

PROMOTING MODAL SHIFT AND INTEGRATION OF ROAD WITH OTHER MODES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND DRY PORTS IN ASIA

Madan B. REGMI

Officer-in-Charge, Transport Policy and Development Section, Transport Division,
United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP),
regmi.unescap@un.org

ABSTRACT

Road transport is predominant mode of transport in Asia. It carries substantial share of freight and passenger transport. The Asian Highway network which extends to 32 countries with a length of 142,000 km has brought new opportunities for international trade. Many initiatives and projects are being implemented to improve quality of road infrastructure. But there is still more to be done in this respect including the need to upgrade some 11,500 km of the Asian Highways. In addition to the highway development, Asia also has extensive network of railways. In this background, the paper reviews current state of road infrastructure in Asia and highlight challenges for the countries to improve road infrastructure. Given the current needs to reduce use of scarce energy resources/fossil fuel and emissions from transport sector, the paper discusses policy options for integrating road transport with other modes through development of inland dry ports in Asia. These intermodal facilities can act as consolidation and distribution centers that can encourage a modal shift to more environmentally friendlier transport modes. The paper highlights challenges and policy measures needed to integrate land transport modes and develop intermodal transport in Asia.