

High-Level 15th Regional EST Forum

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | 25 October 2023

Achieving the Aichi 2030 Declaration Goal 6 for National Access and Connectivity - Roads: Policy Action Recommendations

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The Need to Act

- **Critical Transport Backbone:** Roads = primary mode of transportation for economic and social development.
- **Disparity in Road Provision:** Asia-Pacific represents 58% global population & 47% GDP share, YET only 31% of global road infrastructure. (Despite representing 60% of global road km increase 2010-2015.)
- **Future Challenges:** Asia's transport demand increasing annually (2.7% for passenger & 5% for freight transport) → critical to address mobility & infrastructure gap.
- **UN 2030 SDGs and Aichi 2030 Declaration:** SDG 9.1 and Aichi Goal 6 underscore the need to enhance road infrastructure inclusivity and sustainability globally.
 - **SDG 9.1:** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure
 - **Goal 6:** National Access and Connectivity



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Policy Recommendation 1

Strengthen Road Assessment Management

- **Develop, Communicate, and Implement clear Road Asset Management Policies and Strategies**
 - Support national and global goals for sustainable transport, climate action, disaster risk reduction, and quality infrastructure.
- **Prepare Road Network Investment Plans** as one Component of Integrated Multimodal Transport Systems
- **Promote Performance-Based Contracts (PBCs)** to manage road networks
- **Adopt a Digital Strategy for Roads**



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Policy Recommendation 2

Improve rural accessibility and connectivity through better road networks and transport services

- Identify rural areas that can benefit from a denser road network
- Base infrastructure investment decisions on local needs
- Use appropriate appraisal tools to assess potential investments
- Develop multimodal rural transport networks for greater economic and social benefit
- Use credit schemes to fund and finance private transport services in rural areas
- Support the provision of cost-effective rural public transport services



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Policy Recommendation 3

Combining wider rural planning with rural transport planning

- **Utilise Integrated Rural Access Planning (IRAP) Methodology**
 - → Greater accessibility
- **Strengthen the role and capacity of local governments in IRAP**
 - E.g. road, housing, and health authorities, to support multisectoral approach for better accessibility
- **Promote research and experience exchange on IRAP**



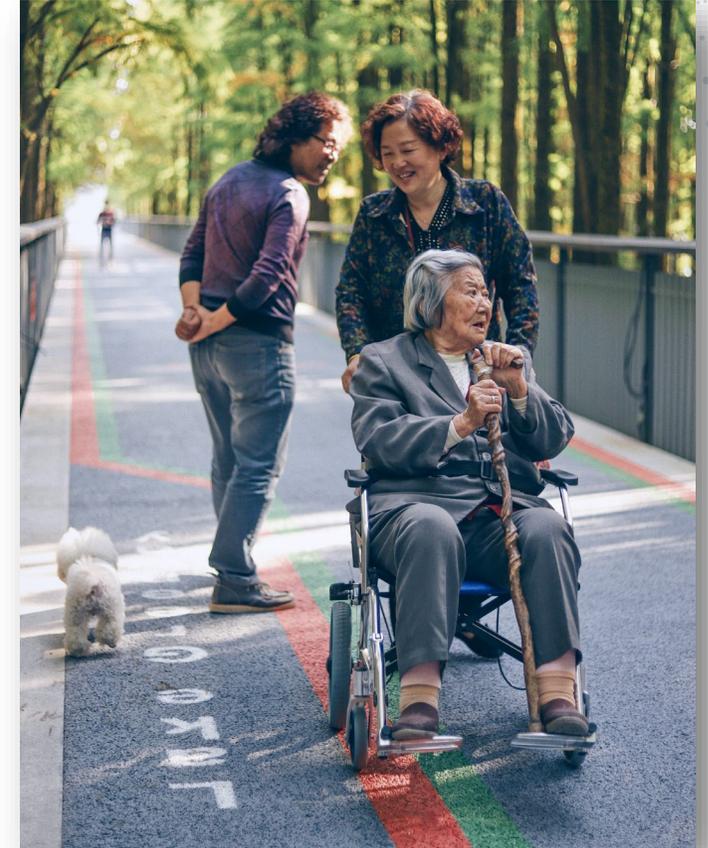
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Policy Recommendation 4

Promote Sustainable and Green Initiatives

- **Emphasise Sustainable Infrastructure Development**
 - Prioritise environmentally friendly approaches throughout project lifecycle
- **Adopt Renewable Energy Sources**
- **Encourage Eco-Friendly Transportation Options**
- **Implement Green Logistics and Freight Transport**
- **Adopt a ‘dig once’ policy**



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Policy Recommendation 5

Monitor and Evaluate

- **Establish Comprehensive Performance Metrics**
 - Accessibility, safety, environmental impact, and socio-economic development
- **Monitor Socio-Economic Impact**
 - Assist in gauging contribution to regional and national development goals
- **Foster Stakeholder Engagement**



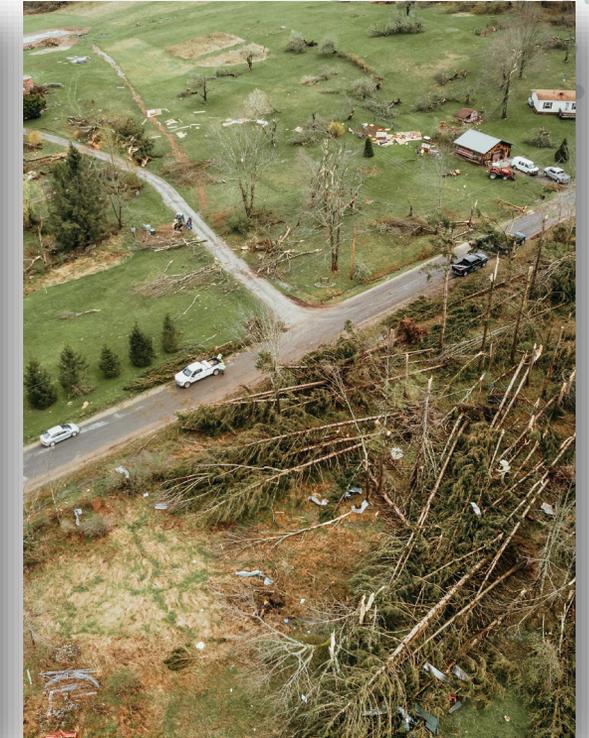
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Policy Recommendation 6

Strengthen Resilience and Disaster Preparedness

- **Incorporate Climate-Resilient Design Principles**
 - E.g. elevated roads in flood-prone areas, reinforced structures to withstand earthquakes
- **Develop Robust Disaster Preparedness Plans**
 - Enhance infrastructure's longevity
- **Encourage Green Infrastructure Solutions**



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Support from the International Community

Suggestions

- Technical Expertise and Knowledge Sharing
- Funding and Financing Mechanisms
- Policy Frameworks and Guidelines
- Establish Regional Transport Initiatives
- Support Data and Technology Sharing
- Foster Public Awareness and Behavioural Change
- Enhance Rural Transport and Mobility Investments
- Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building



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Wider Impact of National Connectivity

Beyond Roads: Socio-Economic Impact and Linkages

- **Empowers Communities:** Enhances access to markets, education, and healthcare, fostering social empowerment and economic growth.
- **Gender Equality:** Promotes gender equality aligning with Aichi Goals 4 (Rural Access) and 5 (Urban Access).
- **Generational Equity:** Addresses poverty (SDG 1) and links with Aichi Goal 3 (Economic Sustainability).
- **Environmental Caution:** Mindful road capacity creation to mitigate GHG emissions (Aichi Goal 1a, SDG 13, Paris Agreement) and air pollution (Aichi Goal 1c, SDG 3).
- **Safety and Resilience:** Sound design and management of roads and road networks is crucial for climate resilience (Aichi Goal 1b) and safety (Aichi Goal 2, Paris Agreement).



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Concluding Remarks

Driving Sustainable Change

- **Strategic Collaboration:** By implementing these policy recommendations, nations can ensure more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient road infrastructure.
- **Empowered Communities:** Bridging gaps in national road connectivity uplifts communities, fostering economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability.
- **Aichi 2030 Vision Realised:** Together, we can transform aspirations into action, achieving the Aichi 2030 Declaration's Goal 6 for a connected, accessible, and prosperous future.



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THANK YOU!

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