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FOR THE ECONOMIES
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UNECE - UNESCAP

Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC)

12th Session
13-14 March 2007
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECA PWG-TBC DATABASES

(Item 4 (b.v) of the Agenda)

(Note by the Research Institute of Transport and Communications (NIITK) Almaty,
institute of technical support on SPECA issues to the Ministry of Transport and
Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the lead SPECA country in the field
of transport)

Introduction

The SPECA Project Working Group on Transport and Border Crossing (PWG-TBC) at its 11th session (Almaty, March 29-30, 2006) considered the document SPECA/PWG-TBC(11)/5 on formats of the SPECA PWG-TBC databases. Noting the special importance of technical support on the part of NIITK, the Group:

(a)   Welcomed the initiatives of NIITK on establishment of an additional database on intermodal transport infrastructure in the SPECA region, preparation and publication of the SPECA Guide on road wayside facilities and the SPECA web-site on transport and border crossing (starting from 2007);

(b)   Considered the formats of five SPECA transport databases, proposed by NIITK and recommended the following:

(i)   In view of limited resources, the Group recommended NIITK to concentrate its SPECA related work in the following directions:

−   Development of the database on road and rail routes of international importance in the SPECA region, as well as the database on border crossing;

−   Preparation of the SPECA Guide on road wayside facilities (Phase I – Kazakhstan);

−   Refinement of the format of a database on infrastructure of intermodal transport in the SPECA region; and

(ii)   Postponement of the development of a database on Projects, implemented or being implemented in the SPECA region from 2000, until financial support is available.

(c)   Requested the UNECE / UNESCAP to provide NIITK by April 2006 with the road and railway data compiled within the framework of the joint UNECE – UNESCAP project on Euro-Asian Transport Linkages;

(d)   Noted the necessity of financial and other support to NIITK on the part of the Ministry of Transport and Communications of RK as well as other sources, and also the need of continued advisory support from UNESCAP advisor on transport;

(e)   Requested NIITK to provide the information on the development of the PWG-TBC databases at the 12th session of the PWG-TBC.

2.   The document reviews the status of the development of databases on road and rail routes of international importance in the SPECA region, the database on border crossing and the database on intermodal transport infrastructure in the SPECA region. The preparation of the SPECA Guide on road wayside facilities (Phase I - Kazakhstan) is presented in a separate document.

II.   General Provisions

3.   For the development of the databases on road and rail routes of international importance in the SPECA region and the database on border crossing, NIITK has made the following requests:

(a)   Requested UNESCAP to provide the updated data on Asian Highways in the SPECA region;

(b)   Requested UNECE to provide the road and railway data, compiled under the framework of the joint UNECE/UNESCAP project on Euro-Asian Transport linkages.

The following requests have been made through official channels through the Ministry of Transport and Communications of RK:

(c)   The Organization for Railways Cooperation (OSJD) was addressed with a request to provide the data, included in Format/Passport of international rail transport corridors/routes of the SPECA countries;

(d)   The SPECA countries were addressed with a request to provide the information for the database on border crossing.

4.   Taking into account the response of OSJD, informing about non-existence of data, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of RK through official channels, in November 2006, sent the request to the SPECA countries for the information needed for the development of the database on railway routes, included in the SPECA rail network.

5.   NIITK has received the following information:

(a)   the updated Asian Highways database for the SPECA countries was received from UNESCAP. The database was converted into the SPECA database format;

(b)   the road and railway data, compiled under the framework of the joint UNECE –
UNESCAP project on Euro-Asian Transport linkages was received from UNESCAP.

6.   To strengthen the logistic significance of the database on road routes of international
importance in the SPECA region, the 11th session of PWG-TBC determined to introduce the technical
capacity indicator for transport of all types of containers (dimensions, weight, minimal radii of curve
etc.) with the indication of detours where such transportation is not possible. Taking into account the
need for the unified approach for detours recording (not only for the roads of the SPECA region, but
for other regions as well), on October 30, 2006, NIITK requested UNESCAP to consider the
possibility of developing a corresponding methodology for the Asian Highways database by
UNESCAP.

I.   Formats of the Databases

7.   On the basis of available information, NIITK started the development of databases formats on
road (Annex 1) and rail (Annex 2) routes of international importance in the SPECA region, as well as
border crossing (Annex 3).

8.   The proposed enhanced database format on intermodal transport infrastructure in the SPECA
region is presented in the Annex 4.

9.   Proposals on improvement of the proposed database format on intermodal transport
infrastructure in the SPECA region may be sent to the Ministry of Transport and Communications of
RK (Ms. Zukhra Abisheva, Section Head, Department of Transport Policy and International
Cooperation, MTC RK, tel.: +7 (3172) 24 20 97, fax: +7 (3172) 24 17 63, e-mail
abisheva@mtc.gov.kz) and/or represented at the 12th session of the Group).

II. Issues for consideration

10.   At its 12th session, the PWG-TBC may wish to:

(a)   Request the SPECA countries, in preparation for the 12th session of PWG-TBC, to
review and make changes / additions, if necessary, to the databases of road and rail routes of
international importance in the SPECA region, as well as the database on border crossing
(Annexes 1,2 and 3 accordingly);

(b)   Consider the enhanced format of the database on intermodal transport infrastructure
in the SPECA region and give further guidance/instruction on the database development;

(c)   Request UNESCAP to elaborate, by July 2007, an appropriate Methodology for
Asian Highways database for identification of technical capacity (item 6 above) for transport
of all types of containers with the indication of detours where such transportation is not
possible.

11.   The 12th session of PWG-TBC may also wish to include the information by NIITK on PWG-TBC database development into the Agenda of the 13th session of the Group.