The UNECE-UNESCAP Project on Developing Euro-Asian Transport Linkages

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Introduction

The EU-25 merchandise trade with East Asia
(Billion euros)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe - Transport Division
Euro-Asian Transport Links

• Part of a UN global project on developing interregional transport linkages, jointly implemented by five UN regional commissions
• EATL implemented by ECE and ESCAP over 2003-2007
• Objectives:
  - Identify Euro-Asian inland transport links (EATL)
  - Prioritize EATL investment projects
  - Investigate non-physical obstacles
  - Support capacity building at national level
• Participants: 18 countries on the Euro-Asian land bridge (AF, BG, CIS-12, CN, IR, RO, TR)
Progress to date

Achievements

- Selection of main Euro-Asian road, rail and inland water routes, transshipment points & ports
- Creation of a GIS database
- Technical assessment of routes and their performance
- Prioritization of projects with agreed methodology
- Analysis of physical and non-physical obstacles
- Organization of 4 expert group meetings and 5 capacity building national workshops
Prioritization of projects

- 15 countries involved, 230 EATL projects
- Total investment of $43 billion
- Annual investment < 1.5% of GDP in 12 countries
- About 60% of EATL projects have secured funding
- Account for almost 50% of total investment
Overview of projects

Project type

Out of total 230 projects
- 112 road projects
- 68 rail projects
- 37 maritime projects
- 11 inland waterway projects
- 2 border crossing etc. projects

Project type cost

Out of a total value $43.4 billion
- road projects $12.7 billion
- rail projects $23.4 billion
- maritime projects $5.7 billion
- inland waterway projects $1.6 billion
- border crossing etc. projects $0.003 billion
Non-physical obstacles

- Identification and analysis of obstacles
- Application of ESCAP time/cost-distance methodology, based on:
  - country inputs
  - uniform questionnaires
- Focus on key UNECE transport-facilitating legal instruments
- Recommended by SPECA PWG-TBC
Positive but uneven tendencies

Positive trends prevail across the EATL region

- Infrastructure investment enhances productivity
- Border-crossing times tend to improve
- EATL accessions to UNECE transport conventions account for 20% of all accessions in recent years
- Many challenges remain, especially in landlocked countries
Recommendations

• Joint ECE-ESCAP study on EATL

• Recommendations:
  – Infrastructure
  – Facilitation
  – Policy
Activities in Phase II (2008-2011)

- Setting up a coordination and monitoring mechanism
- Further development of the GIS database
- Economic analysis of EATL routes
- Improving border-crossing operations
- Promoting harmonization of transport legislation and administrative procedures
- Technical assistance to landlocked countries
Recent decisions

• 20th Session of the ECE WP on Transport Trends and Economics, Geneva, Sept. 2007
• Reiterated support for EATL project
• Proposed monitoring & coordination by ad-hoc Expert Group (2008-09)
• Supported a Meeting of Ministers of Transport at the 70th Session of Inland Transport Committee (Feb. 2008) to endorse the continuation of EATL project
• Asked to be informed about Phase II developments
Thank you for your attention

www.unece.org/trans/main/eatl/intro.html