SPECA countries to facilitate operationalization of the TAR network through demonstration runs of container block-trains and international trains to / or transiting the SPECA region.

11. Increased collaboration and interactions at the regional and national level to address transport issues in and across the SPECA region and to promote investment in transport infrastructure

Activity 11.1. UNECE/ UNESCAP organize investment forums, with the participation of international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, international organizations and the private sector, for the development and upgrading of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks, including those networks in the SPECA region.

Activity 11.2. UNECE/UNESCAP organize capacity-building activities related to the establishing and strengthening of public-private partnerships and user charging systems, as well as the establishment and management of special funds in the transport sector.

Activity 11.3. SPECA countries actively participate in the meetings of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies, UNESCAP Committee on Managing Globalization as well as other international fora that will assist the integration of the SPECA region transport systems into that of other subregions as well as harmonization with existing international standards, norms, agreements and conventions.

Activity 11.4. SPECA countries regularly report on developments of transport infrastructure and its operationalization, including those within the SPECA region and those linking to neighbouring countries.

Activity 11.5. SPECA countries take steps to improve the business environment for strengthened public-private partnership and establish and manage special funds in transport infrastructure development and maintenance.

Activity 11.6. National transport planning authorities in the SPECA countries recognize the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Networks as a priority.

12. Simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology

Activity 12.1. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical support to the SPECA countries, upon request, in the simplification/harmonization of border-crossing procedures and documentation for international transport and the application of new technologies, including information and communication technology.

13. Increased awareness and understanding of road safety issues and potential interventions, and improved collaboration in the SPECA region

Activity 13.1. SPECA countries take steps to address road safety issues in line with relevant General Assembly resolutions on improving global road safety as well as the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific adopted at the UNESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport (November 2006, Busan, Republic of Korea).

Activity 13.2. UNECE/UNESCAP provide technical assistance to SPECA countries in supporting their efforts to improve road safety and in setting regional / national goals, targets and indicators on road safety based on best standards and existing related international agreements, including those developed under the auspices of the UNECE.
