

“Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth”

Seventh Session of the Committee on Transport

23-25 November 2022, Bangkok.

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Excellencies

Bangladesh would soon become a developed and prosperous country in the global arena. Under the leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Government of Bangladesh has been undertaking necessary steps with a fresh endeavor to reach an Upper Middle-Income Country status by 2031 and a High-Income Country status by 2041. The transport and communication system are vital physical infrastructures that are a prerequisite for Bangladesh's socioeconomic development.

Distinguished Delegates

The government has been putting in place several acts and policy measures in recent years to address transport issues and develop the transport sector and institutions in the country.

The government is implementing several development projects through medium- and long-term plans to improve international and regional transport and logistics network by rehabilitating and developing major regional connectivity corridors. The government of Bangladesh has accorded the highest priority to regional connectivity in the development of transport networks considering the needs and problems of landlocked developing countries.

GOB has been relentlessly trying to improve transport connectivity with neighboring countries through regional cooperation forums such as UNESCAP, SAARC, SASEC, BBIN, BIMSTEC, and BCIM. Substantial progress has been achieved in this regard by this time.

Distinguished Delegates

Under the Agreement on using Chattogram and Mongla Ports (ACMP) for the transportation of Indian Goods to landlocked States of Northeast India, Four Trail runs have been completed

recently. Bangladesh and Bhutan also finalized the transit agreement, which hopefully will be signed after the necessary approval. Furthermore, it may be mentioned that the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) was signed on 15 June 2015 in Bhutan to regulate passenger, personal, and cargo vehicular traffic between BBIN countries. The Protocol regarding the operation of BBIN MVA is underway. We expect that passenger and Cargo protocol will be signed, the cost of trade will be decreased, and passenger movement will be smooth.

Distinguish Delegates

Bangladesh acceded to the Asian Highway Network on 8th November 2009. The three routes (AH1, AH2 & AH41) of 1744 kilometers (excluding overlapping section) in Bangladesh are part of the Asian Highway Network. GoB has taken initiatives to upgrade all National Highways, including Asian Highway Routes in Bangladesh, into four or more lane widths. Two missing links along the AH network1(AH1) inside Bangladesh have been completed by constructing Padma Bridge over the river Padma and Madhumati Bridge.

The work of SASEC corridor Dhaka Sylhet highway which is also part of the Asian Highway, BIMSTEC and SAARC highway corridors. has been stated recently to make a highway with six lanes with a slow-moving vehicle.

The government has made a massive move to upgrade the country's railway network. Bangladesh signed the Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) agreement in 2007. This agreement includes a requirement for the conversion of track gauge on international trade corridors to broad gauge (BG). The gauge conversion is essential for establishing regional connectivity with neighboring countries under TAR and other regional transport agreements. Furthermore, the Bangladesh government recently committed to converting its international trade corridors.

and the existing national rail network to BG to achieve inherent transport efficiencies. There are eight interchanges with India, of which five are already in operation and three will be in operation within a short time.

Chattogram port is the gateway of all export-import of Bangladesh, and Mongla Port and Paira Port undertake the remaining export-import.

A new commercial deep seaport is being constructed through the "Development of Matarbari Port" project in the Matarbari area in the Chattogram Division.

Govt has also taken projects for reviving and maintaining 10,000KM all-weather navigable inland waterways.

Dear Delegates

The government of Bangladesh as a partner of the UN, has been working relentlessly to implement UN declared Goals and Targets to reduce worldwide poverty and ensure sustainable development 2015-2030.

To provide an affordable, inclusive, safe transport system in the Capital city of Dhaka, hopefully, our first metro will operate from December 2022, and BRT will operate from June 2022.

Distinguished Participants

Challenges are an integral part of any development process. Several challenges are likely to consider in the implementation of projects like the completion of mega projects within the stipulated time frame, availability of foreign financing, timely investment of road funds for road maintenance, implementation of toll policy, ensuring road safety, high traffic growth considering regional traffic, congestion in highway network, successful implementation of PPP projects.

Excellencies

UNESCAP continuously supports the US by providing technical assistance, training, and organizing capacity-building workshops. Recently We have drafted the national Freight Transport policy for Bangladesh by ESCAP Technical Assistance. Hopefully, we will finalize it. UNESCAP is supporting Chaottogram city to enhance the capacity of transport planning using digital technology. We expect that UNESCAP will further support us by providing technical assistance to build resilient Multi-modal Transport and logistics networks.

I wish the success of the committee meeting

Thank you all

Md Anisur Rahman

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