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Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia

Ahmedabad, India, August 26-28, 2011

1. Background

The South Asian region is undergoing rapid urban motorization driven by industrialization and urbanization. The number of motor vehicles has dramatically increased and more and more roads are being constructed to meet the increasing transport demand. This has presented difficult challenges in urban transport management such as traffic congestion, air pollution, noise pollution, road deaths and injuries, and GHG emission. Without urgent planning and actions to address all of these transport-related problems, unsustainable urban transport systems would significantly undermine environmental quality, public health, social equity, and economic development. As there is a growing universal concern on climate change and the transport sector accounts for a quarter of total global GHG emissions, concerted regional efforts to mitigate transport-related GHG emissions is also deemed necessary.

To create a new paradigm in transport practices for Asian region, the **Asian Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Initiative** was jointly launched by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) and Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ) in 2004. With the participation of the twenty-two countries from Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia, the initiative has contributed to building a common understanding across Asia on essential elements of EST as well as the need for an integrated approach to deal with a range of social, economic and environmental issues in the transport sector at local, national and regional levels.

At the last Fifth Regional EST Forum in Asia, held in Bangkok in August 2010, the twenty-two countries agreed on the **Bangkok 2020 Declaration**. Reflecting a renewed commitment and regional consensus, the Declaration is expected to serve as a recommended guideline for the decisions of national government as well as different transport stakeholders in the region over the next decade (2010-2020) with its 20 EST goals under different strategies.

With this background and recognition of the importance of a sub-regional approach to address the increasing problems in the transport sector in South Asia, the UNCRD, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), and MOEJ will be co-organizing the **Sub-Regional EST Training Workshop-cum-Policy Dialogue in South Asia**, from 26 to 28 August 2011 in Ahmedabad, India.

The city of Ahmedabad was the winner of the Sustainable Transport Award in 2010 due to its renowned successful BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System), "JANMARG". Therefore, in addition to two-day lecture and policy discussions, it will be an excellent hands-on opportunity for participants to go for a half-day field trip to see how Ahmedabad has improved the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of its public transport system.

2. Objectives

The above Training Workshop has the following objectives:

- foster a common understanding across Asia on essential elements of EST as well as the need for an integrated approach

- build capacity of key ministries and agencies in South Asian countries in promoting an integrated EST strategy to deal with a range of social, economic, and environmental issues in the transport sector;
- strengthen inter-ministerial coordination to effectively address multisectoral and crosscutting EST issues
- mainstream the agreed upon Bangkok 2020 Declaration into overall transport policy, planning, and development as a recommended guideline
- provide a knowledge platform among South Asian countries for sharing experiences and discussing various EST policy options and measures

3. Expected Outcomes

- enhanced awareness and understanding among the participants about multisectoral and crosscutting problems and different co-benefits in the transport sector as well as effective and efficient policy options and measures to address the problems
- shared best EST practices, policies and measures to be scaled-up and replicated in South Asia
- improved interagency coordination and mutual support for the implementation of the Bangkok 2020 Declaration towards a new decade in sustainable transport

4. Co-Organizers and Supporting Organizations

The Meeting will be co-organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), South Asia Environment Cooperative Programme (SACEP), Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) and Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan (MOEJ), from 26 (Fri) to 28 (Sun) in August 2011, Ahmedabad, India. MOEJ provides financial support through UNCRD to implement this training workshop.

A number of international and regional organizations and institutions support the workshop. The Center for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT) in Ahmedabad contributes to the preparation and organization of the workshop, provides its expertise for two modules and organizes the field trip on Day 3 in close cooperation with AMC. WHO/SEARO (World Health Organization - South-East Asia Regional Office), CAI-Asia Center (Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities), EMBARQ (The WRI Center for Sustainable Transport), and GIZ (German International Cooperation) also support the workshop by providing their expertise for different modules and policy discussions and consultations.

5. Participants

Participation is by invitation only. It is expected that around 50 participants will attend the meeting:

- central governmental officials from 8 SACEP member countries
 - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
 - Senior officials from key ministries and agencies
- experts and resource persons in the field of sustainable transport
- representatives from the co-organizers and supporting organizations
- local participants

6. Provisional Programme

DAY 1: Friday, 26 August 2011

Opening Session (09:00 – 09:45)

Opening and Welcoming Remarks:

1. UNCRD
2. SACEP
3. MOEJ
4. AMC

Address by Chief Guest from the Government of Gujarat

Group Photo Session and Coffee Break (09:45 – 10:15)

Keynote Address

10:15 – 10:30	Sanjeev Kumar Lohia. Officer on Special Duty (Urban Transport) and E.O Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, India
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Overview on the Asian EST Initiative and the Bangkok 2020 Declaration

10:30 – 11:00	C. R. C. Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD
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Module 1: Integrated Land Use and Public Transport Planning

This module is organized by Shivanand Swamy, Professor and Associate Director, CEPT University

11:00 – 12:00	Lecture by Shivanand Swamy
12:00 – 13:00	Policy discussion and dialogue

Topics to be covered in Module 1:

- Integrated land use and public transport planning to avoid unnecessary travel, to reduce trip distances and to increase accessibility
- Design of urban structures, building forms, land use locations, subdivision and street layouts
- Mixed-use development and transit-oriented development
- Improvement in pedestrian and cycle access to public transport
- Development along corridors and at public transport nodes
- Co-operation between urban developers, planners, financial and transport planners

Networking Lunch (13:00 – 14:30)

Module 2: Road Safety

This module is organized by Chamaiparn Santikarn, Regional Advisor - Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP), WHO/SEARO

14:30 – 15:30	Lecture by Chamaiparn Santikarn
15:30 – 16:30	Policy discussion and dialogue

Topics to be covered in Module 2:

- Assessment of road safety status in South Asia (magnitude, existing practices, economic loss, etc)
- Current trends in compliance of the laws and regulations in road safety

- Effective implementation of the laws and regulations with regional best practices/successful cases
- Importance of road safety for vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, women, children, elderly, etc)
- Need for an integrated national strategy and action plans for road safety
- Traffic calming countermeasures

Networking Break (16:30 – 17:00)

Module 3: Non-Motorized Transport and Paratransit

This module is organized by Madhav Pai, Director (India Program), EMBARQ – The WRI Center for Sustainable Transport, World Resource Institute (WRI)

17:00 – 18:00		Lecture by Madhav Pai
18:00 – 19:00		Policy discussion and dialogue

Topics to be covered in Module 3:

- Critical importance of safe NMT provisions for South Asian cities and their co-benefits
- Major problems and policy gaps in NMT planning
- Cycle and pedestrian inclusive infrastructure design
- Land use planning for NMT
- Characteristics, problems and opportunities of paratransit in South Asian cities

Welcome Reception Hosted by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

DAY 2: Saturday, 27 August 2011

EST Case Study Session 1: “Janmarg” - Ahmedabad

This session is organized by AMC

09:00 – 09:45		Presentation by AMC
09:45 – 10:30		Questions and Answers / Open Discussion

Networking Break (10:30 – 11:00)

Module 4: Transport and Public Health

This module is organized by Herbert Fabian, Transport Program Manager, Clean Air Initiative for Asian Cities (CAI-Asia) Center

11:00 – 12:00		Lecture by Herbert Fabian
12:00 – 13:00		Policy discussion and dialogue

Topics to be covered in Module 4:

- Socioeconomic costs of transport-related air pollution in South Asia
- Vehicle emission control in South Asian countries
- Current trends in compliance of emission standards, and policy, institutional and knowledge gaps
- Effective policy instruments, with examples of best practices/successful cases
- Importance of road side air quality monitoring and assessment

Networking Lunch (13:00 – 14:30)

Module 5: Sustainable Transport, Social Equity and Gender Consideration

This module is organized by Darshini Mahadevia, Professor, Faculty of Planning and Public Policy, CEPT University

14:30 – 15:30	Lecture by Darshini Mahadevia
15:30 – 16:30	Policy discussion and dialogue

Topics to be covered in Module 5:

- Transport needs for low income people and transport sensitive groups
- Gender difference and cross cultural differences in transport
- Mainstreaming gender considerations in overall transport policy, planning and development
- Best practices and cases from South Asian region including improvement measures for safety and security of women, children and elderly and for convenience of people with disabilities

Networking Break (16:30 – 17:00)

EST Case Study Session 2

17:00 – 17:30	Transport Demand Management – An Integrated Approach to Manage Motorization in Sustainable Transport Planning by Chhavi Dhingra, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP), German International Cooperation (GIZ)
17:30 – 17:45	People and Environment Friendly Urban Transport Infrastructure in Japan by Yasuhiro Kimura, Deputy Director, Environmental Transport Policy Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan
17:45 – 18:15	Questions and Answers / Open Discussion

Closing Session (18:15 – 18:30)

Closing Remarks:

1. AMC
2. SACEP
3. UNCRD

DAY 3: Sunday, 28 August 2011

Field Trip: Ahmedabad Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS), Janmarg (09:00 – 12:00)

This field trip will be organized by AMC and CEPT University