



## **SIXTH MEETING OF THE RAILWAY WORKING GROUP**

**22-23 June 2020**

Istanbul, Turkey

**Venue: Grand Hyatt Hotel Istanbul**

### **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 services do not necessarily match the changing trade patterns they are meant to serve. 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.

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 endorsed at the 15<sup>th</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference in Islamabad in October 2016.

CAREC member countries are now working to implement the Strategy, for which ADB has mobilized a technical assistance (TA) project with the generous financial support of the People's Republic of China Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund (PRCF), and the United Kingdom Fund for Asia Regional Trade and Connectivity (ARTCF). TA activities commenced in May 2019, focusing on transport modeling and rail sector assessments. At the 5th meeting in Bangkok in December 2019, the RWG approved a series of additional TA activities: (i) a CAREC rolling stock needs and financing facility study, (ii) best practices in establishing and operating a railway sales and marketing function, (iii) a briefing note on the use of railway capacity and timetabling software, and (iv) advisory support for preparation of railway commercialization, reform and investment programs in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.

### **Objectives of the Sixth RWG Meeting**

The main objective of the sixth meeting of the RWG is to report on progress achieved in TA implementation and to agree on next steps in the TA project, and to share knowledge and experience in key railway reform measures. In more detail, the meeting will:

- Update the RWG on TA activities
- Present best practices in rail freight sales and marketing;
- Discuss actions for rail freight corridor development
- Demonstrate advantages of track capacity and timetable software
- Discuss rolling stock investment options
- Agree on next steps in TA implementation

## Day 1 (16 March)

- 0830-0900 Registration
- 0900-0905 **Welcome remarks**  
Mr. Mohammed Sameem Raheemi, Director General for Policy and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Transport, Afghanistan
- 0905-0915 **Introduction to objectives and agenda of the RWG meeting**  
Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB
- 0915-1000 **Keynote speech**  
Mr. Christian Kuhn, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ)
- 1000-1030 Coffee break and group photo
- 1030-1100 **Session 1: Update on TA activities and proposals received**  
*This session presents the current status of sector assessments and suggestions for dissemination. Report on progress in previously agreed TA activities and additional proposals for TA support received.*  
Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Consultant (former Technical Advisor Transport, ADB)
- 1100-1200 **Session 2: Rolling stock needs and financing facility study – Part 1**  
*Country knowledge sharing session to assist in guiding the focus of the study. Each RWG Member to make a short presentation on the rolling stock situation and needs of their railway, including the present situation, participation by the domestic private sector in ownership and provision of railway wagons and locomotives, rolling stock asset management, rolling stock issues for cross-border traffic, and rolling stock financing (10 minutes per country).*  
Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Consultant (former Technical Advisor Transport, ADB)
- 1200-1315 Lunch
- 1315-1415 **Session 3: Rolling stock needs and financing facility study – Part 1 (continued)**
- 1430-1515 **Session 4: Track capacity and timetabling software (TCTS)**  
*An instructive presentation based on the publication prepared under the TA. This session will highlight the functions and practical use of track capacity and timetable software, describing the availability of various software packages, and provide instructions on how to choose and implement the software.*  
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Haldor Eckhart Jochim, University of Applied Sciences Aachen, Germany

1515-1545	Tea break
1545-1630	<p><b>Session 4 (continued): Applicability and implementation of TCTS</b>  <i>Based on actual case studies, the various purposes and possibilities of track capacity and timetable software are demonstrated.</i></p> <p>Prof. Dr.-Ing. Haldor Eckhart Jochim, University of Applied Sciences  Aachen, Germany</p>
1630-1700	<b>Remarks from development partners</b>
1700-1715	<p><b>Wrap-up Day 1</b>  Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB</p>
1830-2100	<b>Reception (at Hotel)</b>

## Day 2 (17 March)

- 0830-0900 Registration
- 0900-0905 **Introduction to Day 2 of the RWG meeting**  
Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB
- 0905-0935 **Session 5: CAREC railway corridor performance to date**  
*The CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) mechanism is an empirical tool to assess and track the time and cost of moving goods across borders and along six CAREC corridors. This presentation will describe performance of rail transportation, but also provide comparisons with the performance at road border-crossing points, addressing the competitiveness of rail vis-à-vis road.*  
  
Mr. Oleg Samukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB
- 0935-1015 **Session 6: Challenges in developing a rail freight corridor**  
*This session presents a rail operator's strategy and action plans to develop regular and sustainable services between Europe and Central Asia, highlighting the required collaboration between all stakeholders involved.*  
  
Mr. Sebastian Sperker, Managing Director, Rail Cargo Carrier Group
- 1015-1030 Coffee break
- 1030-1200 **Session 7: Cost price calculation of rail transport services**  
*Marketing and sales are vital to improve railway sector performance. But how price-competitive is rail freight transport? Will the (new) services be profitable for the operator? This session presents the accurate way of calculating the cost price of rail services, and how this approach supports smart investment decisions.*  
  
Mr. Udo Sauerbrey, Consultant (Railway Commercialization and Reform Expert)
- 1200-1330 Lunch
- 1330-1415 **Session 8: Rolling stock needs and financing facility study – Part 2**  
*Based on the interactive sessions at Day 1, the terms of reference for follow up study will be presented, to be agreed by the RWG participants.*  
  
Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Consultant (former Technical Advisor Transport, ADB)
- 1415-1530 **Session 9: TA Planning 2020**  
*Based on the results of sector assessments, and discussions at the previous RWG meeting, TA consultants will present additional proposals for project prefeasibility study and capacity development support activities, to be approved by RWG participants.*  
  
Mr. Tyrrell Duncan, Consultant (former Technical Advisor Transport, ADB)

1530-1600 Coffee Break

1600-1645 **Wrap-up (Summary of Proceedings)**  
Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB

1645-1700 **Closing remarks**  
  
Mr. Mohammed Sameem Raheemi, Director General for Policy and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Transport, Afghanistan