

**Report of
UNESCAP-UNECE Sub-regional Seminar on Facilitation of International
Road Transit Transport under TIR System**

A. Organization of the Seminar

1. The Seminar was held from 22 to 23 September 2005 at Beijing, China.
2. The Seminar was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with financial support by the Government of China. It was hosted by the Ministry of Communications of China.

1. Attendance

3. The Seminar was attended by 29 participants from six countries, namely, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Tajikistan. It was also attended by the representatives from the Asian Development Bank, International Road Transport Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and World Bank. Members of the UNECE Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport, TIR Administrative Committee and TIR Executive Board also attended the Seminar. The list of participants is attached as Annex I.

2. Objectives

4. The objective of the Seminar was to enhance the implementation of the TIR Convention in the Contracting Parties and encourage the non-TIR countries to consider their participation in the Convention.

3. Opening statements

5. The following statements were made during the opening session:
 - a. Statement, by Mr. Barry Cable, Director, Transport and Tourism Division (TTD), UNESCAP;
 - b. Statement, by Mr. Poul Hansen, Economic Affairs Officer and TIR Secretary, Transport Division, on behalf of the interim Executive Secretary of UNECE, Mr. Garonna, the Director of the UNECE Transport Division, Mr. Capel Ferrer; and
 - c. Opening statement, by Mr. Ju Chengzhi, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Communications, China.

4. Programme

6. The programme of the Seminar (Annex II) included country papers, presentations and discussions.

B. Presentations

7. The participants from the six countries presented their country papers. The following presentations were delivered during the Seminar to facilitate discussion of the Seminar:

8. Regional perspectives of transport facilitation and TIR.

9. Introduction to TIR Convention and its administration and status

10. Role and activities of IRU in application of TIR

C. Conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar

11. After active, constructive and intensive deliberations, the Seminar reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

- i. The Seminar recognized the important value of the TIR system for the Asian countries and encouraged countries that were not yet Contracting Parties to accede.
- ii. The Seminar recognized the potential for the TIR system to be used in bilateral transport where origin and destination of the transport took place at inland locations away from the border, for example inland container depots.
- iii. The Seminar stressed the importance of effective and strict implementation of the TIR Convention by the Contracting Parties.
- iv. The participants requested additional assistance to enhance training of Customs officers, associations and carriers, and share experience in application of the TIR system. In this regard, they realized the importance of visits to the countries with experience in application of the TIR system and on-going training courses in Europe as well as exploring opportunities for partnership building.
- v. The participants requested assistance to help member countries address the problems raised in Customs controls and supervision in use of TIR carnets among the new Contracting Parties to assist them in improving application of the TIR system.
- vi. The Seminar noted that China had translated and reviewed the seven conventions recommended by the UNESCAP resolution 48/11 and organized a series of activities to

increase awareness of the TIR system and was undertaking feasibility studies on access to the TIR Convention.

- vii. The participants stressed the importance of Customs control measures to combat Customs fraud, at the same time, it was underlined that these measures should apply on the basis of risk management. The Seminar suggested a study be undertaken to identify and share best practices in this field and in particular regarding the implementation of Customs escorts in order to avoid that the benefits of the TIR system are not undermined by non-harmonized approach.
- viii. The participants welcomed the introduction of a new Annex 10 to the Convention introducing a control system for termination of TIR transports by obligating national Customs authorities to supply certain data to the TIR guaranteeing chain. Furthermore, the participants encouraged Contracting Parties to make efforts to be ready for meeting time schedule on application of the IRU operated SafeTIR. IRU indicated their readiness to send experts to assist the Contracting Parties in installing the SafeTIR system and undertaking training.

D. Other matters

12. The participants expressed their appreciation to UNESCAP and UNECE for organizing this important Seminar, and the Government of China for providing generous financing support. They also expressed their sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Communications of China for the excellent arrangements made for the participants and the generous hospitality.

E. Adoption of the Report

13. The conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar were adopted on 23 September 2005 at Beijing, China.

Annex I. List of Participants

CHINA

Mr. Gu Xiuchuan, Director, International Cooperation Department, General Administration of Customs, Beijing

Mr. Zhan Yulin, Deputy Director, Highway Department, Ministry of Communications, Beijing

Mr. Wang Hongwei, Section Chief, International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Communications, Beijing

Ms. Sun Yang, Customs Control and Supervision Department, General Administration of Customs, Beijing

Ms. Xu Xiaojing, Official, International Cooperation Department, General Administration of Customs, Beijing

Mr. Yao Mingde, President, China Road Transport Association, Beijing

Ms. Wang Limei, Secretary General, China Road Transport Association, Beijing

Mr. Zhao Ruyu, Deputy Director, Transport Planning and Research Institute, Ministry of Communications, Beijing

Mr. Wang Wenlong, Deputy Director, Highway Institute, Ministry of Communications, Beijing

Mr. Zhang Guanghe, Deputy Chief, China Road Transport Association, Beijing

Mr. Gao Xi, Officer, China Road Transport Association, Beijing

Mr. Feng Xiangmin, Senior Engineer, Transport Planning and Research Institute, Ministry of Communications, Beijing

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Ms. Jiang Hong, Interpreter, Chinese Language Unit, Administrative Services Division

Annex II. Programme

22 September, Thursday

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:00 Opening, Welcome by UNESCAP, UNECE and China

10:30 – 11:00 Regional perspectives of transport facilitation and TIR, by UNESCAP

11:00 – 11:30 Introduction to TIR Convention and its administration and status, by UNECE

11:30 – 12:00 Role and activities of IRU in application of TIR, by IRU

13:30 – 15:00 Presentations of country papers, by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia

15:30 – 17:00 Presentations of country papers, by Pakistan, Tajikistan and observers of the Seminar

23 September, Friday

09:00 – 10:30 Discussion of issues on application of the TIR procedure:

- Access to the TIR Carnets for TIR operators
- Pricing of the TIR Carnets for associations and operators
- Customs control measures at Customs offices of departure and en route

11:00 – 12:30 Discussion of issues on application of the TIR procedure (Cont'd):

- Cooperation between Customs, national associations and authorized TIR transport operators
- Functioning of the international guarantee chain
- Miscellaneous (including other transit facilitation questions)

13:30 – 15:00 Special sessions:

- a) for countries already Parties to the TIR Convention on measures to enhance the application of the TIR procedure
- b) for non-TIR countries on issues related to the possible accession to the TIR Convention

16:00 – 16:30 Adoption of draft conclusions and recommendations

16:30 – 17:00 Closing remarks