

Statement by Asian Institute of Transport Development
(Sixth Session of Committee on Transport, 12 & 13 November 2020)

Item 3(c): Safe and inclusive transport and mobility

1. Considering its magnitude and consequent severe negative impact on the economy, public health, and general welfare of the people, the road safety is one of the most important focussed areas of work of the Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD). The Institute has partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India, UNESCAP, Asian Development Bank, etc. in taking and implementing a number of initiatives for promotion of road safety.
2. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India had entrusted to the Institute the World Bank funded projects relating to road safety. As a part of this project, the Institute evolved state-of-the-art curricula and training material based on which it trained more than 3,500 road professionals in road safety engineering and road safety audit. The Institute continues to provide training in road safety sponsored by MoRTH.
3. As a part of the above mentioned project, the Institute also worked out a system of accreditation of road safety auditor which when implemented would be the first of its kind in the country. It also evolved a strategy for public awareness campaigns for promotion of road safety.
4. The Institute is partnering with UNESCAP in the implementation of ongoing project relating to improvement of driving licence system in Lao People's Democratic Republic. This project is financed under the UN Road Safety Fund.
5. The Institute collaborated with UNESCAP in organizing regional seminar on road safety. While appreciating the road safety training programme of AITD, the country representatives in this seminar expressed keen desire that the Institute as a regional body should organize similar regional training courses in road safety. In this regard they mentioned that the smaller countries, often lack expertise and institutional support for capacity building. They felt that the training courses of AITD would fulfil the long felt need in an area which is of great concern to all.
6. Recently, the Institute organized a regional conference on safe mobility and regional connectivity in SASEC sub-region in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The conference noted with concern that a large body of engineering and road safety professionals have not been exposed to emerging societal requirements and technological advancements. The conference, therefore recommended that the Asian Institute of Transport Development may start organizing training courses for participants from SASEC countries.
7. In view of the above, the Institute proposes to organize a training programme on road safety for professionals from the region. To begin with, the participation from SASEC countries would be invited. A proposal for financing the training programme under UN Road Safety Fund to be submitted through UNESCAP is being finalized. The Secretariat may like to apprise the delegates.