

Forum on Sustainable Transport Connectivity between Europe and Asia

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ESCAP regional frameworks for operationalization of Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway networks and for dry ports of international importance



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The Asian Highway Network



The Asian Highway Network

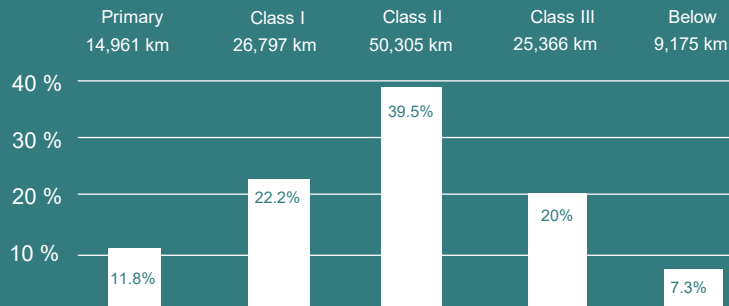
- Defined by the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network,
- Overall extension: 143,000 km
- Coverage: 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific
- Flexibly defined minimum technical specifications and operational standards stipulated in the Agreement, including the recent Annex on design standards for improving road safety to date

Challenges:

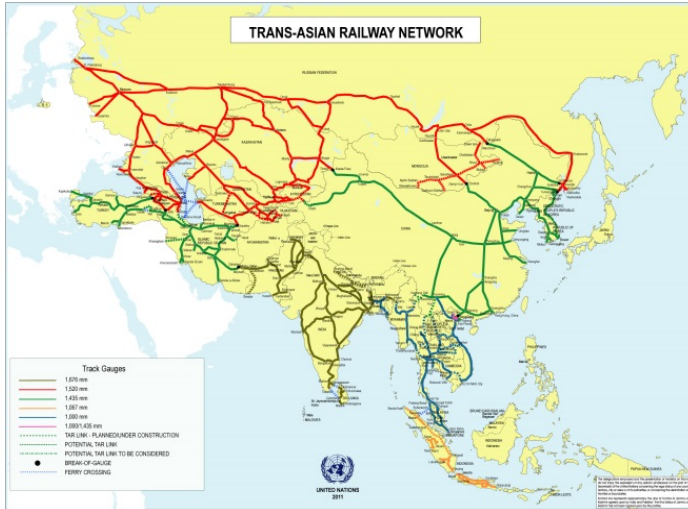
- 7 per cent of its routes still do not meet the minimum desirable class-III standards.
- Too many instances of a same route falling into different categories of standards on two sides of a common border between neighbouring countries



AH network development status



The Trans-Asian Railway Network



- Defined by the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network
- **Extension:** 118,000 km
- **Coverage:** 28 countries in Asia and the Pacific
- Flexibly defined minimum technical specifications and operational standards stipulated in the Agreement

Challenges:

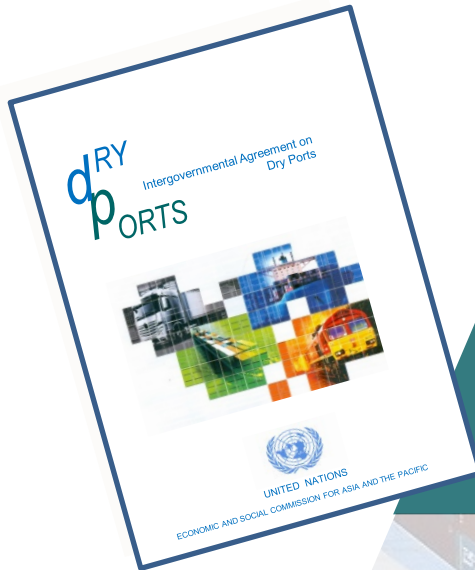
- 10.5% of network still need to be constructed
- Unequal level of operational readiness along the network

TAR missing links by subregion

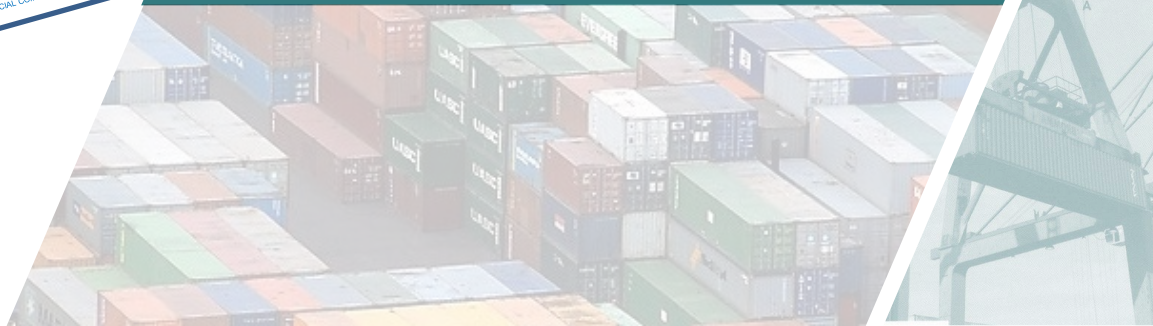
Subregions	Share of missing links	Cost of construction
South-East Asia	4,763 km (38%)	US\$ 49.6 billion
North-East Asia	3,396 km (27%)	US\$ 8.6 billion
South Asia	2,495 km (20%)	US\$ 9 billion
Central Asia (incl. IR of Iran and Turkey)	1,405 km (12%)	US\$ 5.2 billion
Caucasus	346 km (3%)	US\$ 3.2 billion



Dry Ports of International Importance



- Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports
247 dry ports in 27 countries
- Regional framework for the Planning, Design, Development and Operation of Dry Ports of International Importance
 - address the cross-cutting nature of logistics
 - set common strategies across sectors
 - provide consistency across the region in the approach to dry port development and operation



ESCAP initiatives to enhance regional transport connectivity

Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network



Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport

Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network



Regional Cooperation Framework for the Facilitation of International Railway Transport

Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports



Regional Framework for Development, Design, Planning and Operation of Dry Ports of International Importance

What is a regional framework?

- Long-term common targets/strategy for member countries and their development partners (incl. UNESCAP)
- Direction of future possible development
- Reference and guide
 - Not legally binding like an agreement
 - No commitment required for implementation
 - No timeline for implementation

Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport (2012)

Common fundamental elements

1. Road transport permits & traffic rights
2. Visas for professional drivers & crews
3. Temporary importation of road vehicles
4. Insurance of vehicles
5. Vehicle weights & dimensions
6. Vehicle registration & inspection certificates

Key modalities for facilitation

1. Building an effective legal regime
2. Wider application of new technologies
3. Development of professional training
4. Establishment/strengthening of national coordination mechanisms
5. Promotion of joint control at border crossings
6. Promotion of economic zones at border crossings, dry ports and logistics centres
7. Further application of facilitation tools

Challenges to the operational connectivity along the AH network: permits for road transport operations



Milestones and best practices:

- The agreement between the Governments of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on creating favorable conditions for international road transport (Dushanbe, 2014)
- Intergovernmental Agreement on International Road Transport along the Asian Highway Network, signed by the Governments of China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation (Moscow, 2016)

Regional Cooperation Framework for Facilitation of International Railway Transport (2015)

Four fundamental issues:

1. Standards for railway infrastructure, facilities and equipment
2. Break-of-gauge
3. Different legal regimes for railway transport contracts
4. Coordination of regulatory controls and inspections at border-interchange stations

Areas for cooperation among the member countries for the facilitation of international railway transport:

1. Participate in international railway organizations
2. Formulate subregional and bilateral agreement
3. Collaborate to standardize cross-border railway operations
4. Use of advance passenger/cargo information systems
5. Arrangement for exchange of wagons
6. Use of new technologies in train operations as well as in container tracking
7. Develop human resources for cross-border railway operations
8. Establish logistics centres/dry ports and maintenance hubs at or near the border interchange
9. Simplify intermodal interface of railway with other modes of transport
10. Promote and encourage corridor approach in facilitation of international railway transport
11. Work towards paperless railway freight transport

Regional Framework for Dry Ports (2018)

1. Basic requirements
2. Dry port location
3. Transport infrastructure linkages:
 - Dry port-seaport linkages
 - Rail infrastructure within dry ports
 - Road transport linkages
 - Road infrastructure within dry ports
4. Technical standards for dry ports
5. Container yard capacity and equipment
6. Design of other major facilities
7. Technical management and information technology systems
8. Coding of the dry ports of international importance
9. Incorporation of dry ports into international transport documents
10. Proposed arrangements for customs clearance at dry ports
11. Policy measures, legislation and solutions for planning dry port development
12. Practical options for financing the development and operation of dry ports

ESCAP Transport Facilitation tools

The Regional Framework on Road that identified six fundamental issue and seven modalities for supporting efficient international road transport in the region

The Regional Cooperation Framework for Railways that identified four fundamental issues and provides eleven areas for cooperation to facilitate international railway transport.

The Secure Cross Border Transport Model

Use of new technologies in transport facilitation

The Efficient Cross Border Transport Models

Developments in trucking industry practices that allow the tractor and trailer to be swapped to deal with non-physical barriers

The Model on Integrated Controls at Border Crossings

Streamlining the flow of information from various agencies at the border to avoid duplications

The Time Cost Distance methodology

A diagnostic tool and a method of monitoring the performance of transport corridors

The Standard Model of Logistics Information Systems

Interoperability and information exchange of the existing national and transnational logistics information systems and identifies good practices

Model sub-regional agreement on Transport Facilitation

Model bilateral agreement on road transport

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