



4.4 Identification, isolation and elimination major bottlenecks along international transport routes

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Transport facilitation in ESCAP region

- Transport infrastructure and operational connectivity issues need to be addressed.
- Political commitment and institutionalization of the integration processes.
- Eight mutually complementary transport facilitation models of ESCAP.
- Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport Along the Asian Highway Network.

Transport facilitation in ESCAP region

1. ESCAP has developed eight transport facilitation models to comprehensively address challenges and enable seamless in international road transport in the region:

- The time cost distance methodology
- The model bilateral agreement on international road transport
- The model subregional agreement on transport facilitation
- The model multilateral permit for international road transport
- The efficient cross border transport models
- The model on integrated controls at the border crossing
- The secure cross border transport model
- The standard model of logistics information systems

ESCAP activities for cross-border transport facilitation

1. A study under the project “Comprehensive planning of Eurasian Transport Corridors”.
2. Finalized in 2017. Available at <https://www.unescap.org/resources/comprehensive-planning-eurasian-transport-corridors-strengthen-intra-and-inter-regional>. The study:
 - reviewed the quality of existing infrastructure network along major corridors; identified major economic centers along the corridors as well as short-term and long-term national transport development plans and strategies; shared experience in methodologies for investment prioritization of transport related projects; and assessed operational status along the corridors, including border-crossing issues; identified remaining infrastructure gaps and facilitation challenges along the corridor and national/transnational initiatives to mitigate the challenges; considered requirements for setting up institutional mechanisms for the effective operationalization of the corridor.

ESCAP Transport Facilitation Frameworks

Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport (2012)	Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport (2015)
<p>Common fundamental elements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road transport permits & traffic rights 2. Visas for professional drivers & crews 3. Temporary importation of road vehicles 4. Insurance of vehicles 5. Vehicle weights & dimensions 6. Vehicle registration & inspection certificates <p>Key modalities for facilitation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building an effective legal regime 2. Wider application of new technologies 3. Development of professional training 4. Establishment/strengthening of national coordination mechanisms 5. Promotion of joint control at border crossings 6. Promotion of economic zones at border crossings, dry ports and logistics centres 7. Further application of facilitation tools 	<p>Four fundamental issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standards for railway infrastructure, facilities and equipment 2. Break-of-gauge 3. Different legal regimes for railway transport contracts 4. Coordination of regulatory controls and inspections at border-interchange stations <p>Areas for cooperation among the member countries for the facilitation of international railway transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in international railway organizations 2. Formulate subregional and bilateral agreement 3. Collaborate to standardize cross-border railway operations 4. Use of advance passenger/cargo information systems 5. Arrangement for exchange of wagons 6. Use of new technologies in train operations as well as in container tracking 7. Develop human resources for cross-border railway operations 8. Establish logistics centres/dry ports and maintenance hubs at or near the border interchange stations 9. Simplify intermodal interface of railway with other modes of transport 10. Promote and encourage corridor approach in facilitation of international railway transport 11. Work towards paperless railway freight transport

Cross-border railway transport facilitation

1. SPECA countries are making efforts to improve railway transport and numerous projects are underway to provide connectivity between Asia and Europe through Central Asia and the South Caucasus.
2. Technical and operational interoperability of railways is not clear and there appears to be a divergence in various technical standards and operational procedures
3. Critically important to increase the reliability and predictability of freight train services. Railway border crossing procedures need to be streamlined to reduce administrative burdens and delays.
4. ESCAP is undertaking a study on railway border crossings to enhance understanding of the processes involved with a view to suggesting streamlining of procedures.

Cross-border railway transport facilitation (cont'd)

1. Project “Development of seamless rail-based intermodal transport services in Northeast and Central Asia for enhancing Euro-Asian transport linkages”
2. Study reports:
 - Documentation and Procedures for the Development of Seamless Rail-Based Intermodal Transport Services in Northeast and Central Asia, including a proposed unified multimodal transport document
 - Information Technology for Seamless Rail-Based Intermodal Transport Services in Northeast and Central Asia to Enhance Euro-Asian Transport Linkages
3. Seminar on Development of Rail-based Intermodal Transport for Enhancing Euro-Asian Transport Connectivity in Moscow on 7 December 2017 as a side event to the “Transport Week-2017”

Cross-border railway transport facilitation (cont'd)

1. Project on Harmonization of rules and regulations for facilitation of international railway transport in the region.

2. Three studies:

- The first study on border crossing practices in international railway transport documents the processes at few selected railway border crossings in the region and proposes measures to enhance the efficiency of the railway border crossings.
- The second study on enhancing interoperability to facilitate international railway transport along the international railway corridors identifies three dimensions of interoperability.
- The third study on electronic information exchange systems for international railway transport reviews the existing systems for electronic exchange of information for international railway transport.

Thank you!

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