

**Item 3(b): Environmentally Sustainable  
Transport Systems and Services**

1. We compliment the Secretariat for thoughtfully bringing out the significance of development of environmentally sustainable transport system and services. The note rightly highlights the need to promote low carbon transport and clean technologies that will contribute to transport emissions reduction.
2. The central issue in transport policy and planning is to determine optimal inter modal mix in the context of dynamic growth of the economy. This necessitates integration of economic, social and environmental imperatives into development of transport networks and promoting rational modal choices.
3. We reckon, the first step in this direction is to undertake empirical studies of working out social costs and traffic flows of different modes of transport. Past studies have largely addressed financial and economic costs only ignoring the cost of externalities. The next step is the adoption of efficient pricing and charges with the aim of promoting sustainability.
4. The Institute has been seriously engaged with both the systemic approaches. It has carried out a comparative study of rail and road modes. In the area of pricing, the Institute, along with UNESCAP, had carried out a study on sustainable transport pricing and charges. The joint publication is available both in hard and soft forms.
5. We wish to submit that in the calculus of evaluating modal choices, use of land by different modes also needs to be built in. This aspect has assumed great importance for countries with large population and relatively limited land endowments. For instance, rail requires much less land than the road transport. Waterways have still a greater advantage.
6. While carrying out a comparative study of rail and road modes, the Institute developed a methodology for evaluating modal choices. AITD would be pleased to share the same with the member countries.