

15th Regional EST Forum in Asia

Implementation Plan for the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) for Achieving Universally Accessible, Safe, Affordable, Efficient, Resilient, Clean and Low-carbon Passenger & Freight Transport in Asia

15th Regional EST Forum in Asia, October 24th – 26th, Kuala – Lumpur, Malaysia

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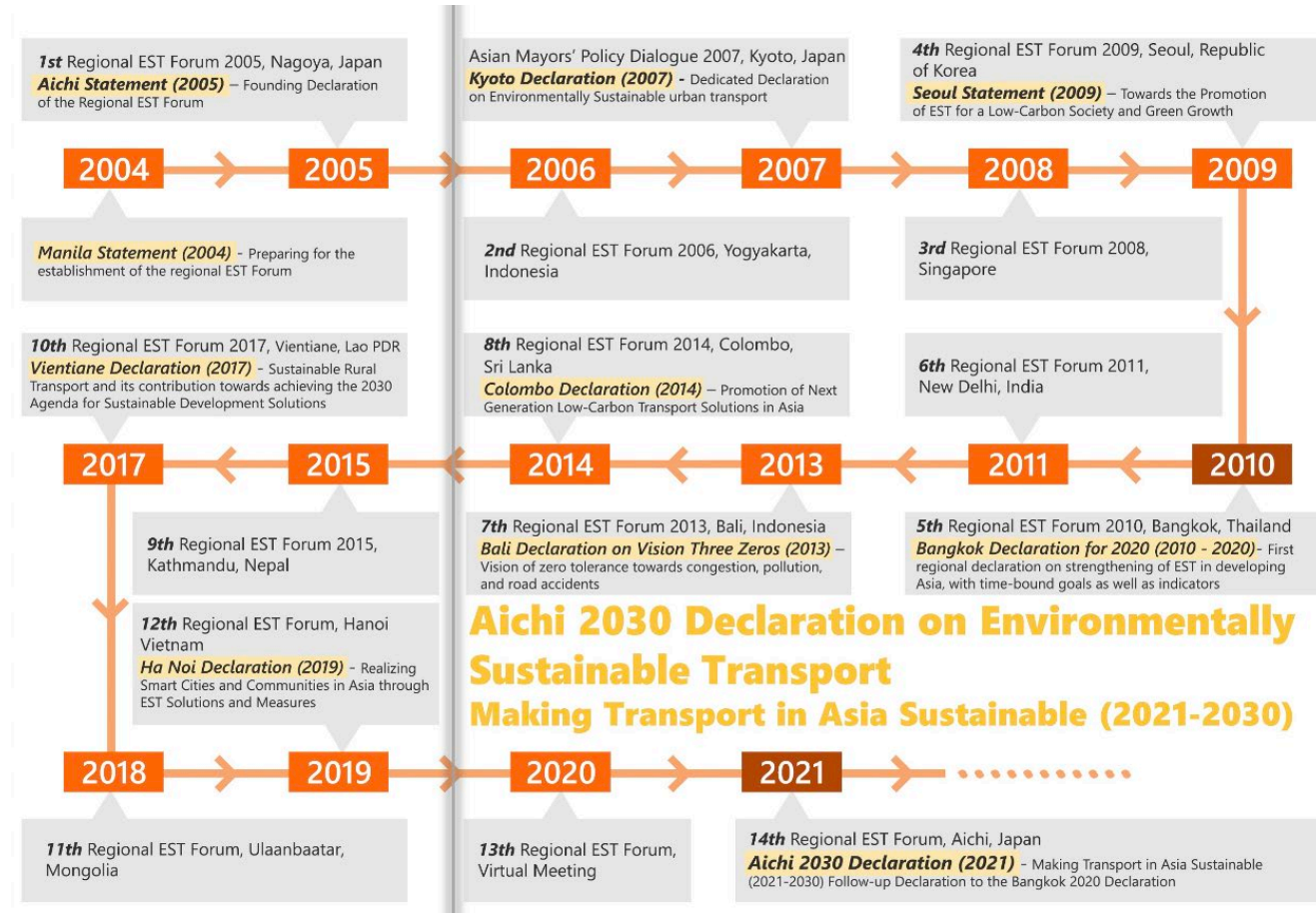


Outline presentation

1. The need for an implementation plan
2. Restructuring the annual EST Forums:
 - Link Forum format to the goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration
 - Make the discussions in the Forum more policy relevant
3. Resource mobilization for EST Forum
 - In kind assistance – emerging communities of interest
 - Call for greater international assistance for the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration
4. ADB – EST cooperation
 - ADB support to the EST Secretariat and hosting of 15th EST Forum
 - Symbiotic relationship Asian Transport Outlook – EST Initiative

The Need for an Implementation Plan

- Following adoption of the Aichi 2030 Declaration there was a felt need to restructure the EST Initiative and annual Forums to maintain and expand their impact:
 - Increase the policy relevance of the EST Forums and increase country ownership;
 - Streamline the annual EST Forums
 - Contribute to the financial and organizational sustainability of EST Initiative and annual Forums



Restructure EST Forum format – *phased approach*

- In the past EST Forum's would review all 25 goals of Bangkok 2020 Declaration – this did not allow for in- depth focused discussion
- Taking our lead from the SDG review process, a phased approach has been adopted in which each Forum reviews 3 goals:
 - **Year (2023):** *Goal 1a – Low-Carbon (climate change mitigation), Goal 2 – Road safety, Goal 6 – National access and connectivity*
 - **Year (2024):** *Goal 1c – Air pollution, Goal 5 – Urban access, Goal 3 – Economic sustainability (transport infrastructure),*
 - **Year (2025):** *Goal 1b – Resilience (climate change adaptation), Goal 4 – Rural access and Goal 6 – National Access and connectivity (repeat)*

Restructure EST Forum format – *more policy relevant*

- Introduction of focus policy recommendation papers for Aichi 2030 Declaration goals under review
- Engage with leading organizations in the field to develop policy recommendation papers (– 2023 xx organizations involved) and build emerging communities of interest
- Country consultations on the policy recommendation papers
- Key elements of the policy recommendation papers included in the Chairman’s Summary
- Make the Chairman summary more impact full and less “he said – she said”
- Introduce Post event press release to summarize main agreed upon policy recommendations for goals under review

Resource Mobilization for the EST Initiative and Forums – *in kind contributions*

- Showcase the new format of EST Forum to demonstrate its relevance as key Asian initiative in sectoral – regional translation of global agreements on sustainable development and climate change
- Bring a growing number of organizations on board – through contributions to Aichi 2030 goal related papers. Use these contributions as a starting point for their further, increased engagement in EST initiative, e.g. capacity building
- Aim for sizeable, relevant pre-events to increase attendance at EST Forum, as through the Asia Pacific Rail Summit organized with UIC

Resource Mobilization for the EST Initiative and Forums – *call for greater international assistance*

- Countries participating in EST initiative have stated repeatedly that they need greater international assistance to implement the laudable but ambitious goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration
- Both financial assistance is needed as well as capacity building and policy support
- Major step forward will be if international organizations would align their financial and capacity building support explicitly with the goals of the Aichi 2030 Declaration

ADB – EST cooperation – *support for EST Secretariat and annual Forum*

- EST Forum has an increased strategic relevance for the ADB:
 - International agreements on sustainable development and climate change increases the need for organizations like ADB to engage more actively in policy dialogues with its member countries – EST Forums are uniquely positioned for this
 - Country participation in the EST Initiative leads to different type of requests for transport assistance
- ADB is now providing in-kind support to the EST Secretariat (consultant support) as well as the hosting of annual EST Forum
- ADB assistance could be considered as a model for other multilateral development banks active in transport in the EST region

ADB – EST cooperation *Symbiotic relationship Asian Transport Outlook – EST Initiative*

- In the last 3 years EST initiative has been benefitting from the knowledge gathering on the transport sector in the EST region through the Asian Transport Outlook. This includes:
 - Baseline Report for the Aichi 2030 Declaration on Environmentally Sustainable Transport - Making Transport in Asia Sustainable (2021-2030)
 - Joint Capacity building event on the implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration in March 2023, co-hosted with ADB
 - State of play presentations in the 15th EST Forum for the Aichi 2030 Declaration Goals under review.
- Consider the ATO – EST relationship as a model for potential partnerships with knowledge based initiatives