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PRESS RELEASE

The International Road Federation (IRF) and the Asian Transport Outlook (ATO) Sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to Advance Sustainable Transport Solutions in Asia-Pacific

On the sidelines of the IRF World Congress, taking place from 15 to 18 October in Istanbul, Türkiye, the International Road Federation (IRF) and the Asian Transport Outlook (ATO) formalised their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This strategic agreement will enhance efforts to promote sustainable transport across the Asia-Pacific region by leveraging data-driven insights, innovative research, and collaborative capacity-building.

Founded in 1948, the IRF is a global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving road networks worldwide through knowledge sharing, advocacy, and strategic partnerships. Over the years, the IRF has been instrumental in advancing road infrastructure development and safety on an international scale. The ATO, initiated and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), now also being supported by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), plays a vital role in strengthening the transport knowledge base across Asia and the Pacific, providing governments with data-driven insights to shape policies that address key environmental and economic challenges. It focuses on fostering sustainable and inclusive transport solutions that drive economic growth while tackling environmental concerns.

This formalised partnership brings together two prominent organisations committed to addressing the significant transport challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region. Their collaboration will focus on joint research initiatives, capacity building, and the use of robust data to inform evidence-based policy-making that will drive improvements in the sustainability and safety of road networks.

The IRF and ATO have a history of collaboration, particularly in the transport data realm, including their work on the [IRF World Road Statistics](#) as well as [ATO's Green Roads Profiles](#). This partnership was highlighted during a joint session at the IRF World Congress on 15 October, which also celebrated the launch of the 2024 edition of the *IRF World Road Statistics*. During the Congress, both organisations further presented a co-authored paper, *Navigating Change: The Evolving Landscape of the Road Sector in Asia*, which explores how low- and middle-income countries in Asia are balancing infrastructure development, access expansion, and innovative economic approaches while striving to mitigate environmental impacts.

Commenting on the MoU, **Susanna Zammataro**, Director General of the IRF, said: “The signing of this MoU marks a significant milestone in our mission to promote sustainable and inclusive mobility across the Asia-Pacific region. By working closely with ATO and sharing critical data, we can devise solutions that address both the current and future challenges of sustainable road development.”

James Leather, Director, Transport, Transport Sector Office at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), expressed similar optimism: “This partnership with the IRF represents an important opportunity to

accelerate sustainable transport in Asia and the Pacific. By combining our strengths in research, capacity building, and data sharing, we can support governments in crafting policies that meet today's transport challenges while preparing for future needs.”

Through this collaboration, the IRF and ATO are poised to make significant strides towards greener, safer, and more inclusive transport systems across the Asia-Pacific region. Their efforts, driven by data and innovation, promise to deliver lasting benefits to both communities and the environment.

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About IRF

The [International Road Federation \(IRF\)](https://www.irfofficial.org) is a global, independent, not-for-profit organisation with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Active since 1948, IRF is a membership-based organisation, representing leading corporate and institutional players drawn from the road and mobility sectors worldwide. Its mission is to promote the development of roads and road networks that enable access and sustainable mobility for all. Its approach is centred on key strategic components of knowledge transfer & information sharing, connecting people, businesses, and organisations, and working on policy & advocacy.

www.irfofficial.org



About ATO

The Asian Transport Outlook (ATO) was initiated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to strengthen the knowledge base on transport in the Asia-Pacific region. Since 2023, the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) has joined the ADB in funding the ATO. The ATO is developed in support of the planning and delivery of ADB Transport Sector Assistance. The ATO also supports Asian governments in transport policy development and delivery. ADB is working with other interested parties in developing the ATO as an instrument to track the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the Paris Agreement, and other relevant international agreements on sustainable development - such as the Aichi 2030 Declaration - in the transport sector.

www.asiantransportoutlook.com

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