

Reporting of Country Breakout Session (Group 1) by Mr. Stefan Bakker, GIZ

Thank you Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Thank you for allowing me to briefly present the report of Country Breakout Session 1, where Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan and the Philippines presented voluntary progress, achievements and initiatives in support of Bangkok 2020 Declaration to realize the Bali Vision Three Zeros - Zero Congestion, Zero Pollution, and Zero Accidents towards Next Generation Transport Systems in Asia.

A wealth of information was presented and included in the country reports, showing progress towards sustainable transport. A general picture emerges showing that irrespective of the countries' development stage, there is a clear recognition of the need for comprehensive environmental-friendly transport strategies and planning. Implementation of these is already ongoing, and progress on sustainable transport policies is becoming apparent. These mostly focus on passenger transport, and there appears to be scope for increased attention to freight transport policies and measures. Road safety was also addressed in several reports. Support by international organisations in capacity building, preparation of strategies and implementation had been instrumental in moving forward. The Avoid-Shift-Improve strategy is explicitly used in some national strategies.

Let me briefly highlight some policies, reflecting the four strategies Avoid unnecessary travel and reduce trip distances, Shift to more sustainable transport modes, Improve transport practices and technologies, and cross-cutting strategies.

Avoid strategies

Japan has a low carbonization urban development, which plans for intensification of urban functions and promotion of use of collaborative public transport. Several countries are starting to integrate land-use and transport planning. In terms of mixed-use, higher density development, most countries are at an early stage.

Shift strategies

In non-motorised transport strategies, countries are making progress but also encounter barriers or it is not given high priority. Public transport is high on the agenda of all countries. Development of BRT systems was reported on by several countries, and also the

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improvement of connectivity between different public transport modes and NMT has got attention. Afghanistan is developing international rail connections to neighbouring countries. Car-free and public transport days are common in Indonesia.

Improve strategies

Progressive air and fuel quality standards are being implemented in all countries, and planned for more stringent standards. Also, vehicle import policies can be used to improve environmental performance of vehicles. On ITS measures, the Philippines is developing automated fare collection, Indonesia develops electronic road pricing in Jakarta as well as an e-ticket system for BRT and Bhutan is working on traffic impact control and speed cameras. Inspection and maintenance programs for vehicles are ongoing in all countries, but some face challenges in implementation. LPG and CNG pilot projects and policies are implemented in e.g. Afghanistan. Bhutan exempts electric vehicles from taxes.

Crosscutting

On road safety, Japan has implemented an Automobile Liability Security Law. Regarding the linkage with international climate policy, Indonesia and Bhutan reported on the development of a nationally appropriate mitigation action in the transport sector. Alluding to institutional aspects, Cambodia has plans to increase interagency coordination and networking. The Philippines has a special fund for air pollution control funded, by a road user's tax, while Afghanistan is looking into internalizing pollution costs as a source of finance. Indonesia has a mechanism to support local level policies by finance and technical assistance from the national level to the provincial and local level.