Global Standards in traffic rules and road signs: Asia’s situations and perspectives

4-6 December 2013
Europe-Asia Road Safety Forum
New Delhi, India
Mandate

- ESCAP resolution 48/11 dated 23 April 1992 recommended that countries in the region should consider acceding to seven international conventions
  - Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna, 8 November 1968)
  - Convention on Road Signs and Signals (Vienna, 8 November 1968)
  - Customs Convention on the Temporary Importation of Commercial Road Vehicles (Geneva, 18 May 1956)
  - Customs Convention on Containers (Geneva, 2 December 1972)

- Among them are the two conventions that related to road safety. They are the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic and the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals.
Status

ESCAP Regional Members

• Convention on Road Traffic (1968)
  – Parties: 14 member States
    Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
  – Signatories: 3 member States
    Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Thailand

• Convention on Road Signs and Signals (1968)
  – Parties: 13 member States
    Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
  – Signatories: 3 member States
    Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Thailand
Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network

• 29 countries are parties to this agreement
• Article 4 – Signage of the Asian Highway Network
• Route sign described in Annex III of the Agreement
  .. should be placed in all routes of the AH network within 5 years from the date of entry into force of the Agreement for the State concerned..
  • Flexible - colour, size of sign, frequency
  • Current status
    – Installed: Azerbaijan, Japan, Republic of Korea, Thailand
    – Ongoing: Cambodia, China, India
    – Planned: Bhutan, Philippines
• For States who are also party to AGR, routes can be indicated by means of either the Asian Highway route sign or the E-road sign
• Road safety mentioned in Annex II (Section 10)
  While developing the Asian Highway network, Parties shall give full consideration to issues of road safety.
Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network

Thailand

Republic of Korea

Cambodia

Phillippines (plan)
An attainable dream?

Current status

• Many countries in Asia are parties to the two conventions and/or AH agreement
• Progresses have been made in some countries (e.g. AH signage)
• For many countries, there’re still a lot of works to be done in term of the actual implementation
  – Awareness of the two conventions
  – Allocation of sufficient resources to implement
  – Limited resources are shared among other priority areas to improve road safety
An attainable dream?

Benefits of harmonization
• Availability of common and harmonized sets of agreed road traffic rules as well as road signs and signals
• Mutually recognizable signs/signals/permits and certificates
• Facilitating international traffic
• Improving road safety (Pillar 1: Road Safety Management)

Next steps
Countries who are not party to the conventions
– Consider the benefits of acceding and undertake necessary legal procedures (for those who have not acceded)
– Consider to take necessary actions to implement the conventions including the installation of standard signs, signal, symbols and markings
Thank you