



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

THIRD MEETING OF THE RAILWAY WORKING GROUP

15-16 May 2017
Tbilisi, Georgia

Chaired by the Government of Tajikistan
Generously hosted by the Government of Georgia

15-16 May: Third Meeting of the Railway Working Group

Venue: Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

Background

Currently about 25,000 kilometers of main railway corridors connect the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) countries. However, the existing rail network and railway service do not necessarily match the changing trade patterns it is meant to serve. The main change includes a growing export and import with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Europe. Railways have the potential to transform the region from being land-locked into being land-linked and to connect it better with its rapidly growing neighbors. Although rail infrastructure has contributed in maintaining the competitiveness of the countries in CAREC, its quality needs to be improved so that the railways will facilitate increased regional cooperation and integration.

In light of the above, *Unlocking the Potential of Railways: A Railway Strategy for CAREC, 2017–2030* (the Strategy) has been developed by CAREC member countries to serve as a guiding document for the sound, long-term development of CAREC railways. The Strategy is intended to equip the region's railways to better capture evolving trade flows and contribute to regional economic development.

The Strategy was formulated by the Railway Working Group (RWG), which was set up by the decision of the 14th Transport Sector Coordinating Committee (TSCC) in Ulaanbaatar in April 2015. The RWG consists of representatives of railway agencies from CAREC member countries, supported by expert organizations such as the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) and International Union Railways (UIC), as well as CAREC development partners. The RWG convened in Tokyo in November 2015, and in Bangkok in April 2016, where countries shared their status, plans, and issues regarding railways and agreed on the vision, priorities, and actions underpinning the Strategy.

The Strategy was endorsed at the 15th CAREC Ministerial Conference in Islamabad in October 2016. Now the Strategy is in the implementation stage. The RWG is expected to prepare for practical implementation measures of the Strategy as a core group representing railway agencies and expert organizations.

Objectives of the Third Meeting of the RWG

The main objective of the third meeting of the RWG is to discuss and agree on practical implementation measures for the Strategy. The CAREC strategic vision for rail transport is that rail transport will be a mode of choice for trade: quick, efficient, accessible for customers, and easy to use throughout the region by 2030. To achieve this vision, priorities will be on the following three areas: (i) to develop effective rail infrastructure; (ii) to develop robust commercial capabilities; and (iii) to improve legal and regulatory frameworks.

In line with those priorities, the third meeting of the RWG will offer the opportunities for the participants to share issues and expectations, to have discussions among countries in the same corridor group, and to exchange knowledge and experiences.

The expected output will be items and commitments of practical activities for the implementation of the Strategy to be recommended to each railway agency in the region and related organizations. The output will be for subsequent endorsement by the 16th TSCC, scheduled immediately following the third meeting of the RWG.

Day 1 (15 May)

0830	Registration
0900-0910	Welcome remarks Mr. Begijon Ziyoev, Chief Specialist of Ministry of Transport, Tajikistan Mr. Guramishvili Guram, Director of Freight Transportation, Georgian Railway Ms. Yesim Elhan-Kayalar, Country Director, Georgia Resident Mission (GRM), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
0910-0915	Introduction to objectives and agenda of the RWG Mr. Takeshi Fukayama, Transport Specialist, ADB
0915-	Session 1: CAREC Railway Strategy—what will be needed for its implementation? <i>As a start of the meeting, the RWG will share the contents of the Strategy and discuss overall issues for the implementation of the Strategy.</i> Moderator: Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Technical Advisor (Transport), SDCC, ADB
0915-0930	Presentation: <i>Unlocking the Potential of Railways: A Railway Strategy for CAREC, 2017–2030</i> —the vision, priorities and issues on implementations Mr. John Winner, Railway Policy Consultant
0930-1030	Round table: How can the member countries implement the strategy? 3 minutes feedback from each of the country representatives
1030-1100	Coffee break and group photo

- 1100-1145 Presentation: Issues and practices for institutional development
Mr. Vincent Vu, International Union of Railways (UIC)
Ms. Irina Petrunina, International Union of Railways (UIC)
- 1145-1200 Wrap-up for the session
- 1200-1400 Lunch: Filini Restaurant, Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel
- 1400- **Session 2: Analytic tools and case studies**
RWG is to learn from the experiences in other countries for the actual usage of various kinds of analytic tools for the preparation of corridor development, service improvement and institutional reform.
- Moderator: Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Technical Advisor (Transport), SDCC, ADB
- 1400-1445 Presentation: Needs for the railway service from the users' perspective and monitoring the service level
Mr. Andrei Evdokimov, Freight Railway Expert
- 1445-1530 Presentation: Marketing analysis on railway development and service improvement
Mr. John Winner, Railway Policy Consultant
- 1530-1600 Coffee break
- 1600-1645 Presentation: Institutional and regulatory framework analysis
Mr. Jeremy Drew, Railway Policy Consultant
- 1645-1700 Wrap-up for the session
- 1800- **Dinner: Rooms Hotel**

Day 2 (16 May)

0900-1030

Session 3: Group session—Develop implementation measures for each of the main corridors

Following the confirmation at the 2nd meeting of RWG and the 15th TSCC Meeting, the Sub-working Groups of the CAREC RWG have been formed for further research and improvement of the readiness of selected corridor investment projects and service improvement for the corridor. More specifically, sub-WGs are asked to think about priority measures in either physical investments or service improvements and cooperation initiatives, to develop corridor rail operations and performance. The opportunity will be provided to share the issues and implementation measures for each of the main corridor by sub-group discussion.

Moderator: Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Technical Advisor (Transport), SDCC, ADB

The Sub-working Groups are as indicated in the following table*:

		Route	DR C	Leader Country	Member Countries	Observer Countries/ Resource Persons	Facilitator
Round 1 0915-1015	1	PRC-Kazakhstan-Azerbaijan-Georgia	DR C 201	Azerbaijan	Georgia Kazakhstan	Turkmenistan UIC(Petrunina) Andrei Evdokimov	Oleg Samukhin
	2	PRC-Kyrgyz Republic-Uzbekistan	DR C 202	Kyrgyz Republic	Uzbekistan PRC	Mongolia UIC(Vu) John Winner	Takeshi Fukayama
	3	(Iran)-Afghanistan-Tajikistan	DR C 204	Afghanistan	Tajikistan	Pakistan Jeremy Drew	Ko Sakamoto
Round 2 1015-1115	4	Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-(Iran)	DR C 603	Kazakhstan	Turkmenistan	Tajikistan Kyrgyz Republic Uzbekistan UIC(Petrunina) Andrei Evdokimov	Oleg Samukhin
	5	Georgia-Azerbaijan-(Iran)-Pakistan	DR C 604	Pakistan	Georgia Azerbaijan	Afghanistan John Winner	Takeshi Fukayama
	6	PRC-Mongolia-(Russian Federation)	DR C 401	Mongolia	PRC	UIC(Vu) Jeremy Drew	Jurgen Sluijter

* Composition of some sub-WGs were modified in order to attract fruitful discussions.

1130-1230

Presentation by each of the sub-groups (by the leader country) and wrap-up for the session

1230-1400 Lunch: Filini Restaurant, Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel

1400-1530 **Session 4: Wrap-up session**

RWG is to discuss and agree on the overall implementation plan for the Strategy.

Moderator: Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Technical Advisor (Transport), SDCC, ADB

Rapporteurs: Mr. Takeshi Fukayama, Transport Specialist, CWRD, ADB

Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Transport Economist, EARD, ADB

1530-1545 **Closing Remarks**

Mr. Guram Guramishvili, Director of Freight Transportation, JSC Georgian Railway

Mr. Begijon Ziyoev, Chief Specialist of Ministry of Transport, Tajikistan