

**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



# High-Level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia

Investing in Sustainable Transport:  
Catalyzing Economic and Social  
Development in the SDGs Era

24 - 26 October 2023 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Pre-Event:

The First Asia Pacific Rail Summit

23 October 2023

Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



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**EST FORUM 2023:  
COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS**

TITLE	DETAILS
Forum Chair	H.E. Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport Malaysia
Co-Organizer	Ministry of Transport Malaysia
	Ministry of the Environment Japan
	Asian Development Bank
	United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) - Division for Sustainable Development Goals/ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
Supporting Organizations	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)
	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
	United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
	World Bank (WB)
	Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB)
	International Union of Railways (UIC)
	International Transport Forum at the OECD
	German International Cooperation (GIZ)
	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
	International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
	International Road Federation (IRF)
	International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP)
	FIA Foundation
	NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia
	Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI)
	Eco-Mo Foundation,
	Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP)
	Asia Pacific Road Safety Observatory (APRSO)
	SLOCAT Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport
	Business Environment Council
Carfree Cities Alliance	
Urban Electric Mobility Initiative	
Walk21	
WRI India	



Special Message  
from  
**H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim**  
Prime Minister of Malaysia



On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I would like to welcome all delegates to the **High-Level 15th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia** held from 24 to 26 October 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Ekonomi MADANI framework aims to elevate the dignity and status of our nation by restructuring the economy to make Malaysia a leader in Asian economies to ensure that the enlarged wealth is benefitted equitably by the Rakyat. This framework will further act as the impetus to promote green growth to strengthen climate resilience, provide new business and employment opportunities for all to improve the quality of life. From the Ekonomi MADANI perspective, I believe there is a huge potential and untapped opportunities in transport sector that can be capitalised to facilitate the transformation towards a sustainable transport not just in Malaysia, but in the Asian region as well. The integration of land public transportation management, for instance, would be able to optimize all existing assets by focusing on efforts to build a better public transportation network between and within cities, as well as cross border connection through cost effective methods, including the increase use of electric vehicles.

As aspired by all, sustainable transport should become our common goal. Therefore, in making this a reality I would like to take this opportunity to call for a stronger international cooperation and an establishment of closer partnerships among the Asian countries. Looking forward to the outcomes of this important meeting, I would like to wish you all a pleasant and memorable stay in Malaysia.

**ANWAR IBRAHIM**



Welcoming Message  
from  
**H.E. Loke Siew Fook**  
Minister of Transport, Malaysia



On behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Malaysia, it is my pleasure to welcome all representatives, policy makers and experts from member countries and international organizations to the “High-Level 15th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia” held here in Kuala Lumpur. We are honoured to have been chosen as the host of this important event.

This year’s forum is special as it is the first in-person event organized by the Regional EST Forum since the pandemic, thus, it would foster closer collaboration among the nations in the Asian region. We are also pleased to be working together with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, the Asian Development Bank and other supporting organizations that have put tremendous efforts in organizing this event.

Transportation is crucial to promote connectivity and boost economic growth through trade and regional integration. Cross-border activities via road, rail, air and sea are on the rise to move products and people around in our globalised world. Nevertheless, although transport is vital for people mobility and trade, it is also implicated as a significant source of green-house gas emissions. Resolving these trade-offs is therefore essential to achieve sustainable transport and development.

As of 2022, the population in Asia is 4.7 billion or 60% of the world population. The Asian region is experiencing rapid urbanisation and it is reported that by 2030, more than 55% of the population of Asia will be urban. In Malaysia, migration from rural to urban areas continues to grow to boost the economic development. As a result, more highways are built and more cars are on the road to accommodate the rise in urban population, thus contributing towards traffic congestion and pollutions in the cities. To address this issue, we aim to elevate the public transport modal share to 40% by 2030 and reach 60% by 2050, as outlined by the Low Carbon Mobility Blueprint 2030 and the National Energy Transition Roadmap.

The Malaysian Government has invested heavily in various mega sustainable public transport projects such as the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT), East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) and Rapid Transit System Link (RTS Link) which would significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transport sector.

In this connection, the main focus of Malaysia’s National Transport Policy 2019–2030 on the theme “Investing in Sustainable Transport: Catalyzing Economic and Social Development in the SDGs Era” perfectly reflects the compelling need to transition transport sector towards sustainability. Through the exchange of best practices and knowledge among member countries, I hope we can reduce the gap and improve strategies formulation on advancing towards sustainable transport for all.

I wish the forum a success, and all participants a most rewarding and enjoyable time in Malaysia.

**LOKE SIEW FOOK**



Ministry of the Environment  
Japan

A message from  
**H.E. Mr. ITO Shintaro**  
Minister  
Ministry of the Environment, Japan



### Welcome Message

I am very pleased that representatives from Asian countries have convened here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia.

In the Asian region, motorization is progressing as a result of rapid economic development and urbanization, causing not only regional problems such as air pollution and traffic congestion, but also global problems such as climate change. The role of EST is becoming increasingly significant due to these circumstances. In terms of global trends, last year in 2022, the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) was held, and the Mitigation Work Programme, including the importance of achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius target, was adopted. We are required to deal with these challenges in the Asian region while aligning with global trends.

This will be the first Forum since the Aichi 2030 Declaration was adopted in 2021. In the Declaration, one of the goals shared was the mitigation of climate change, taking into account the goal of the Paris Agreement and new global trends aimed at achieving SDGs. It also highlights the importance of tracking the implementation required to realize the goals. I hope that the Forum will be a fruitful one, leading to the strengthening of cooperation in the Asian region, progress in decarbonization in the transportation sector in Asia, and efforts to preserve the environment on a global scale.

**ITO SHINTARO**



A message from **Mr. Juwang Zhu**  
**Acting Director, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations**  
**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**



### Welcome Message

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Fifteenth Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia, hosted by the Government of Malaysia, in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur. This year's chosen theme, *'Investing in Sustainable Transport: Catalyzing Economic and Social Development in the SDGs Era'*, is highly relevant not only in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also for the Asian region which needs massive investment, at least US\$1.7 trillion per year until 2030, in its transport sector to sustain growth, alleviate poverty, and respond to greater needs of building resilience against climate change, increasing frequency and magnitude of natural disasters, and pandemics like COVID-19.

While Asia accounts for 58% of the global population and is responsible for generating 48% of the global GDP, the sustainable development of Asia is still hindered by a net transport infrastructure deficit. Successful sustainable economic and social development in the Asia region will require a well-developed transport infrastructure as well as passenger and freight transport services to provide access to essential markets, goods and services. At the same time, a greater investment in clean transport, safer roads, and more equitable mobility is indispensable for Asia.

As highlighted by the 2023 Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report, in the developing world, where an estimated 1 billion people still lack access to all-weather roads, the demand for mobility for people and goods has been expanding exponentially every year. While 40.9% of the population in Eastern and South-East Asian regions have convenient access to public transport, it is only 33.7 % in Central and Southern Asia. Among others, there is a pressing need for cities to integrate motorized transportation systems with walking and cycling through long-term sustainable urban mobility plans, targeted infrastructure investments, and policy implementation.

Equally important, from a macroeconomic perspective, it is imperative to minimize the negative externalities linked to the transport sector. This includes numerous road accidents, traffic congestion, air and noise pollution, and GHG emissions that are contributing to climate change. There is an urgent need to scale-up and shift transport infrastructure investments towards low-carbon, climate-resilient transport options and help achieving the environmental, social and economic benefits associated with sustainable transport infrastructure.

Given the large investment required to meet escalating Asia's transportation infrastructure needs to meet the needs of its population and growing economy, and the unprecedented pressure on public finances, mobilizing private sector investment will be key to facilitate the transition to a greener and sustainable growth.

At the UN SDG Summit 2023 concluded last month, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres stressed the need to transform support for the SDG Stimulus "into real investments in developing countries." To this regard, I am pleased to learn that the 15th Regional EST Forum in Asia aims to call for international actions and support - both financially and in the form of technical assistance for capacity building in developing Asia - for the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030). I am also pleased to recognize that with the leadership of our outreach Centre in Nagoya, Japan, the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the Forum has been providing an important avenue to strengthen regional input to various regional and global fora such as the high-level political forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), and the UN Climate Change Conference, and the UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, among others.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Malaysia for hosting the 15th Regional EST Forum in Asia, which is in fact the first in-person Forum since the outbreak of COVID-19. The Forum is preceded by the Asia-Pacific Rail Summit 2023, the official pre-event supported by the International Union of Railways (UIC). I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of Japan for its continued support for the Regional EST Forum in Asia since its inception in 2004, and also to our valuable partner and co-organizer, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), for its strategic and financial support in organizing the Forum.

With my best wishes to all participants for a highly successful event

**JUWANG ZHU**



A message from **Jamie Leather**  
**Director of Transport**  
**Asian Development Bank**



**Welcome Message**

Transport remains one of the key sectors of lending for the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Without improvements to the transport sector Asian countries will not be able to grow their economies, fight poverty, and provide all of their citizens with essential services like education and health care. ADB’s assistance to the transport sector is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is with some alarm that I have taken note of the second status report by the Asian Transport Outlook which arrives at a pessimistic outlook for achieving the transport-relevant SDG targets by 2030 in Asia. However, the silver lining is that, since 2015, Asian countries have narrowed the SDG gap for transport-related targets and not widened it. This is an inspiration for the ADB to do more and better in the planning and its delivery of transport assistance to its developing member countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Since July of 2023, all our projects are fully aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as is the case for other multilateral development banks. ADB president Masatsugu Asakawa noted that climate change does not care about borders and has taken the lead in the roll-out of the ADB’s new operating model (NOM) to accelerate its transformation and more effectively serve the rapidly changing needs of its DMCs and enable ADB to increase its capacity as Asia and the Pacific’s Climate Bank.

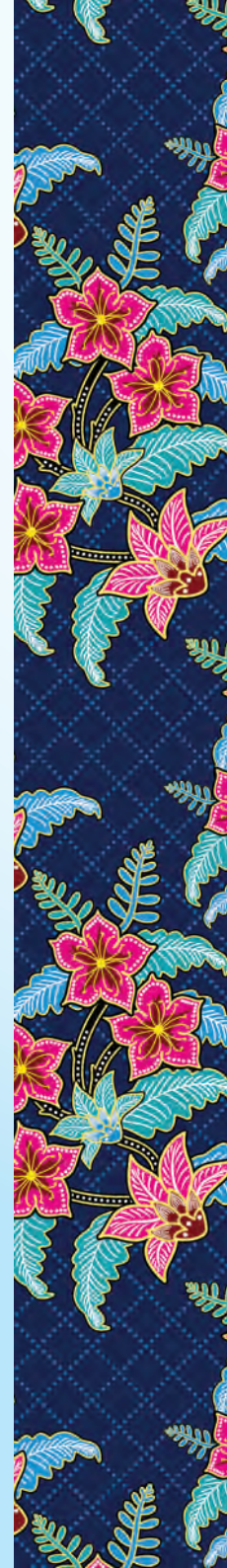
ADB has been a partner of the Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) initiative since its inception in 2003. I would like to commend UNCRD for its continued leadership in developing the EST Initiative. ADB is happy to strengthen its partnership with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan and it has raised its support for the EST initiative and its annual high-level Forum event. Also, through the Asian Transport Outlook we have established a symbiotic relationship which links its knowledge management activities to the policy convening of the EST initiative.

The goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport-Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021-2030) provide valuable guidance in setting the directions for ADB’s assistance to the transport sector in the countries participating in the EST initiative. We are looking forward to hear from the countries participating in this 15th High-Level EST Forum, especially on the goals on climate change mitigation, road safety, and national access and connectivity which will be reviewed in detail in this year’s event. ADB will be pleased to continue this discussion on how to make transport more accessible, inclusive, clean, and green in the next ADB Transport Forum, which is planned for September 2024.

Finally, I would commend the Ministry of Transport of Malaysia for hosting the 15th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia. We are looking forward to learn valuable lessons from Malaysia on how to develop the transport sector in a sustainable manner.

**JAMIE LEATHER**





**Pre-Event:**  
**The First Asia Pacific Rail Summit**  
**23 October 2023**  
**Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

## The First Asia Pacific Rail Summit

23 October 2023  
Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### Concept Note

The Asia-Pacific region has experienced rapid urbanization, population growth, and economic development, leading to an increase in transport demand. The rising affluence and expanding middle class have resulted in a surge in private vehicle ownership, road traffic, and the movement of goods.

According to the Asian Transport Outlook, transport activity will grow massively in the coming decade (2.7% passenger and 5% freight activity annual increase from 2020 to 2030), which is expected to increase CO2 emissions from transport in the region by 25% by 2030. It is crucial to recognize the potential of the rail sector in driving sustainable transport and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Compared to road transport, rail offers several environmental advantages, such as lower carbon emissions, reduced air pollution, and improved energy efficiency. By shifting transportation from road to rail, countries in the Asia-Pacific region can make substantial progress towards achieving their climate targets.

Despite rapid growth of rail in some Asian countries, with existing policies, railway infrastructure expansion would continue to lag behind road expansion (1.9% vs 3.5% annual increase in road kilometres over 2020-2030). Investing in the rail sector brings, not only environmental benefits through avoided emissions, but can also have a positive impact on energy efficiency, air quality, road congestion, whilst promoting economic development and access to communities.

The Aichi Declaration recognises the important role of rail in regional connectively and sustainable mobility in Asia. This event will consider the role of rail in delivery of the Aichi Declaration as a backbone of a multi-modal sustainable mobility system that leaves no one behind. The International Union of Railways is partnering with the UN Center for Regional Development (UNCRD), Malaysia Ministry of Transport, Asia Development Bank to invite policymakers in the Asia Pacific region for a one-day policy lab experience, where participants will collaborate on four key topics:

- **Long term policy to boost Rail:** how Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) can serve as a powerful tool to ensure the right policy signals for long term vision on rail development as a climate solution? This discussion will be based on the UIC analysis of NDCs for the region and will connect to the Aichi Declaration objectives.

- o *Expected outcomes: identify key aspects of rail that should be addressed in the new cycle of NDCs, how they can connect with other local policy and strategy and how to bridge that gap.*

- **Gender equality:** how can rail companies be agents of transformation and promote gender equality as employers and as service providers? Discussion will be based on UIC and member learning on gender equality in the rail sector, focusing on best practice exchange in improving the experience of women as workers and as passengers of rail.

- o *Expected outcomes: organizations identify priority areas and develop a preliminary workplan to drive change as well as policy tools that can accelerate change.*

- **Railway project funding and financing:** what are the key barriers for investment in the rail sector and how to address them? Discussion will be based on insights from a Finance study, under development by UIC with partners, on how to increase climate finance for rail in LMICs, as well as on the proposed investment target for countries in the region, proposed by ATO study.

- o *Expected outcomes: deepening and validation of preliminary conclusions of the study and of proposed investment target.*

- **UIC Rail Declaration for the EST:** demonstrating support for policies implementation that help accelerate Aichi Declaration goal 6 in Asia Pacific. Expected outcomes: joint declaration of support to policy recommendations that enable rail development as a climate solution for the future of sustainable transport in Asia.

23 OCTOBER 2023 (Monday)

Pre-event of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia

**The First Asia Pacific Rail Summit**

23 October 2023

Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Co-organized by:**

International Union of Railways

Ministry of Transport, Government of Malaysia

Asia Development Bank

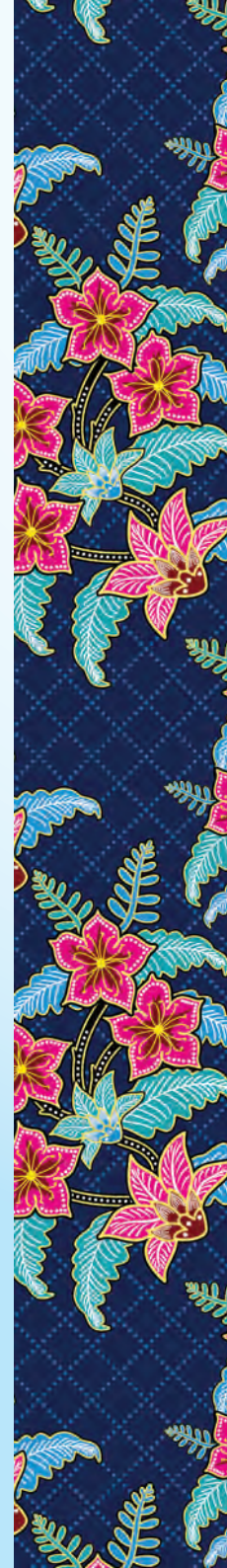
United Nations Centre for Regional Development of Division for Sustainable Development Goals/

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Time	Provisional Programme
9:00-9:45	<p><b>Opening and Keynote Session</b></p> <p><b>Master of Ceremony:</b> Mr. Milko P. Papazoff, UIC ASEAN Representative, Malaysia Opening Session: opening remarks from host organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. François Davenne, DG, UIC</li> <li>Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD</li> <li>Mr. Jamie Leather, Transport Director, ADB</li> </ul> <p><b>Guest Keynote Speech</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hon. Datuk Haji Hasbi Habibollah, Deputy Minister of Transport, Malaysia</li> </ul>
10:00-11:30	<p><b>Session 1: Railway Sustainable Development and Long-Term Planning</b></p> <p><b>Topics for Session 1:</b> Referencing relevant section of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) - Decarbonization of transport, energy efficiency in railways, natural disaster mitigation, and climatic conditions adaptation in Asia Pacific.</p> <p><b>Intro presentation:</b> State of Play – Long term policy planning railways in Asia &amp; Pacific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Adwait Limaye, Senior Data Analyst, Asian Transport Outlook</li> <li>Ms. Lucie Anderton, Head of Sustainability, UIC</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Mohamed Suhaimi Yaacob, CCO, KTMB, Malaysia</li> <li>Mr. Hasrol Rosli, VP, Sustainability &amp; New Initiatives, PRASARANA</li> <li>Mr. Sandeep Jain, Economic Affairs Officer (Transport), UNESCAP</li> <li>Mr. Adwait Limaye, Senior Data Analyst, Asian Transport Outlook-ATO</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Lucie Anderton, Head of Sustainability, UIC <b>Moderated discussion</b> based on guiding questions with the possibility for audience Q+A</p>

11:30-13:00	<p><b>Session 2: Gender Equality in Railway</b></p> <p><b>Topics for Session 2:</b> Action on gender equality in rail in the Asia Pacific as passengers and workforce, training programmes, link to Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030)</p> <p><b>Intro presentation:</b> Global overview of UIC activities in gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Joo Hyun Ha – Senior Sustainability Advisor, UIC</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Natasha Zulkifli, Director, Women in Rail, Malaysia Chapter</li> <li>Mr. Tom Sargant, UIC Pacific Representative, Australia</li> <li>Ms. Katrin Luger, Chief Transport and Policy, UNESCAP</li> <li>Ms. Celeste Laut, Deputy G.M., PNR, Philippines (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Joo Hyun Ha – Senior Sustainability Advisor, UIC <b>Moderated discussion</b> based on guiding questions with possibility for audience Q+A</p>
13:00-14:00	<p><b>Networking Lunch</b></p>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Session 3: Railway Project Funding and Financing</b></p> <p><b>Topics for Session 3:</b> existing international funds / financial mechanisms, Climate finance, PPP and PFI models, international and multilateral cooperation options</p> <p><b>Intro Presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Lucie Anderton, Head of Sustainability, UIC</li> </ul> <p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Jamie Leather, Transport Director, ADB</li> <li>Mr. Bassam Mansour, Lead Consultant, HSS, Malaysia</li> <li>Mr. Benedict Eijbergen, World Bank, Singapore (tbc)</li> <li>JICA Representative (tbc)</li> <li>EBRD Representative (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Mr. Cornie Huizenga, Advisor, Regional EST, and Co-Team Leader, ATO <b>Moderated discussion</b> based on guiding questions with possibility for audience Q+A</p>
15:30-15:15	<p><b>Coffee/Tea Break</b></p>
15:45-17:30	<p><b>Session 4: UIC APRA Vision of Rail 2030</b></p> <p><b>Topics for Session 4:</b> Rail chapter of the Policy Recommendations for the Implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration prepared by UIC focusing on what can be done to achieve the Aichi Goal and how this can be achieved</p> <p><b>Intro presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Joo Hyun Ha, Senior Advisor (Sustainability), UIC</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Policy Implementation Lab</b> – parallel facilitated working sessions</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms. Lucie Anderton, Head of Sustainability, UIC</p> <p><b>Group Feedback on key outputs</b></p>

17:30-18:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
	<p><b>Key takeaways</b> and expected outcomes based on first APRS, including links to the 15th EST High Level Forum, other regional events and COP28. With a general summary and short closing remarks from host organisations.</p> <p><b>Declaration of support</b> for rail actions to Aichi 2030 declaration.</p>
18:00-20:00	Welcome reception for APRS and EST Participants by UIC Venue: Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur



# High-Level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia

# Investing in Sustainable Transport: Catalyzing Economic and Social Development in the SDGs Era

## Concept Note

High-Level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia  
24-26 October 2023, Hilton KL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

## Introduction

The sustainable development of Asia is hindered by a transport infrastructure gap. Asia has 58% of the global population and is responsible for 48% of the global GDP. Yet, it has 30% of the global road supply and 34% of the global heavy rail supply. Asia's share in global passenger transport is only 27% and in freight transport only 34%. Overcoming this infrastructure gap will be key for developing Asia to be successful in progressing economically and continue its efforts to reduce and eliminate poverty. The development of safe, clean, and affordable transport infrastructure in Asia is therefore key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Malaysia's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 is a commitment to make Malaysia a nation that achieves sustainable growth along with fair and equitable distribution, across income groups, ethnicities, regions, and supply chains, making it an excellent venue for the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum. Malaysia's 2030 National Transport Policy calls for the development of a sustainable transport sector that accelerates economic growth and supports the well-being of the rakyat (the people) in line with an advanced nation status.

Successful sustainable economic and social development in the Asia region requires a well-developed transport infrastructure as well as passenger and freight transport services to provide access to essential utilities, markets, and services. As per 2023 UN SDGs Report, in the developing world, where globally an estimated 1 billion people still lack access to all-weather roads, the demand for mobility for people and goods has been expanding exponentially every year. While 40.9% of the population in Eastern and South-East Asian regions have convenient access to public transport, it is only 33.7 % in Central and Southern Asia. Among others, there is a pressing need for cities to integrate motorized transportation systems with walking and cycling through long-term sustainable urban mobility plans, targeted infrastructure investments, and policy implementation. Equally important, from amacroeconomic

perspective, is to minimize the negative externalities linked to the transport sector. This includes numerous road crashes, traffic congestion, air, and noise pollution, and GHG emissions the consequences of global climate change. All these transport externalities have a severe adverse impact on social well-being and economic growth. For instance, the economic impact of road crash fatalities and serious injuries in Asia and the Pacific, which has been well documented, is expected to amount to 850 billion USD in 2030, which is about 4% of GDP with the poorest often being the most affected. A recent study conducted by the ADB's Asian Transport Outlook projects that the investment required to build, maintain, and repair the region's inland transport infrastructure from 2020 to 2030 might be as high as 14.5 trillion USD (in PPP terms) i.e., equivalent to 1.6% of GDP.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum in Asia will have as its main focus the benefits of developing a sustainable transport infrastructure and services, which is a key development priority for Asian countries. As set out in the Aichi Declaration 2030, sustainable transport aims to fulfill economic, environmental, and social aspects bringing prosperity to all and leaving nobody behind. A growing body of research has demonstrated the significant social, economic, and environmental benefits of funding sustainable transportation infrastructure.

Since 2005, the Regional EST Forums have brought together a national government in their quest for more sustainable transport development. National government participants include the Ministries of Transport, Environment, Health, Urban and Rural Development, and Railways. A highlight of the EST Initiative is the annual EST Forum meetings hosted by EST participating countries. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the 2020 and 2021 editions of the annual EST Forum meetings were conducted as online events. The 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum to be hosted by the Government of Malaysia will be the first in-person event organized by the Regional EST Forum since the pandemic.

A key element of the Regional EST Forum process is the joint Regional Declarations adopted by the EST countries. The first of these Declarations that guided the activities of the EST Forum from 2010 -2020 was the Bangkok 2020 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport which outlined a vision for Asia on how sustainable transport could promote a green economy. To provide new impetus to the regional EST Forum and sustainable transport policymaking in Asia, this was followed by the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport - Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021-2030) which was voluntarily adopted by the countries participating in the EST initiative at the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia (Aichi/Japan, 2021). With its six goals, it was the first time that Asian governments agreed on a regional and sectoral "translation" of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in the transport sector in Asia. Box 1 gives an overview of the 6 goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration.

## Aichi 2030 Declaration Goals

### Sustainability Goals:

**Goal 1 Environment sustainability:** By 2030, improve the environmental sustainability of transport in Asia for the following areas:

Goal 1a – Low-Carbon (climate change mitigation): By 2030, aims to peak transport CO2 emissions and initiate reductions in transport-related CO2 emissions with the intention to move towards decarbonization of the transport sector by 2050, or shortly thereafter (Based on SDG 7.2, 9.1, 13.2, Paris Agreement);

Goal 1b – Resilience: By 2030, increase resilience and adaptive capacity of transport system to climate-related hazards and pandemics such as COVID-19. (Based on SDG 13, Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030);

Goal 1c – Air pollution: By 2030, reduce air pollution and contamination caused by traffic, including PM2.5, other air pollutants and noise. (Based on SDG 3.9, 11.6).

**Goal 2 – Road safety:** By 2030, halve the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents in Asia compared to 2020, with specific attention to vulnerable road users. (Based on SDG 3.6 and the second UN Decade of Action on Road Safety 2021 – 2030, Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety).

**Goal 3 - Economic sustainability:** By 2030, realize sustainable economic and employment growth by leveraging science, technology and innovation and green investments in quality passenger and freight transport infrastructure and services in a manner that fully incorporates environmental and social impacts throughout the lifecycle of the transport infrastructure and services, (Based on SDG 8.4, SDG 9.1, 12.1 and 12.c).

### Access and Connectivity Goals

**Goal 4 - Rural access:** By 2030, realize accessible, inclusive, safe, affordable, and resilient rural transport infrastructure and services, thus facilitating improved access to markets, basic utilities, and services including health and education by the farming community, and other rural population including physically disabled and vulnerable groups (Based on SDG 2 and SDG 9.1).

**Goal 5 - Urban access:** By 2030, ensure access to accessible, inclusive, safe, efficient, affordable, and sustainable transport facilities, systems, and services for urban dwellers, including physically disabled and vulnerable groups through the development of urban transport infrastructure and services (Based on SDG 11.2 and 11.7).

**Goal 6 - National access and connectivity:** By 2030, facilitate inclusive multi-modal national (including rural-urban) and regional (cross-border) connectivity through the provision of sustainable multi-modal freight and passenger transport infrastructure and services (Based on SDG 9.1).

Each Regional EST Forum will review and discuss three of the goals from the Aichi 2030 Declaration; this is part of a phased approach adopted by the EST Forum participating countries. The 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum 2023 in Malaysia is expected to focus on: *Goal 1a – Low-Carbon (climate change mitigation)*, *Goal 2 – Road safety*, and *Goal 6 - National access and connectivity*. The 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum will be the first in-person high-level Forum following the adoption of the Aichi 2030 Declaration and is expected to be a key milestone event in the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration.

The Ministry of Transport (MoT), Government of Malaysia is the designated host of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum. The MoT-Malaysia is spearheading the transformation of an integrated efficient and safe transportation system. The motto of MoT-Malaysia “*Sustainable Transport, Heartbeat To Nation Development*” is well aligned with the theme and focus of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum. To realize its vision MoT- Malaysia is responsible for the formulation and implementation of land transport, freight and logistics, maritime and aviation policies, programs, and projects.

## Objectives of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia

There are four main objectives for the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia.

1. Demonstrate the economic, social, and environmental benefits of the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration. The successful implementation of the six goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration will require substantial investments in the expansion of the transport infrastructure and services in all the countries participating in the EST initiative. Such an expansion needs to reflect the sustainable development and low-carbon orientation as well as safety and resilience aspects, underscored in the goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration. Infrastructure is understood to include both “hard infrastructure” such as roads, railways, or urban transport systems, and “soft infrastructure” consisting of systems and capacity to operate the different types of hard infrastructure. Inclusive transport can only be achieved if those who are currently underserved (including women) in transport are included in the design and operations of transport infrastructure and services. It is expected that countries participating in the EST initiative will be more motivated to make the required investments if they fully understand the economic, social, and environmental benefits of such investments.
2. Agree on the implementation plan for the Aichi 2030 Declaration towards better alignment of Asia’s transport policy and planning, programs, institutional arrangements and infrastructure development in line with the objectives of SDGs and Paris Agreement on climate change, among others. Following the adoption of the Aichi 2030 Declaration, the EST Secretariat, assisted by support from the Asian Development Bank has conducted extensive consultations with a range of existing and potential partner organizations on how the Regional EST Forum and its secretariat hosted by UNCRD can best support the EST participating countries in the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration. This has resulted in a draft implementation plan which will be presented to the EST participating members for approval.
3. Discussion of bounce-back strategy for transport in Asia following the COVID-19 pandemic. This being the first in-person forum since the outbreak of COVID-19 there is a continued desire to discuss how the transport sector can bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic. This is especially relevant for public transport, which was especially hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Call for international actions and support for the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration. In the lead-up to the adoption of the Aichi 2030 Declaration extensive consultations were conducted with the countries participating in the EST Forum on the goals included in the Aichi 2030 Declaration. Several country representatives expressed concern about their capacities to achieve these goals and indicated that they would welcome external support both financially and in the form of technical assistance for capacity building and policy development. Based on these concerns the following statement was included in the Aichi 2030 Declaration: *“We welcome the support of other EST stakeholders including the development community, private sector and civil society in achieving the goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration, and we call on these organizations, including those that were absent in this Fourteenth EST Forum to align their transport activities with the objectives of the Aichi 2030 Declaration”.*

## Title and Theme of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum

While having three proposed objectives for the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia, it is proposed to emphasize the “Benefits of Investing in Sustainable Infrastructure” while selecting the theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum: **“Investing in Sustainable Transport: Catalyzing Economic and Social Development in the SDGs Era”**. As a subtitle, it is proposed to use: *“Implementing the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport through the development of sustainable transport infrastructure”*. Having this title and sub-title will allow the Forum to have dedicated sessions on the topic of infrastructure development and to mainstream this as well in all other relevant sessions of the Forum. The proposed focus on the benefits of sustainable transport infrastructure directly reflects the current developmental needs of Malaysia. The proposed Asia Pacific Rail Summit as a pre-event should also help to ensure the relevance of this proposed Forum to the needs of Malaysia.

## Organizers of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum

The High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum is hosted by the Government of Malaysia represented by the Ministry of Transport; and co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment Japan, the Asian Development Bank, and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development of Division for Sustainable Development Goals/ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

The organizers of the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum will actively liaise with the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank, International Transport Forum (ITF), German International Cooperation (GIZ), the SLOCAT Partnership, and a wide range of other organizations.



The 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum and the Asia Pacific Rail Summit will showcase the growing cooperation between UNCRD, acting as the secretariat of the Regional EST Forum, and the Asian Development Bank. Key components in this cooperation are the knowledge management activities undertaken by the Asian Development Bank Asian Transport Outlook Initiative and the support provided by ADB for the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration.

## Participants of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia

Participation in the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia is by invitation. It is expected that approximately 400 participants (including 200 international participants), including high-level government representatives including policymakers, planners, and government officials from Asian countries, city mayors, representatives of international organizations, experts and resource persons, NGOs, academia, and the private sectors will be attending the Forum. Participation in the UN Forum is free of charge.

## Structure of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia

A three-day event is planned from 24 to 26 October 2023

### A. Pre-Event: The First Asia Pacific Rail Summit (23 October 2023) and Technical Visits

As an integral part of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum, the first “*Asia-Pacific Railways Summit*” will be co-organized with the International Union of Railways (UIC) on 23 October 2023 as a pre-event of the Forum. This will be part of the 36<sup>th</sup> UIC – Asia Pacific Regional Assembly that will be hosted in conjunction with the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum.

There will also be a possibility for other partner organizations to the organize and conduct pre-events/ post-events during the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Details on the pre-event, side-events, and post-event will be shared in due course. Interested organizations should contact [est@uncrd.or.jp](mailto:est@uncrd.or.jp).

### B. Ministerial Session (DAY 1: 24 October 2023)

In 2021 for the first time, a Ministerial Session was conducted with great success as an integral part of the 14<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum held in Aichi, Japan. A hybrid Ministerial Session will be organized at the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Kuala Lumpur to build on the success of the Ministerial Session in 2021.

### C. Malaysia Day (DAY 1: 24 October 2023)

It is proposed that Day 1: *Spotlight on Malaysia* apart from the formal opening of the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum, the introduction of the theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum through a Keynote address and a Ministerial session will focus on the Malaysian Transport Sector. This will be an opportunity for the Malaysian Ministry of Transport to showcase its plans for the development of its transport sector and seek inputs from a range of national and international stakeholders including but not limited to the representatives from the Malaysian Government and representatives from multilateral and bilateral donor organizations, the private sector and selected representatives from organizations that can provide capacity-building assistance to Malaysia.

### D. Implementation plan for the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Sustainable Transport (2021-2030)

The Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) has a ten-year time frame, and it is expected that its implementation will be an incremental process. The Aichi 2030 Declaration introduced a number of new elements, including implementation progress reporting, Communities of Interest (CoI), etc. which will be rolled out in a gradual manner. Following the adoption of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030), the UNCRD in close collaboration with and assistance of the ADB has been working on the implementation plan for the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030). The draft implementation plan will be shared with the EST participating countries before the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum and will be discussed and agreed upon during the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum.

### E. Capacity-building workshop (2023)

ADB and UNCRD jointly hosted a three-day capacity-building workshop in March 2023 in Manila, the Philippines for the countries participating in the regional EST initiative on the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030). The workshop also discussed how countries can best report on the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration.

## Input and Outcome Documents of the High-level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum

In preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum, several policy recommendation papers will be prepared and made available for the benefit of the countries. These papers will be linked to the three Aichi 2030 goals that will be reviewed and discussed in the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum: Goal 1a – Low-Carbon (climate change mitigation), Goal 2 – Road safety, and Goal 6 - National access and connectivity. A brief status overview drawn from the Asian Transport Outlook will complement the papers.

Like in previous EST Forums, a Chairman Summary will be developed and adopted by the governmental participants in the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum. Unlike, in previous EST Forums, elements of the Chairman Summary will be circulated in advance for comments to the governments participating in the EST initiative.

It is currently planned that the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum will also result in a Call for Support in which the countries participating in the EST initiative formulate an appeal to the international community for greater financial, technical, and capacity-building assistance in the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030). This Call for Support will also be circulated for comments well before the 15<sup>th</sup> EST Forum.

### Nature of the Forum (in person)

The 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia will be mainly an in-person event. However, the Ministerial segment of the Forum could be conducted as a hybrid event.

### Contact

#### **Secretariat of the Regional EST Forum in Asia**

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## Investing in Sustainable Transport: Catalyzing Economic and Social Development in the SDGs Era

### High-Level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum in Asia

24-26 October 2023  
Hilton, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Forum Chair: H.E. Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport, the Government of Malaysia

#### Co-organized by:

Ministry of Transport, Government of Malaysia  
Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan  
Asian Development Bank  
United Nations Centre for Regional Development of Division for Sustainable Development Goals/ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

#### Supporting Organizations

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP),  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR),  
World Bank (WB), Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB), International Union of Railways (UIC), International Transport Forum at the OECD,  
German International Cooperation (GIZ),  
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, International Association of Public Transport (UITP),  
International Road Federation (IRF), International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP),  
FIA Foundation, NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia,  
Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI),  
Eco-Mo Foundation, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP),  
Asia Pacific Road Safety Observatory (APRSO), SLOCAT Partnership for Sustainable Low Carbon Transport, Business Environment Council, Carfree Cities Alliance, Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, Walk21, and WRI India

## DAY 1: 24 October 2023 (Tuesday) SPECIAL SESSION AND MINISTERIAL SESSIONS

Time	Provisional Programme
8:00-9:00	Registration
09:00-9:45	Opening Session 15 <sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum in Asia
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport, Government of Malaysia (5 mins)</li> <li>- Mr. Mitsuya Maeda, Councillor, Minister's Secretariat Deputy Director-General, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (5 mins)</li> <li>- Mr. James Leather, Director Transport, Asian Development Bank (5 mins)</li> <li>- Dr. Kazushige Endo, Director, United Nations Centre for Regional Development of Division for Sustainable Development Goals/ UN DESA (5 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Address by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (5 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Special Address (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rt. Hon. Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Malaysia</li> </ul> <p>Photo Session (5 mins)</p> <p>Rapporteur: Ganesh Raj Joshi, UNCRD &amp; Cornie Huizenga, Advisor to the EST Initiative</p>
	Keynote Speech (1)
09:45-10:00	Unlocking the economic and social benefits of sustainable, low-carbon transport infrastructure – by Mr. James Leather, Director Transport, Asian Development Bank (15 mins)

10:00-10:30	The/Coffee break
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10:30-12:00	<p align="center"><b>High-Level Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Plenary Session 1 (Hybrid Session): Ministerial Statements (90 mins)</b></p>	
10:30-11:45	<p>Ministerial Statements (3-5 mins per statement)</p> <p><b>Session Chair:</b> H.E. Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport, Government of Malaysia</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> C. R. C. Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD/UNDESA</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Stefanie Sohm, ADB Consultant to the EST Forum</p> <p>Statements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participating countries in the EST Initiative:</b> Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, The Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Selected high-level guest speakers:</b> Governor of Aichi Prefecture, Japan, Secretary General of International Transport Forum, Director General of International Union of Railways (UIC), Secretary General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), Secretary General of the International Transport Forum (ITF)</li> </ul>	
11:45-12:00	<p><b>Keynote Speech (2): QOL-MaaS: Transformation of Asian Mobility Lifestyle Towards Decarbonization and Disaster - Pandemic Resilience with Quality of Life in the SDGs Era-</b> by <b>Distinguished Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi</b>, Chubu University, Japan; Executive Committee Member of The Club of Rome; Ex-President of World Conference on Transport Research Society (15 mins)</p>	
12:00-13:00	<p align="center"><b>Networking Lunch</b></p>	
13:00-14:30	<p align="center"><b>High-Level Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Plenary Session 2: Spotlight on Malaysia (90 mins)</b></p> <p><b>Driving Towards a Greener Future: Malaysia's Sustainable Transport Agenda</b></p>	
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>PRESENTATIONS (40 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1:</b> Advancing Towards a Green Transport Ecosystem – <b>Mr. Jana Santhiran</b>, Secretary General, Ministry of Transport, Malaysia (10 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> Implementing Low Carbon Mobility Initiatives - <b>Mr. Nazmi Syahrin Kasmarin</b>, Director of Technology Solutions Group, Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (10 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 3:</b> Harnessing Hydropower for Green Transportation - <b>Dr. Ng Sing Muk</b>, General Manager, Sarawak Energy Board (10 mins)</p>	<p><b>Session Chair:</b> <b>Mr. Jana Santhiran</b>, Secretary General, Ministry of Transport Malaysia</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Simon Ng</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Business Environment Council</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> <b>Joshua Paternina Blanco</b>, International Transport Forum</p>

	<p><b>PANEL DISCUSSION (50 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Panel 1:</b> Malaysia's EV Industry and its Ecosystem - by <b>Mr. Faizal Mohd Yusof</b>, Senior Director, Industry Development Division</p> <p><b>Panel 2:</b> Transforming Malaysia's Public Transport Systems and Services - by <b>Mr. Mohd Azharuddin Mat Sah</b>, President and Group CEO of Prasarana Malaysia Berhad</p> <p><b>Panel 3:</b> Putting Clean Energy into Action - by <b>Mr. Haikal Zubir</b>, Chief Operating Officer, Gentari Green Mobility</p> <p><b>Panel 4:</b> Smart Integrated Mobility: Iskandar Malaysia's Green Agenda - by <b>Mr. Rudyanto Azhar</b>, Director of Iskandar Rapid Transit, Iskandar Regional Development Authority</p>	
14:30-14:45	<p align="center"><b>Tea/Coffee break</b></p>	
14:45-16:15	<p align="center"><b>High-Level Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Plenary Session 3: Special Session on Quality Road Infrastructure's Contribution to Sustainable Development (90 mins)</b></p>	
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><i>In light of the escalating severity and frequency of climate-related natural disasters, the promotion of climate change countermeasures is turning into a critical global concern. Promoting integrated climate change-based adaptation and mitigation strategies in road infrastructure is crucial for attaining sustainable regional development and the SDGs.</i></p> <p><b>PRESENTATIONS (40 mins)</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1:</b> <b>Mr. Shinichiro Nagao</b>, Director for International Affairs, Planning Division, Road Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Government of Japan</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> <b>Mr. James Leather</b>, Director of Transport, Asian Development Bank</p> <p><b>Presentation 3:</b> <b>Datuk Seri Hj. Hasnol Zam Zam Haji Ahmad</b>, Secretary General, Ministry of Works Malaysia</p> <p><b>Presentation 4:</b> <b>Mr. Eu Jin Toh</b>, Deputy Director, Land Transport Authority, Singapore</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A / Open Discussion (50 mins)</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair:</b> <b>Mr. Tomohiro Hasegawa</b>, Deputy Director General, Road Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <b>Cornie Huizenga</b>, Advisor to the EST Initiative</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> <b>Alexis Lau</b>, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</p>

High-Level Plenary Session	
16:15-17:15	Plenary Session 4: Implementation Strategy for the Aichi 2030 Declaration (60 mins)
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>PRESENTATIONS (30 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1:</b> Key elements of the implementation strategy for the Aichi 2030 Declaration – by <b>Cornie Huizenga</b>, Advisor to the EST Initiative (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> Mapping of international transport policy support activities in EST countries and their alignment with the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) – by <b>Stefanie Sohm</b>, ADB Consultant to the EST Forum (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 3:</b> Call for Action: Greater international support to the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) – by <b>H.E. Ms. Maria Catalina E. Cabral</b>, Undersecretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Government of the Philippines (15 mins)</p> <p><b>PANELISTS (TBC)/ PANEL DISCUSSION (30 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>H.E. Ms. Hidayat Naseer</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, Government of Maldives</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Md. Zahid Hossain</b>, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>o <b>Ms. Bounyaseng Sengkhrammy</b>, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Government of Lao PDR</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Andres Pizarro</b>, Head of Transport Sector - South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region, INF 1, AIIB</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to best align the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) with achieving the SDGs, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other international agreements?</li> <li>2. What are the vital means for accelerating the implementation of Aichi 2030 Declaration)?</li> <li>3. What are the major challenges (in terms of capacity, institutions, access to finance and technology) in implementing the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030)?</li> <li>4. How can international development partners help address such challenges?</li> <li>5. How can we better track the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030)?</li> </ol>
	<p><u>Session Chair</u> <b>H.E. Mr. Lyonpo Dorji Tshering</b>, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Bhutan</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>C. R. C. Mohanty</b>, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> <b>Cornie Huizenga</b>, Advisor to the EST Initiative</p>

Welcome Reception	
19:00-22:00	Hosted by: Ministry of Transport, Government of Malaysia Venue: KL Tower
DAY 2: 25 October 2023 (Wednesday) HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY SESSIONS	
9:00-10:30	Plenary Session 5: <u>Review Goal 1a – Low-Carbon (Climate Change Mitigation)</u> Decarbonized Transport Sector in Asia as part of a Net-Zero Society (90 mins)
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>PRESENTATIONS (45 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1 (ATO state of play):</b> Is Asia on track to peak Transport CO2 – by <b>Mr. Sudhir Gota</b>, Asian Transport Outlook Co-lead (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2 (Policy recommendations):</b> Policy recommendations to enable the implementation of Goal 1a of the Aichi 2030 Declaration – by <b>Ms. Naomi Tan</b>, Climate Compatible Growth Programme CCG (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Asian case studies on decarbonization policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Case study 1:</u> Decarbonizing policies of India – by <b>Mr. Upendra Nath Pandey</b>, Under Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India (5 mins) (tbc)</li> <li>• <u>Case study 2:</u> Korea's low-carbon policy – by <b>Mr. Heechun Kim</b>, Director, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Republic of Korea</li> <li>• <u>Case study 3:</u> EST model project centered on "hydrogen derived from livestock manure": Shikaoi Town, Hokkaido's Efforts to Achieve Carbon Neutrality – by <b>Mr. Kazuyasu Tanabe</b>, Chief, Environmental Mobility Policy Division, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of Environment of Japan (5 mins)</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Messages from International Organizations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SLOCAT Partnership</li> <li>• NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia</li> <li>• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> </ul> <p><b>PANELISTS (TBC)/ PANEL DISCUSSION (45 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Dr. Abdul Hamid</b>, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Thun Yuthea Leng</b>, Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Government of Cambodia</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Giok Seng Lee</b>, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Natural Gas Vehicles Association Malaysia</li> <li>o <b>Prof. Alexis Lau</b>, Chair Professor, Division of Environment and Sustainability, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> <b>H.E. Datuk Haji Hasbi bin Haji Habibollah</b>, Deputy Minister of Transport, Government Malaysia</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Guineng Chen</b>, Team Lead, OECD-ITF</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> <b>Bronwen Thornton</b>, CEO, Walk 21</p>

	<p><b>Discussion points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the most critical challenges that Asian countries face in decarbonizing the transport sector (both passenger and freight)?</li> <li>2. In pathways to 1.5 degrees C, what transformational changes Asian countries need in their transport policies and governance, institutional arrangements, financing decisions, and technological interventions?</li> <li>3. How should countries align their short-term emission reduction goals as part of transport NDCs and various transport-related policies with longer-term Net-Zero objectives?</li> </ol>	
10:30-11:00	<b>Tea/Coffee break</b>	
11:00-12:30	<b>Plenary Session 6: Review Goal 6 – National Access and Connectivity Realize Sustainable, Inclusive Economic Growth through Enhanced National Access and Connectivity (90 mins)</b>	
<b>Grand Ballroom Level 6</b>	<p><b>Presentation 1 (ATO state of play):</b> Road and Rail Infrastructure for National Access and Connectivity – by <b>Mr. Mel Eden</b>, Asian Transport Outlook (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2 (Policy recommendations):</b> Policy recommendations to enable the implementation of the road component of Goal 6 of the Aichi 2030 Declaration – by <b>Ms. Julia Funk</b>, Senior Programme Manager and Head of Statistics, International Road Federation (IRF) (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 3 (Policy recommendations):</b> Policy recommendations to enable the implementation of the rail component of Goal 6 of the Aichi 2030 Declaration – integrating the outcome of the first Asia Pacific Rail Summit – by <b>Mr. François Davenne</b>, Director General of International Union of Railways (UIC) (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Asian Case Studies on National Access and Connectivity Policies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Case study 1:</b> <b>Ms. Celeste D. Lauta</b>, Acting Assistant General Manager at Philippine National Railways (5 mins) (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Case study 2:</b> <b>Mr. Krishna Bahadur Katwal</b>, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Local Infrastructure, Ministry of Urban Development, Nepal (5 mins)</li> <li>• <b>Case study 3:</b> <b>Mr. Idzqandar Abu Bakar</b>, Group Chief Health, Safety, Environment and Sustainable Development Officer, Prasarana Malaysia Berhad (5 mins)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> <b>H.E. Dr. Bandula Gunawardhana</b>, Minister of Highways and Transport, Government of Sri Lanka (tbc)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Bronwen Thornton</b>, CEO, Walk 21</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> <b>Joo Hyun Ha</b>, Senior Sustainability Advisor, International Union of Railways (UIC)</p>

	<p><b>PANELISTS (TBC)/ PANEL DISCUSSION (30 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Dr. Mohsen Sadeghi</b>, General Director of Transport Economic Assessment Bureau, Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, Government of Iran</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Padma Kumar Mainalee</b>, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of Nepal</li> <li>o <b>Dr. Capt. Antoni Arif Priadi</b>, Acting Director General of Sea Transportation, Ministry of Transport, Government of Indonesia</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Upendra Nath Pandey</b>, Under Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India</li> <li>o <b>Dr. Agnes Montangero</b>, Lead Strategic Partnerships for Rural Access, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation</li> <li>o <b>Ms. Lucie Anderton</b>, Head of Sustainability, International Union of Railways</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There are regional disparities in national access and connectivity provided by road and rail infrastructure. How can we bridge such disparities? What role international development partners can play?</li> <li>2. What are the primary concerns regarding the current state of road and rail transport infrastructure in Asia? How do these affect the implementation of SDG 9.1 (quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure to support economic development, human well-being, and equitable access), 9.a (sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in the least developed, land-locked developing countries and SIDS), and 9.c (universal and affordable access to ICT and internet)?</li> <li>3. How can Asian countries strengthen their regional connectivity and rural-urban connectivity for the seamless movement of people, goods, services, energy, and knowledge in a cost-effective way? What could the rail system and information and communication technologies (ICT) offer in this regard?</li> </ol>	
12:30-13:30	<b>Network Lunch</b>	
13:30-15:00	<b>Plenary Session 7: International Partners' Initiatives (90 mins)</b>	
<b>Grand Ballroom Level 6</b>	<p><i>International Organizations to give presentations in support of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIB- <b>Andres Pizarro</b></li> <li>• UNITAR- <b>Alexander Mejia</b> (tbc)</li> <li>• UN ESCAP- <b>Sandeep Jain</b></li> <li>• ITF- <b>Guineng Chen</b></li> <li>• IRF- <b>Julia Funk</b></li> <li>• Helvetas: <b>Agnes Montangero</b></li> <li>• Águeda-Portugal</li> <li>• Walk21- <b>Bronwen Thornton</b></li> <li>• Environment Council- <b>Simon Ng</b></li> <li>• WRI India- <b>Chaitanya Kanuri</b></li> <li>• Urban Electric Mobility Initiative- <b>Alvin Mejia</b></li> </ul>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> <b>H.E. Mr. Md. Nurul Islam Sujjan</b>, Minister of Railways, Government of Bangladesh (tbc)</p> <p><u>Moderator &amp; Rapporteur:</u> <b>Stefanie Sohm</b>, ADB Consultant to the EST Forum</p>

15:00-15:30	Tea/Coffee break			
15:30-17:00	Break Out Session: EST Countries (Four Groups in Parallel) (90 mins)			
	Country Report Presentation (EST country cases): Voluntary country reports focusing on the goals under discussion in the 15 <sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum			
	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> H.E. Ms. Hidayah Naseer, Deputy Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Government of Maldives (tbc)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Joshua Paternina Blanco, ITF</p> <p><u>Countries:</u> - Bangladesh - PR China - Japan - Maldives - Pakistan - Thailand</p> <p><i>Comments by expert Panels</i> - Alvin Mejia, UEMI - Stefanie Sohm Venue: Grand Ballroom Level 6</p>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> H.E. Ms. Maria Catalina E. Cabral, Undersecretary of Department of Public Works and Highways, Government of the Philippines (tbc)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Chaitanya Kanuri, WRI India</p> <p><u>Countries:</u> - Bhutan - Indonesia - The Philippines - Timor-Leste - Viet Nam</p> <p><i>Comments by expert Panels</i> - Simon Ng, Business Environment Council - Joo Hyun Ha, UIC Venue: Grand Ballroom Level 6</p>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> H.E. Mr. Lanh Sengaphone, Vice Minister of Public Works and Transport, Government of Lao PDR (tbc)</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Naomi Tan, CCG</p> <p><u>Countries:</u> - Brunei Darussalam - India - Lao PDR - Mongolia - Republic of Korea - Sri Lanka</p> <p><i>Comments by expert Panels</i> - Milko Papazoff, UIC - Agnes Montangero, Helvetas Venue: Grand Ballroom Level 6</p>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> H.E. Ms. Sita Gurung, Minister of Urban Development, Government of Nepal</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ganesh Joshi, UNCRD</p> <p><u>Countries:</u> - Cambodia - Iran - Malaysia - Nepal - Singapore</p> <p><i>Comments by expert Panels</i> - Basri Fahriza, IITLT - Lucie Anderton, UIC Venue: Grand Ballroom Level 6</p>
17:00-18:00	Plenary Session 8: Reporting back on Break-Out Sessions on Country Reporting (60 mins)			
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>Session Chair:</b> Mr. Thun Yuthea Leng, Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Government of Cambodia (tbc)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Julia Funk, Senior Programme Manager and Head of Statistics, IRF <b>Rapporteur:</b> Ganesh Raj Joshi, Researcher, UNCRD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Presentation by Country Break-Out Group 1</b> Bangladesh, PR China, Japan, Maldives, Pakistan, and Thailand</li> <li>o <b>Presentation by Country Break-Out Group 2</b> Bhutan, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, The Philippines, and Timor-Leste</li> <li>o <b>Presentation by Country Break-Out Group 3</b> Brunei Darussalam, India, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam</li> <li>o <b>Presentation by Country Break-Out Group 4</b> Cambodia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal and Singapore</li> </ul>			
18:30-20:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Evening Reception</b> Hosted by: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Venue: Foyer, Grand Ballroom Level 6, Hilton Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</p>			

DAY 3: 26 October 2023 (Thursday) HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY SESSIONS	
9:00-10:30	Plenary Session 9: Review Goal 2 – Road Safety Realize Health and Economic Benefits Through Stepped-up Action on Road Safety (90 mins)
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>"Inspirational video message" by Mr. Jean Todt, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Road Safety (5 mins)</b></p> <p><b>Presentation 1 (ATO state of play):</b> Halving Traffic Crash Fatalities by 2030 – by Mr. Adwait Limaye, Asian Transport Outlook (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2 (Policy recommendations):</b> Policy recommendations to enable the implementation of the road component of Goal 2 of the Aichi 2030 Declaration – by Prof. Dr. Wong Shaw Voon, Chairman of the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (15 mins)</p> <p><b>Asian case studies on road safety policies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Case study 1:</b> Ir. Ts. Azhar Hamzah, Acting Director General, Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (5 mins)</li> <li>• <b>Case study 2:</b> Ms. Thi Thu Hang, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Transport, Government of Viet Nam (5 mins)</li> <li>• <b>Case study 3:</b> Md. Zahid Hossain, Additional Secretary, Road Transport and Highways Division, Government of Bangladesh (5 mins)</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Messages from International Organizations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP)</li> <li>• FIA Foundation</li> </ul> <p><b>PANELISTS (TBC)/ PANEL DISCUSSION (30 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Mr. Sophal Kong, Deputy Director General of Land Transport, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Government of Cambodia</li> <li>o Mr. Umesh Bindu Shrestha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Nepal</li> <li>o Mr. Simon Ng, Chief Executive Officer, Business Environment Council</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> Mr. Jana Santhiran, Secretary General, Ministry of Transport, Government of Malaysia</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Andres Pizarro, Head of Transport Sector - South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region, INF 1, AIIB</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> Naomi Tan, Energy Transition Modelling and Data Lead, Climate Compatible Growth Programme CCG</p>

	<p><b>Discussion points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the main challenges in achieving the SDG target 3.6 (halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents), SDG 11.2 (safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all), and the Global Plan for the Decade of Action 2021 – 2030?</li> <li>2. What actions can the national government and local government authorities take to reduce road traffic fatalities and serious injuries?</li> <li>3. Why have many developing cities in Asia ignored the potential role of dedicated bicycle and pedestrian lanes (as part of their urban design and development) in preventing road accidents? How can we reverse this trend?</li> <li>4. How can countries best fund greater action road safety?</li> <li>5. How can countries ensure effective multi-stakeholder engagement (private sector, civil society, academia, youth groups, and other non-state actors) towards road safety?</li> </ol>	
10:30-11:00	<b>Tea/Coffee break</b>	
11:00-12:30	<b>Plenary Session 10: <u>The Role of e-Mobility Solutions in Decarbonizing Transport and Improving Air Quality in Developing Asia</u> (90 mins)</b>	
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>Presentation 1:</b> Status of e-Mobility Roll-out in Asia – b Mr. Alvin Mejia, UEMI and Asian Transport Outlook (10 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> Shifting the Focus: Smaller Electric Vehicles for Sustainable Cities – by Mr. Joshua Paternina Blanco, International Transport Forum (10 mins)</p> <p><b>Presentation 3:</b> Transport - energy Nexus – by Mr. Rahul Bagdia, Chairman and Managing Director at pManifold (10 mins)</p> <p><b>Asian case studies on electric mobility:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case study 1: Benefits of EV with due consideration to the circularity of end-of-life batteries – by Dr. Rezal Khairi Ahmad, Chief Executive Officer, NanoMalaysia. (5 mins)</li> <li>• Case study 2: Indonesia Government Representative. (5 mins)(tbc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Messages from International Organizations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI)</li> <li>• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</li> </ul> <p><b>PANELISTS (TBC)/ PANEL DISCUSSION (30 minutes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ibrahim Naeem, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Government of Maldives</li> <li>• Mr. Muhammad Farooq, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment Coordination, Government of Pakistan</li> </ul>	<p><u>Session Chair:</u> Government Representative</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Giok Seng Lee, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Natural Gas Vehicles Association Malaysia</p> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> Jack Crawford, ESCAP</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Eu Jin Toh, Deputy Director, Land Transport Authority, Singapore</li> <li>• Mr. Sharif Qamar, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Fellow and Associate Director, India</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion points:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the contribution that e-Mobility solutions can make towards Decarbonizing Transport and Improving Air Quality in Developing Asia?</li> <li>2. What are the institutional, infrastructural, and logistical challenges for e-Mobility in Asia?</li> <li>3. What are the prospects of renewable energy integration into e-Mobility sector thereby ensuring an electric transport economy powered by clean energy?</li> <li>4. How to ensure a smooth transition from traditional automotive products to e-Mobility products in harmony with health and safety, environment and nature, and ecosystem restoration?</li> <li>5. What steps countries should take for collection, resource recovery, and recycling) to deal with end-of-life batteries, which are hazardous to human health and the natural ecosystem?</li> </ol>	
12:30-13:30	<b>Networking Lunch</b>	
13:30-15:00	<b>Plenary Session 11: <u>Adoption of the Chair's Summary &amp; Call for Action: Greater International Support to the Implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030)</u> (90 mins)</b>	
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p><b>Country Interventions and Adoption of the Chair's Summary &amp; Call for Action:</b> Greater International Support to the Implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030)- by EST Forum participating countries</p> <p>Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, The Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam (tbc)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>High-Level 15<sup>th</sup> Regional EST Forum Chair:</b> Session Chair: H.E. Loke Siew Fook, Minister of Transport, Malaysia</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Facilitators / Moderators:</b> C. R. C. Mohanty, Environment Programme Coordinator, UNCRD/ DSDG/UN DESA, and Cornie Huizenga, Advisor to the EST Initiative</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rapporteurs:</b> Ganesh Raj Joshi, UNCRD-DSDG/UN DESA, and Mr. Simon Ng, Chief Executive Officer, Business Environment Council</p>	



15:00-15:30	<b>Plenary Session 12: <u>Closing Session</u> (90 mins)</b>
Grand Ballroom Level 6	<p>Special Announcements if any (10 mins)</p> <p>Closing Session (20 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>H.E. Loke Siew Fook</b>, Minister of Transport, Malaysia (3 mins)</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Mitsuya Maeda</b>, Councillor, Minister's Secretariat Deputy Director-General, Environmental Management Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan (3 mins)</li> <li>o <b>Mr. Jamie Leather</b>, Director Transport, Asian Development Bank (3 min)</li> <li>o <b>Dr. Kazushige Endo</b>, Director, United Nations Centre for Regional Development of Division for Sustainable Development Goals/ UN DESA (3 mins)</li> </ul>
15:30-16:00	<b>High-Tea Reception (Venue: Foyer, Grand Ballroom Level 6)</b>
16:00-19:00	<p><b>Technical Field Trip: Putrajaya City</b></p> <p>Option 1: Putrajaya City</p> <p>Option 2: KLCC Shopping Mall</p>

