

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
among  
**The Economic Cooperation Organization,**  
**The Islamic Development Bank**  
and  
**The United Nations Economic and Social Commission**  
**for Asia and The Pacific**  
**On Transport Development**

**I. Introduction**

1.The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) agree to sign the present memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the belief that their cooperation in the transport sector will contribute to the promotion of economic development and social progress in Asia and the Pacific. This MoU is additional to, and in no way supersedes the Memorandum of Understanding between ECO and ESCAP signed in Istanbul on 7th July 1993.

**II. Purpose of cooperation among ECO, IDB and ESCAP**

2.To promote the development of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system for their members, ECO, IDB and ESCAP plan to work together on the further development of the Asian Highway and the Trans-Asian Railway networks, two major building blocks of this system, as well as implementation of the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA).

**III. General Principles for Cooperation among ECO, IDB and ESCAP**

3. ECO, IDB and ESCAP will be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) Long-term approaches to inclusive and sustainable development are needed;
- (b) Full stakeholder participation should be encouraged; and
- (c) Development policies and programs should be results-oriented.

4. ECO, IDB and ESCAP plan to

- (a) identify and address jointly international transport and logistics issues of priority concern;

- (b) develop and implement, as appropriate, joint programmes and projects in mutually identified areas;
- (c) organize workshops, seminars and meetings jointly;
- (d) exchange analytical reports, publications, technical materials, information and expert services.

#### **IV. Focus of Joint Activities**

5. It is envisaged that the focus for joint priority activities may include the following areas, which may be amended from time to time with the mutual written consent of the three organizations.

- (a) Identifying investment priorities for the development of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks, and implementation of the TTFA;
- (b) Supporting transport infrastructure development including upgrading of Asian Highway priority routes, construction of Trans-Asian Railway missing links and construction of dry ports;
- (c) Promoting the development of an international integrated intermodal transport and logistics system for Asia with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and intermodal interfaces (dry ports) as major components;
- (d) Assisting governments of common membership in formulating and implementing policies, plans and strategies aimed at accelerating investment in the transport sector, including through public-private partnership;
- (e) Promoting the development of intermodal transport corridors as a comprehensive approach to addressing both infrastructure development and facilitation measures to increase efficiency of the transport sector in the logistics and supply chain;
- (f) Promoting the effective operation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks through: (a) organization of truck caravans along the Asian Highway routes and (b) demonstration runs of container block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway routes by ECO and ESCAP;
- (g) Promoting the implementation of international conventions and subregional agreements relating to transport facilitation; in particular the ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement; and
- (h) Enhancing national capabilities and devising effective strategies and programmes for human resources development in multimodal transport and logistics.

## **V. Exchange of Information**

6. ECO, IDB and ESCAP recognize that effective cooperation in the transport sector depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information. To the extent possible under the information disclosure policies of the respective organizations, they agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) provide copies of publications and all public documents related to transport of each organization to the other organizations; and
- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
  - conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored;
  - regional, country, sector and thematic policy/strategy documents;
  - programme and project approval documents; and
  - regional programme, country programme, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

## **VI. Reciprocal Invitations**

7. ECO, IDB and ESCAP recognize that appropriate representation is important to emphasize their common interests, purpose and intentions. They agree that invitations to the meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in this MoU will be sent where this is deemed appropriate by the inviting organization.

## **VII. Periodic Consultations**

8. ECO, IDB and ESCAP recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented, and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems related to the areas of cooperation under this MoU. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

## **VIII. Responsible Units for Management of the MoU**

9. ECO, IDB and ESCAP agree to designate as responsible units for the activities under this MoU:

- (a) for ECO: Directorate of Transport and Communications
- (b) for IDB: Country Operations Department - 1 (COD-1)
- (c) for ESCAP: Transport Division

## **IX. Preparation, Implementation and Evaluation of Joint Work Activities**

10. IDB and ESCAP will prepare:

- (a) a list of all current operational cooperation activities and status of implementation;
- (b) a list with a brief description of all planned cooperation activities for the next year; and

- (c) an indicative list of planned cooperation activities for two subsequent years.

11. ECO, IDB and ESCAP agree that:

- (a) the appropriate programme managers in ECO, IDB and ESCAP will be responsible for the implementation of cooperation activities within their areas of responsibility;
- (b) the appropriate programme managers will provide brief reports as necessary to ECO Directorate of Transport and Communications, IDB COD-1, and ESCAP/Programme Management Division on the status of implementation of all cooperation activities listed within their areas of responsibility; and
- (c) ECO, IDB and ESCAP will conduct a joint mid-term review of the implementation of the MoU and consider further cooperation activities.

#### **X. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS**

12. ECO, IDB and ESCAP recognize that the involvement of all organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgment of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation;
- (b) information derived from the cooperative activities may be made available through customary channels according to the normal procedures of each party. Results derived from joint research projects shall be published with public acknowledgement of the role and contribution of each party; and
- (c) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

#### **XI. Term and Review of the MoU**

13. ECO, IDB and ESCAP agree that:

- (a) the term of the MoU will be from the date of signature by the Parties and shall be valid for three years; and
- (b) this MoU shall be renewed for another three years if all parties agree in writing on the renewal at least six months before the expiration date.

#### **XII. Miscellaneous**

14. Any specific activities under this MoU shall be covered by a separate project document or written agreement.

15. The MoU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

16. The MoU may be terminated by any organization on six months notice in writing.

Done in three original copies in English language.

For the United Nations  
Economic and Social  
Commission for Asia and  
the Pacific

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Under-Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
and Executive Secretary of  
ESCAP

Date: 27 February 2009

Place: Bangkok, Thailand

For the Economic  
Cooperation Organization

Khurshid Anwar  
Secretary General

Date: 9 March 2009

Place: Tehran

For the Islamic  
Development Bank

Ahmad Mohamed Ali Al-  
Madani  
President

Date: 9 March 2009

Place: Jeddah