

CAREC Online Training on the Road Safety Problem

Opening Remarks by Oyunchimeg Erdene, Principal Transport Specialist, Transport and Communications Division, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Good morning, good afternoon everyone! I am delighted to welcome you to the online training on CAREC's Road Safety Problem.

Road crashes kill more than 1.35 million people each year in the world and are becoming the leading cause of death for children and young people. The traffic fatality rates in Central Asia ranges from 8.7 to 18.2 per 100,000 population. Focusing particularly on the Kyrgyz Republic, according to the World Health Organisation, the Kyrgyz Republic stands 92nd out of 175 countries in the ranking of countries by mortality in road traffic crashes. On average, 15 people per 100 thousand population die in road traffic crash in the country.

Recognizing the urgent need for a holistic intervention in road safety, the CAREC countries made road safety a collective regional priority within the CAREC Program's framework and adopted the "Safely Connected: A Regional Road Safety Strategy for CAREC Countries 2017–2030" at the 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference on 26th October 2016. The Strategy aims to reduce fatalities on CAREC road corridors by 50% by 2030, as compared to 2010. It also aims to save 23,000 lives, avoid 250,000 serious injuries, and save \$16 billion per year.

CAREC remains committed to improving road safety in the region and is taking action to develop the capacity of the Kyrgyz Republic officials in managing safety issues. In January 2022, we had conducted Crash Investigation training course in which 19 people from the KR participated representing Ministry of Interior affairs and Ministry of Transport and Communication. We believe that the participants acquired the skills to better investigate traffic crashes.

Today Global Road Safety Partnership will be delivering a very comprehensive training on the road safety problem. The Road Safety Problem training is intended to familiarize the participants with all the basic elements of the enforcement which contributes significantly to reduce road trauma. The training is also focused on the 'safe system' approach as well as on the crash causes, especially on primary causative factors. The core element of training will be the effectiveness of road policing activities. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the basic principles of general and specific deterrence to change road user behavior and to reduce crash-related injuries and fatalities.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of you for taking your time to participate in this training, and I hope that you obtain useful technical skills in crash investigation and enhance road safety in your society and country.