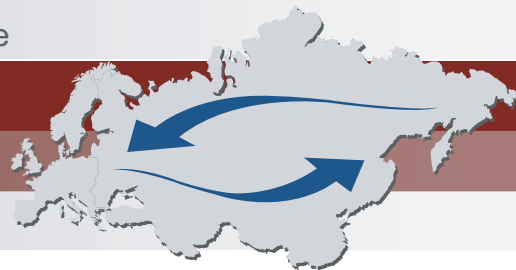




Euro-Asian Transport Links Ministerial Meeting

19-21 February 2008 | Geneva, Switzerland



Newsletter No. 2 – 30 January 2008

»» Message from the Executive Secretary



Globalization of the economies and trade is generating a continuous increase in the transport of goods between Europe and Asia. At present, goods between Europe and Asia are mostly carried by maritime transport. However the development of Euro-Asian land transport linkages, in addition to providing additional transport options for Euro-Asian trade, is of utmost

importance for socio-economic development of countries in the region and for their integration into the global economy.

The UNECE-UNESCAP project on developing Euro-Asian transport links has been a unique undertaking. The current work can substantially assist the development of transport infrastructure, thereby providing additional transport options to existing and future trade flows, but also contribute to the economic development of Member countries, including landlocked developing ones, by facilitating their participation in globalization.

However, development of Euro-Asian transport linkages is a long term process and requires first and foremost strong political will and commitment of the countries concerned, careful use of scarce financial resources, as well as an appropriate balance between new development and maintenance of the already existing infrastructure.

At the Ministerial Meeting on 19 February, Transport Ministers of the countries concerned will ensure the political commitment necessary for the continuation of the project and they will reaffirm their support by approving a joint statement on the future development of Euro-Asian transport links.

Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



Palais des Nations

»» Participation

So far, Ministers of Transport of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine have officially confirmed their participation.

Official confirmation of Ministerial participation from other relevant countries is forthcoming according to the Geneva Missions.

Already, the following International Organizations and Institutions have confirmed high level participation:

UNCTAD, OSCE, ITF, BSEC, TRACECA, IRU, IRF, OTIF, and EIB

»» Hall XII

The Ministerial Meeting will take place in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in Hall XII (Building A, 3rd floor). Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Russian for the Ministerial Meeting as well as for the ITC 70th Annual Session.

To enter the United Nations compound you must go through the Pregny Gate to receive your security badge. The Pregny Gate is located on Avenue de la Paix opposite the Red Cross Museum.

For more information about how to get here, including a map of the area, please visit: <http://www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm>

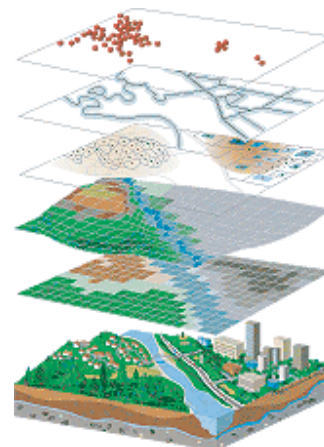
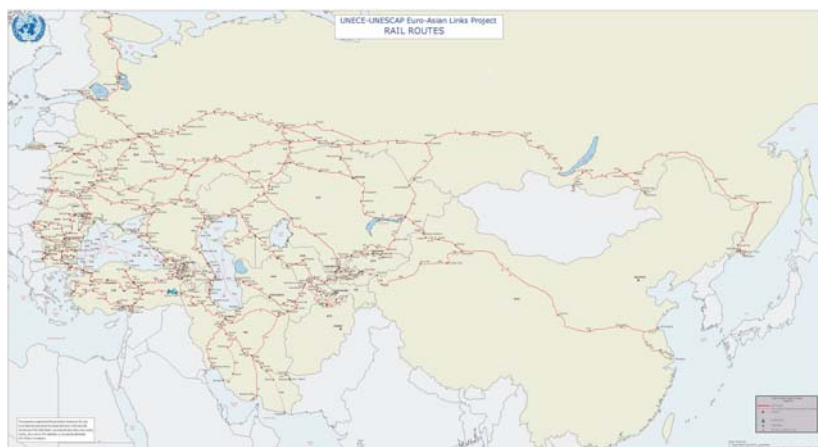
For information about Geneva's public transport system, please go to: <http://www.tpg.ch/>

»» Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technology to the service of EATL

A GIS is a computer system capable of capturing, storing, analyzing, and displaying geographically referenced information; that is, data identified according to location.

The power of GIS comes from the ability to relate different information in a spatial context and to reach a conclusion about this relationship. When border crossing points information is collected, it is important to know where these border crossing points are located. This is done by using a location reference system, such as longitude and latitude, and perhaps elevation. Current status and technical specifications of transport infrastructure in a country or along an international transport route (rail, road, inland water ways) can be easily identified using the GIS system. Motorways/Highways, double track rail lines, as well electrified or non electrified, may be easily viewed through GIS application. Comparing the border crossing points information with other information, such as the main road infrastructure across the landscape, may show how many cross border points exist on specific roads. This may indicate that these roads are likely to be "slower" linkages than others with fewer cross border points. The GIS computer system therefore, can reveal important new information that leads to better decision-making.

During the development of the Euro-Asian Transport Linkages project, country experts provided a huge amount of data for the creation of a GIS database and related maps that were used by the project. This includes data on technical characteristics and performances of main rail, road and inland water transport infrastructure, border crossing points, ferryboat links, intermodal terminals and ports along the Euro-Asian routes. This work has been made available to participating countries and constitutes a basic toll for future efforts aimed at developing efficient, safe and secure Euro-Asian transport links.



Source: www.gis.com

»» Reception

A cocktail party for participants will be offered by IRU at 18.30 on 19 February at "Vieux-Bois" Restaurant next to the Pregny Gate of Palais des Nations

»» Press Conference

The Ministerial Meeting will be open for the public and the press. The Press Conference is at 14.45 on 19 February.

For accreditation, please visit the UNOG Website's News and Media section, or go directly to:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/\(httpPages\)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B9C2E/(httpPages)/70991F6887C73B2280256EE700379C58?OpenDocument)

Please visit the Ministerial Meeting and ITC 70th Session Website for more information:
www.unece.org/trans/MinisterialITC70/index.html