

Projects in Afghanistan:

I. KTAI Railway Corridor

1. Inauguration of Khaf – Herat railway: Construction work has finished from Khaaf to Shamtigh in Iran and from Shamtigh up to Rozanak station in Afghanistan with the contribution of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This project is nearly 220 km long and has been divided into four operational sections with two in Iran and two in Afghanistan. The 140 km section of the Route from Khaf to Rozanak has been inaugurated in December 2020 with the participation of en-route Member States. The forth section from Rozanak to Herat is commissioned and is expected to complete within one year.
2. In this framework, the Islamic Republic of Iran has also conducted a few rounds of training program for railway staff of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
3. As regards Kyrgyz Republic-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) Railway Corridor, Afghanistan is appreciated for reaching considerable progress in conducting pre-feasibility and feasibility studies along the segments of KTAI railway in its territory via involving partners to help them.
4. Since the length of the missing lines in Afghanistan is over 1000 km which requires huge investments for construction works, Afghan side may share their future plans on the ways of attracting investors for construction works. In this case ECO Secretariat may also intervene and help Afghanistan for fund raising.
5. ECO Secretariat is going to assist the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to host the Transport Ministerial Meeting and the preceding High Level Expert Group Meeting on KTAI Railway route via virtual means in 2021. The outstanding issues regarding the remaining portion of the Route will be discussed in the Meeting.
6. Moreover, as per the decision of the 31st RPC Meeting, Afghanistan is expected to convene the International Fund-Raising Conference for attraction of possible investors for the construction of the KTAI railway missing links within the territory of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

II. KTAI Road Corridor

7. The Secretariat has also conducted the “Study Project for Development OF Kyrgyz-Tajikistan- Afghanistan – Iran (KTAI) Road Transport Corridor” with the collaboration of IRU. The Study Project completed in 2020, is considered very promising for Afghanistan, especially after reactivation of the TIR System in Afghanistan.
8. The field studies on KTAI Road Corridor allowed examining and identifying major obstacles at borders (BCPs), get familiarized with the road conditions, roadside

facilities, security issues etc. As regards road conditions, there is an issue with the remaining portion of the “missing link” along the route in territory of Afghanistan, notably the road connecting Herat to Mazar-e-Sharif, which finishes at 80 km from Herat and there is no clear picture about next plans (feasibility studies, construction, funding sources) of the Government for this portion of the segment. Afghanistan has announced at various occasions that it shall complete the remaining portion of its road infrastructure to accelerate full operationalization of KTAI Road Corridor which is still awaited.

9. A test run of the ECO KTAI Road Corridor commenced from the Iranian border crossing of Dogharoon on Sunday 26 July 2020 passing through Afghanistan and Tajikistan ended in Kyrgyz Republic on August 13, 2020. The successful dispatch of loaded trucks carrying cargo worth more than 85 thousand USD amidst the Covid-19 pandemic has proved that cooperation is possible, and that it can be facilitated by regional arrangements.

10. Another two attempts for test run of loaded trucks between Iran – Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have also been implemented in 2020.