

# ESCAP: Response to Regional Transport and Logistics Challenges

23rd Transport Sector CAREC Coordinating Committee  
Meeting  
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**ESCAP**  
Economic and Social Commission  
for Asia and the Pacific

# Content

- I. **ESCAP and Sustainable Transport in Asia and the Pacific**
- II. **Recent advances in transport connectivity and logistics at the regional level**
- III. **Next steps in the regional transport cooperation**

# ESCAP and Sustainable Transport in Asia and the Pacific

- ❑ ESCAP is one of the five UN regional commissions with a development mandate covering 52 Member States and 9 Associate Member across Asia and the Pacific
- ❑ Sub-Programme on Transport aims to contribute to achieve sustainable transport connectivity, logistics and mobility



**Platform for intergovernmental cooperation and policy dialogue**

Committee and Ministerial Conference  
Working Groups on Asian Highways,  
Trans-Asian Railways and Dry Ports



**Comprehensive capacity building programme**

Operational connectivity  
Transport Facilitation Models and  
Methodologies (TCD)  
Private Public Dialogue



**Analytical work and data collection**

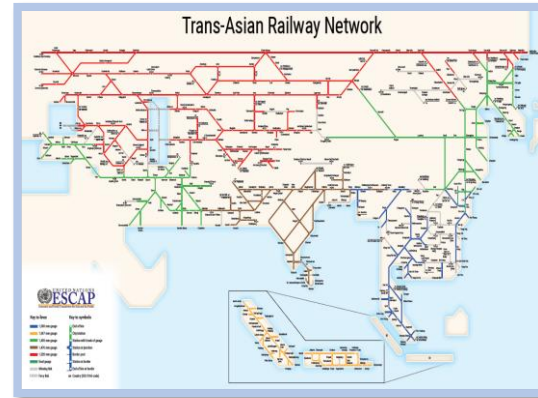
Specialized monographs, bulletins and  
periodic assessments of transport  
development in the region

# Asia-Pacific intergovernmental platform for regional transport infrastructure development



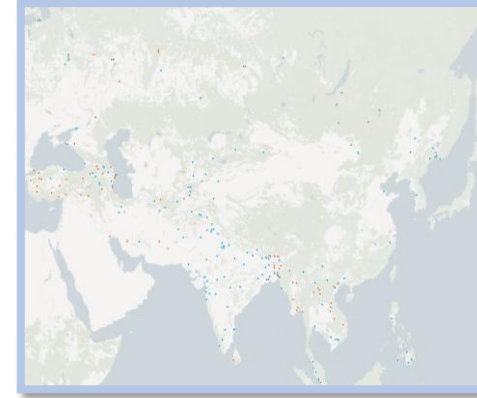
## Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway network

- In force since July 2005
- 30 Parties
- 32 members
- + 145, 000 kms
- Working Group on the Asian Highway open to all ESCAP Members



## Intergovernmental Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway network

- In force since June 2009
- 22 Parties
- 28 members
- 118, 000 kms
- Working Group on the Trans-Asian Railway Network open to all ESCAP Members



## Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports

- In force since April 2016
- 19 Parties
- 27 members
- 300+ existing and potential dry ports
- Working Party on Dry Ports open to all ESCAP Members



## Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity

- Annual meetings since 2022
- Dedicated sub-regional focus each year
- Inclusion of LLDCs
- Supported by annual analytical assessments

## Regional infrastructure in dynamic development faced with resilience at the forefront



- ❑ **Asian Highway network** : Updates on AH82 and AH83 (Armenia), AH1, AH2 and AH41 (Bangladesh) and AH1, AH2, AH12, AH13 and AH19 (Thailand)
- ❑ **Trans-Asian Railway Network**: updates to TAR routes and border stations in Lao PDR
- ❑ **Dry Ports Agreement**: +70 new dry ports in Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Uzbekistan
- ❑ **Maritime connectivity**: successive connectivity shocks with direct and nonlinear impact on the land transport connectivity

# Towards an efficient and resilient transport connectivity

## Operational connectivity

- **Road:** Updating the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport to add energy efficiency, infrastructure resilience, digitalization and artificial intelligence
- **Rail:** rail standards connectivity scheme; Rail connectivity between SEA and NCA, ASEAN Strategic plan on rail interoperability
- **Dry ports:** Private-public dialogue on dry ports operations

## Digitalization

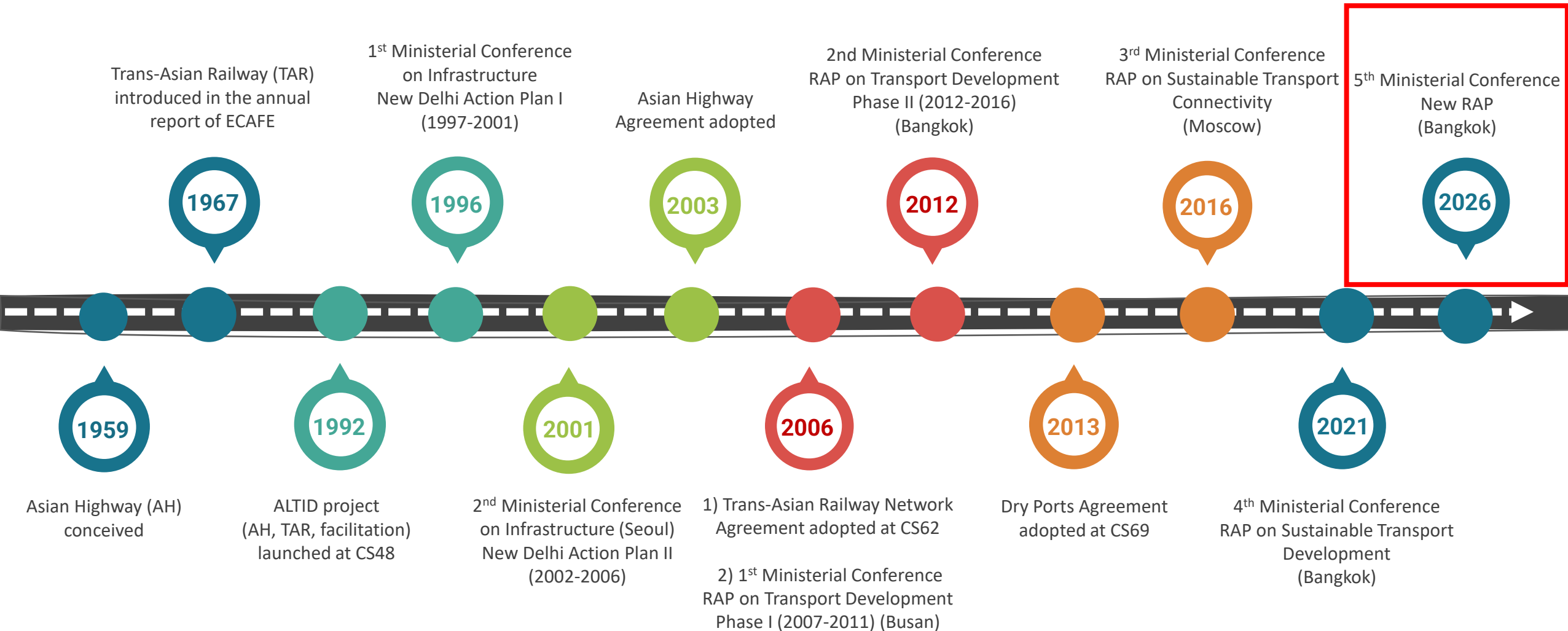
- **Road:** rapid adoption of innovations, including AI-enabled traffic management, electronic databases on highways, electronic transport permits and digital logistics platforms to support seamless cross-border transport
- **Rail:** electronic information exchange, rail cybersecurity and use of AI
- **Dry ports:** adoption of new technologies and regional data tools

## Low carbon and resilience

- **Road:** Inventory of low carbon and resilient Asian Highways + best practices in sustainable road transport corridors
- **Rail:** promoting the use of rail through digitalization and facilitation
- **Dry ports:** promoting a regional approach to the regional transport corridors

# REGIONAL TRANSPORT COOPERATION

## KEY MILESTONES OF ESCAP OVER THE PAST EIGHTY YEARS



## Towards the New Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific: 2027-2031




- ❑ Currently under negotiations, preparing for the adoption at the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Transport in Bangkok from 17 to 20 November 2026
- ❑ Connectivity remains at the core: two dedicated priority areas (Land and maritime)
- ❑ Cross-cutting themes of social inclusion and just transition, resilience and transport innovation and technology
- ❑ Specific regional actions on international transport corridors, support to LLDCs, SPECA cooperation and stronger operational connectivity

# Thank you

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