

Statement by Dr. Daosadeth SOYSOUVANH

Assistant to Director General

Department of Railways, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR

Agenda item 3(a): Major issues in transport: Efficient and resilient transport  
and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth

(3 Minute)

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Distinguished Chair and all Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen in this room and online,

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of Department of Railways, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao PDR to join this Agenda item 3(a): Major issues in transport: Efficient and resilient transport and logistics networks and mobility for economic growth. I would like to thank ESCAP for the invited and support to giving this opportunity to speak about the Intergovernmental Agreements on the Asian Highway Network, the Trans-Asian Railway Network and Dry Ports and describes issues related to sustainable and resilient maritime connectivity and interregional connectivity.

Distinguished delegate

To point out about the Trans-Asian Railway Network, of cause the Laos-China Railway are in focus to be discuss topic along other development, where the opening our railway in December 2021 was the significant advances for Laos that provide sustainable international transport among the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and beyond. The railway line not only link the ASEAN railway network with railway corridors along the Trans-Asian Railway

network, but it's also opening new prospects for international railway transport for our countries. It can be seen largely that it increases the Lao's economy and improve people's life that living along the railway line specifically not only full fill the Lao government strategy turning the country from a "land-locked" to a "land-linked" country, our small private sector to big investment also gain benefit.

Thus, Lao PDR has put efforts and incorporated on multimodal domestic development together with regional connectivity development with the vision that the country can become an inland transit route for countries in the region to use as a trade and communications hub among them. Moreover, event during the pandemic period, we still have carried out by studies on the road access to rail line, dry port and rail projects with specifically connecting Laos-Thailand, Lao-Vietnam, and Cambodia in future, where those projects are essential parts of the Government's strategies and plans to capture the potential economic benefits of infrastructure investment.

To this step change in regional development there are still number of challenges to fully achieve the goals such as the lack of funding, regulation, transport agreement and regional Framework, business operation and technical know-how and experiences. Therefore, we look forward for regional collaboration, and experience share which is significantly important in my view and together with assistance from an international organization especially ESCAP and its member States to make this move of this development to be sustainable, efficient, and resilient.

**Thank you for your attention.**