

Asian Transport Observatory - Bridging the Disconnect

Sudhir Gota

Co-Team Lead

Asian Transport Observatory

Expert Group Meeting on Prospective Areas of Work in
Land Transport Connectivity
Bangkok, 24-25 November 2025



Asian Transport Observatory (ATO) : A Catalyst for Sustainable Transport in Asia



- **Comprehensive Data:** We manage a robust knowledge base covering 52 economies/ 460 cities across the region, tracking over 230,000+ individual data points.
- **Multi-dimensional:** Our analysis spans the entire transport ecosystem: Infrastructure, Transport Activity, Access & **Connectivity**, Road Safety, Emissions, Economic Impacts
- **Policy Intelligence:** We track 9,000+ policy measures to help stakeholders make informed, evidence-based decisions

What makes ATO unique?



2024-10-18

Update

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has Won the 2024 IRF Award for Environmental Stewardship for Asian Transport Outlook!

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has won the prestigious IRF Awards 2024 - Environmental Stewardship category for the ADB-initiated Asian Transport Outlook (ATO)! The IRF Awards recognizes outstanding projects and initiatives that foster innovation, safety, and sustainability in the road transport sector.

[Read More](#)

Istanbul, Türkiye

Data Sharing

- IRF
- ITEM
- TDCI
- ADB Statistics

Policy

- UNCRD
- UNESCAP Working Groups (rail, road)

Railways

- UNESCAP - ASEAN
- UIC

Roads

- ADB's Green Roads Toolkit
- IRF

Climate Change

- SLOCAT
- UNESCAP
- UK FCDO
- Climate Compatible Growth

Electric Vehicles

- ADB-GEF EV Platform
- UEM

Road Safety

- Asia-Pacific Road Transport Observatory

Freight

- UNCTAD
- Smart Freight Center

Climate Resilience

- Life Links Council

Air Pollution

- Clean Air Asia

Urban Transport

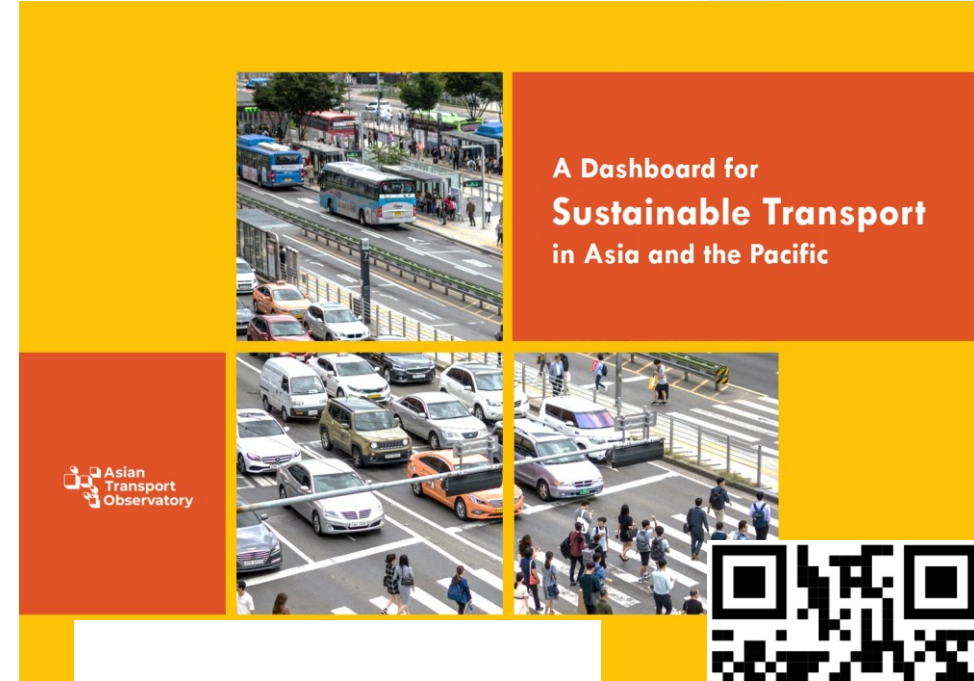
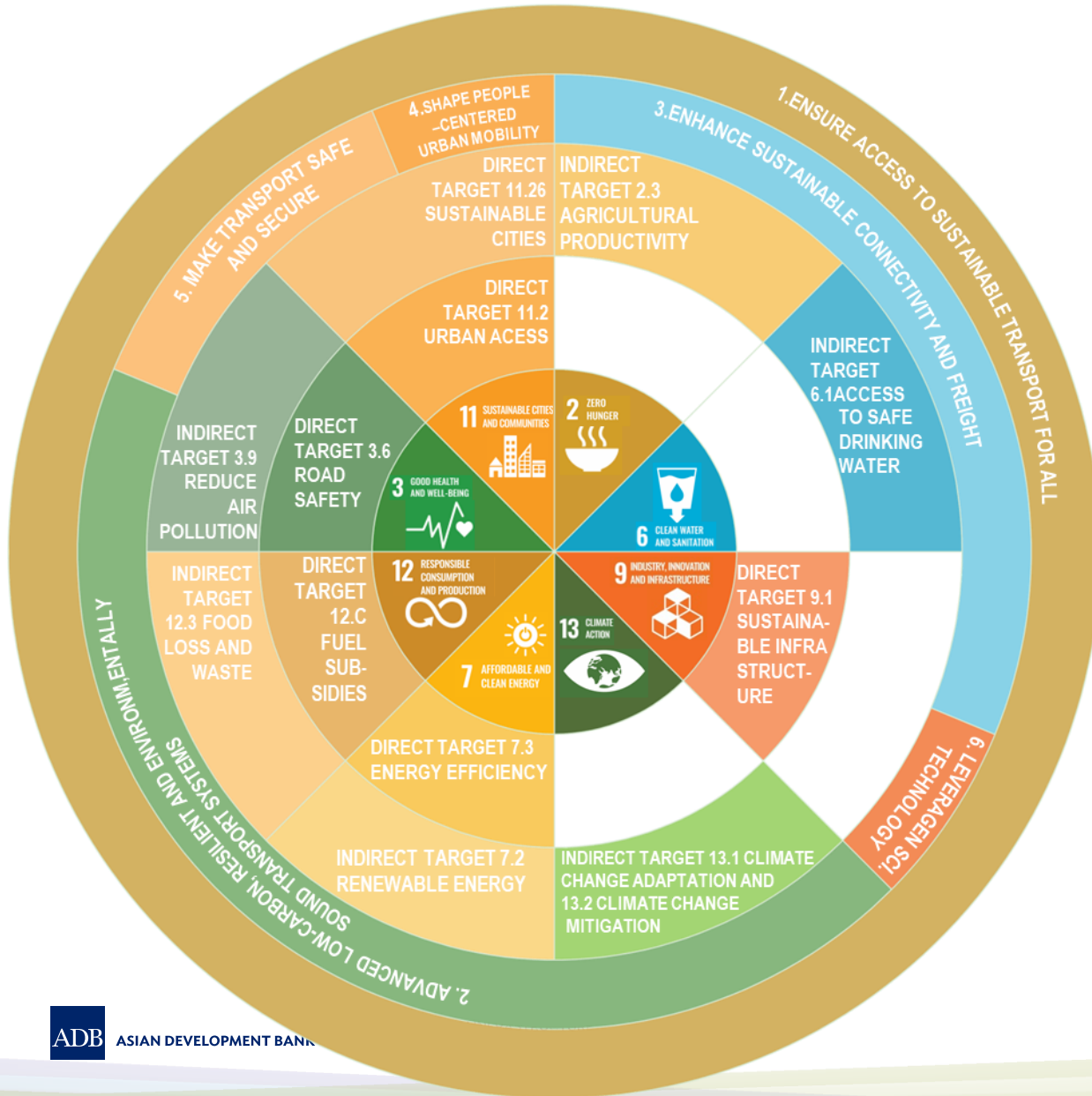
- Mobilize Your City
- ITDP

Sub Regional/ Country

- World Bank
- MTI (Indonesia)
- SOTEN (Nepal)

Work on the Pacific Transport Observatory started in 2025 with World Bank

What does ATO Track?



Towards Effective Monitoring for the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport

Holger Dalkmann*, James Leather, Sudhir Gota, Alvin Meija

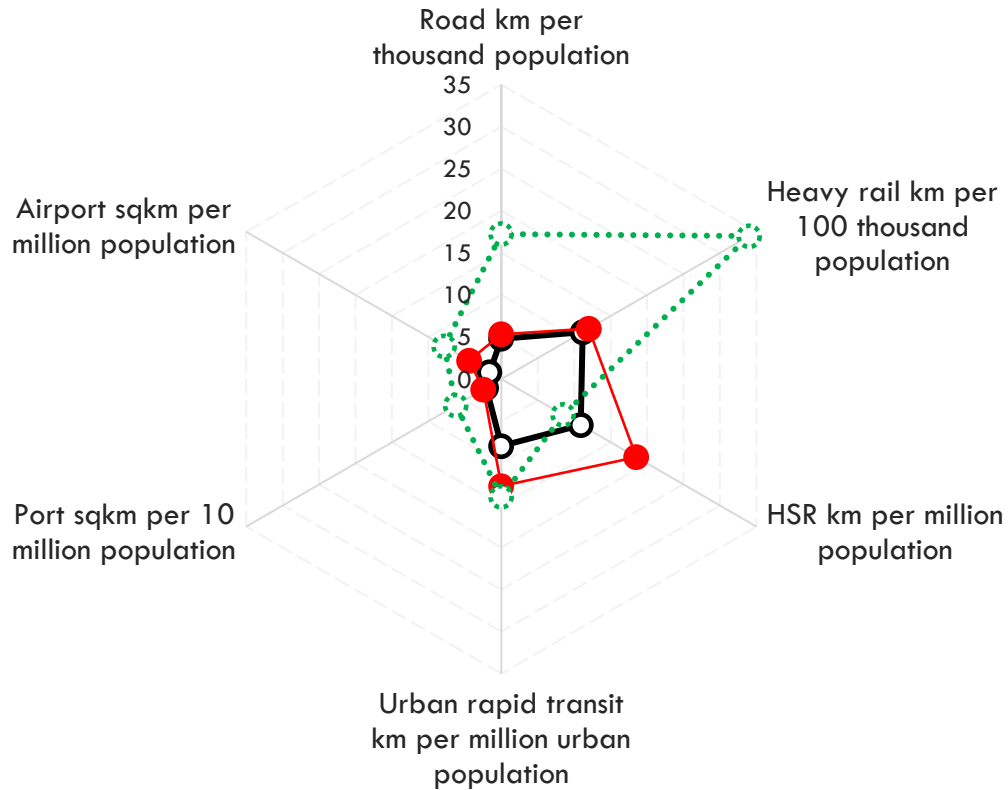
Draft for Distribution to the participants of UN workshop on Sustainable Transport
23 - 24 June 2025 in Geneva



*Corresponding Author: Holger Dalkmann, Sustain 2030/ADB Consultant - hdalkmann@sustain2030.net

Insights on Infrastructure & Investment

—○— Asia-Pacific, 2023 —●— Asia-Pacific, 2035 ...○... OECD, 2021-2023



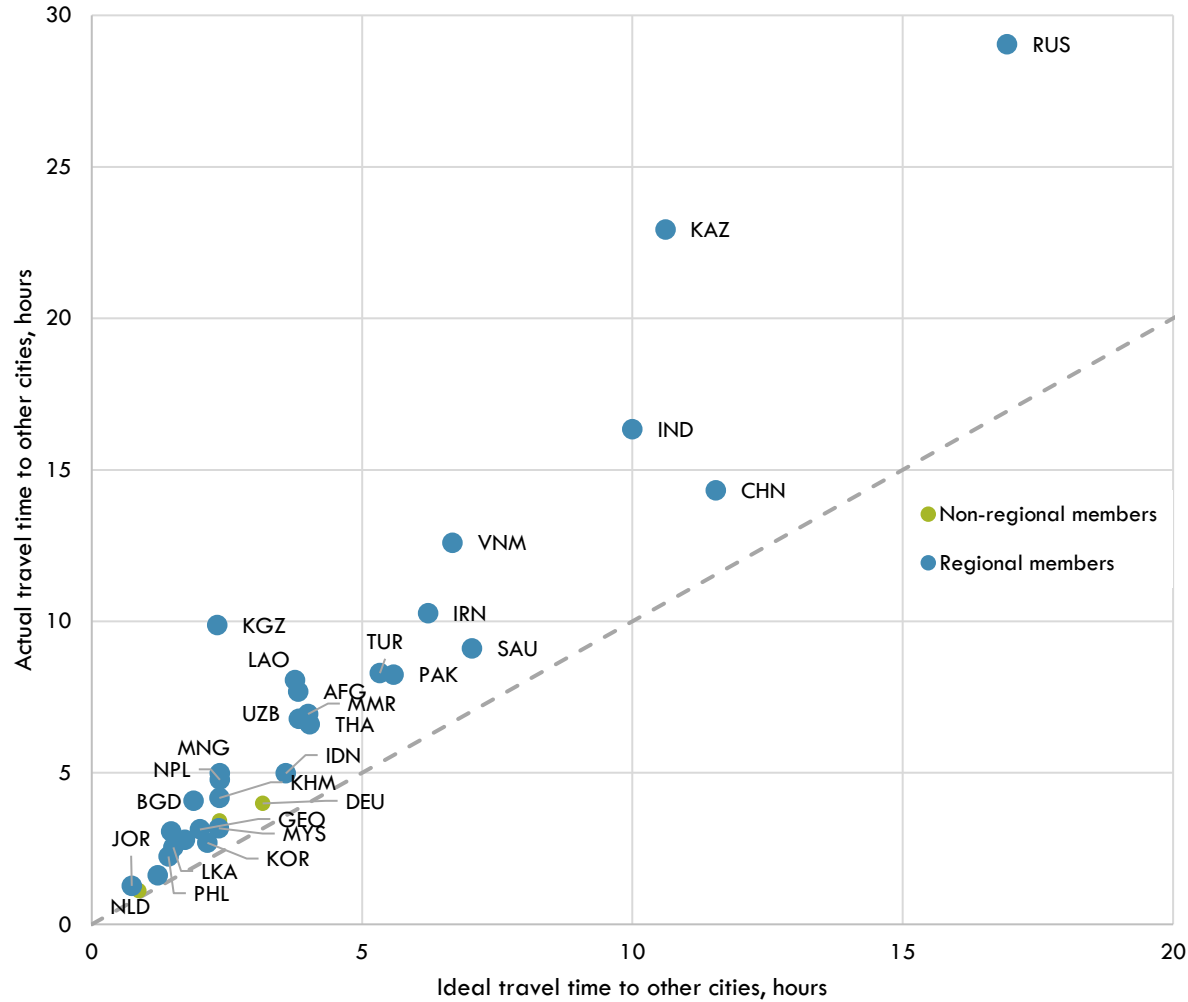
\$43T REQUIRED BY 2035

- To meet development goals, the region requires approximately \$2.7 trillion annually (2% of regional GDP).
- The funding landscape is structurally shifting

Transport infrastructure per capita

Insights on Transport Connectivity

Network efficiency ratio

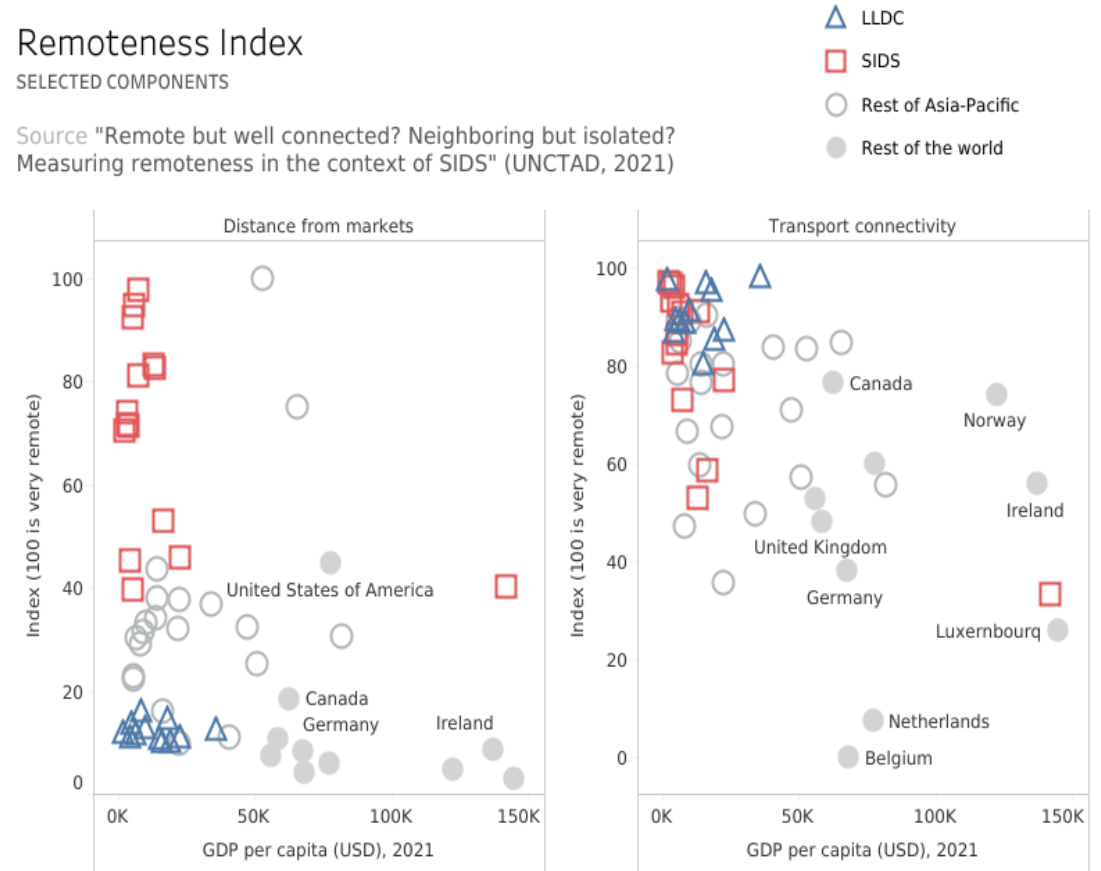


The Economist Intelligence Unit Measuring Transport

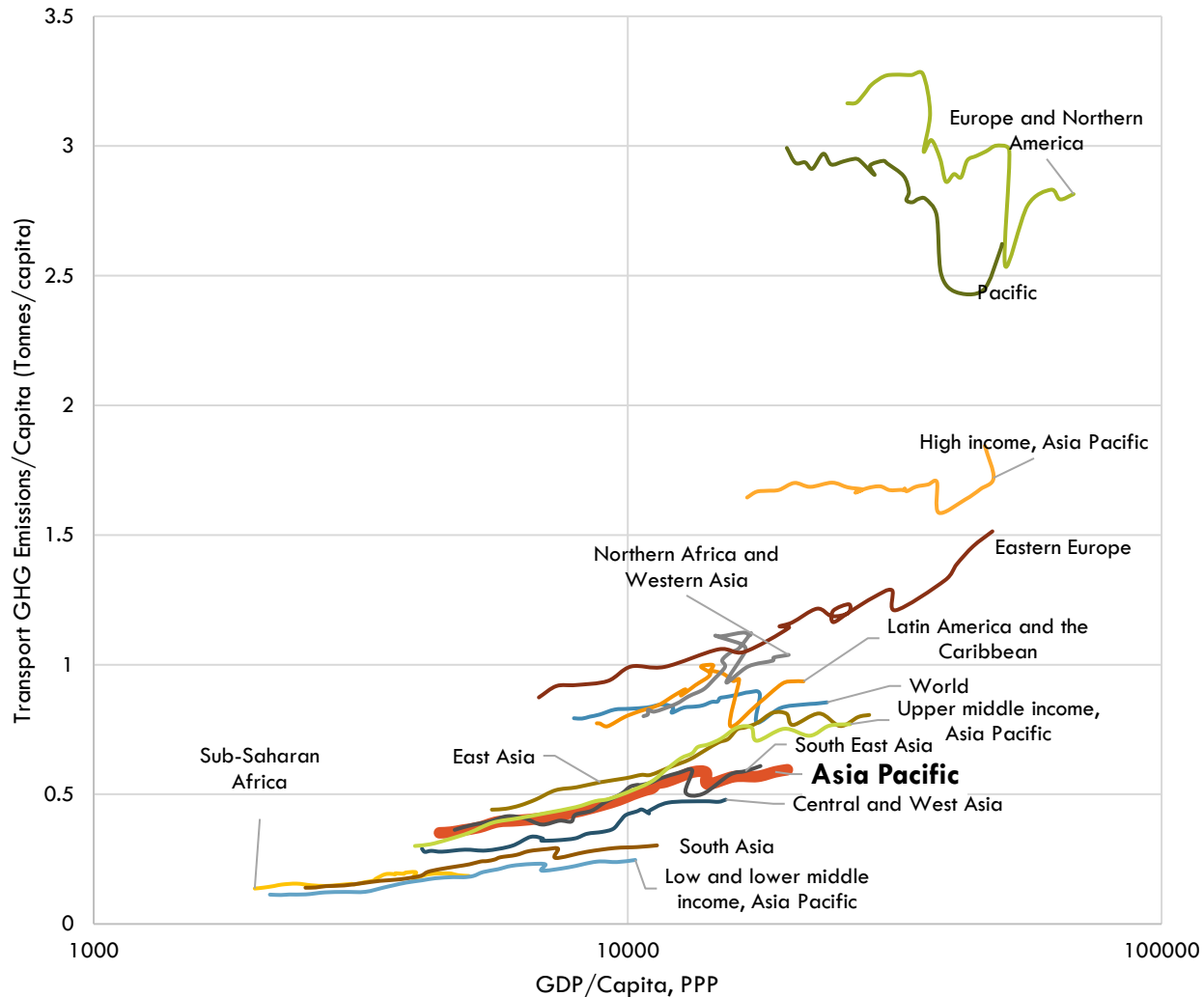
Remoteness Index

SELECTED COMPONENTS

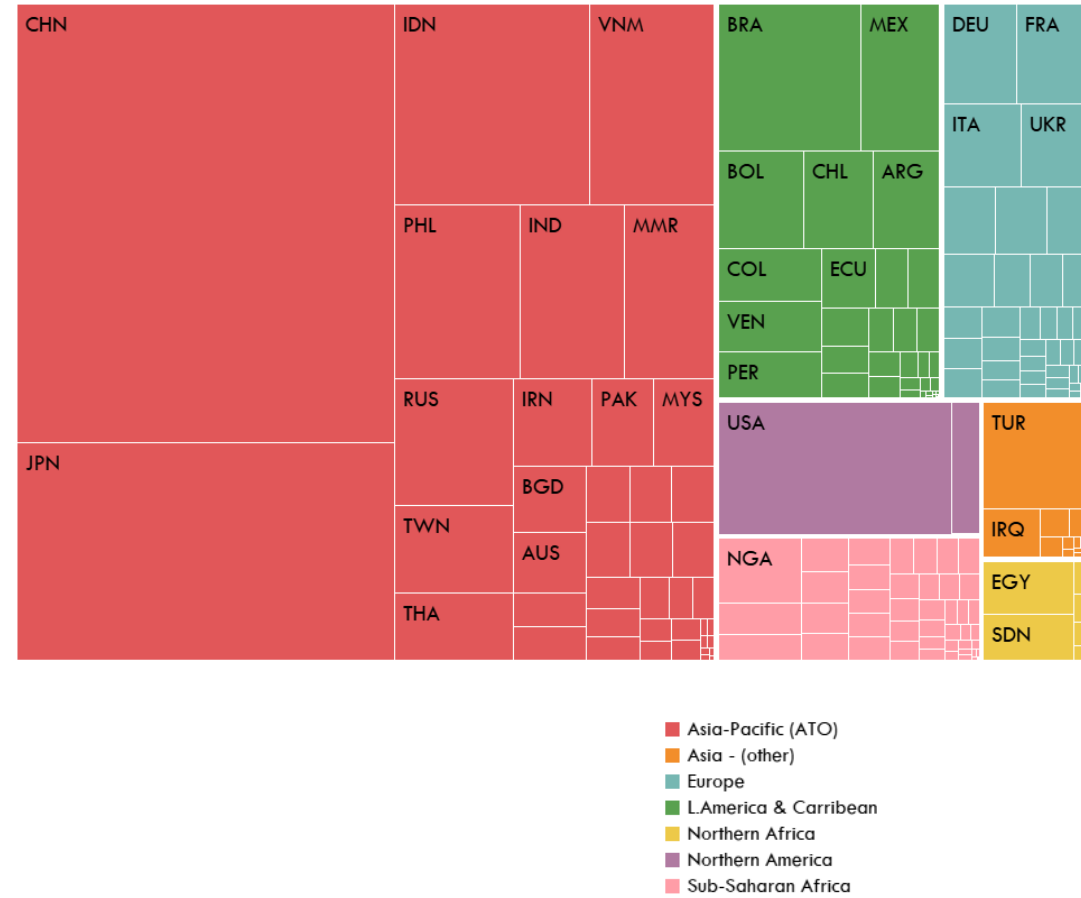
Source "Remote but well connected? Neighboring but isolated? Measuring remoteness in the context of SIDS" (UNCTAD, 2021)



Indicators on Transport Climate Change



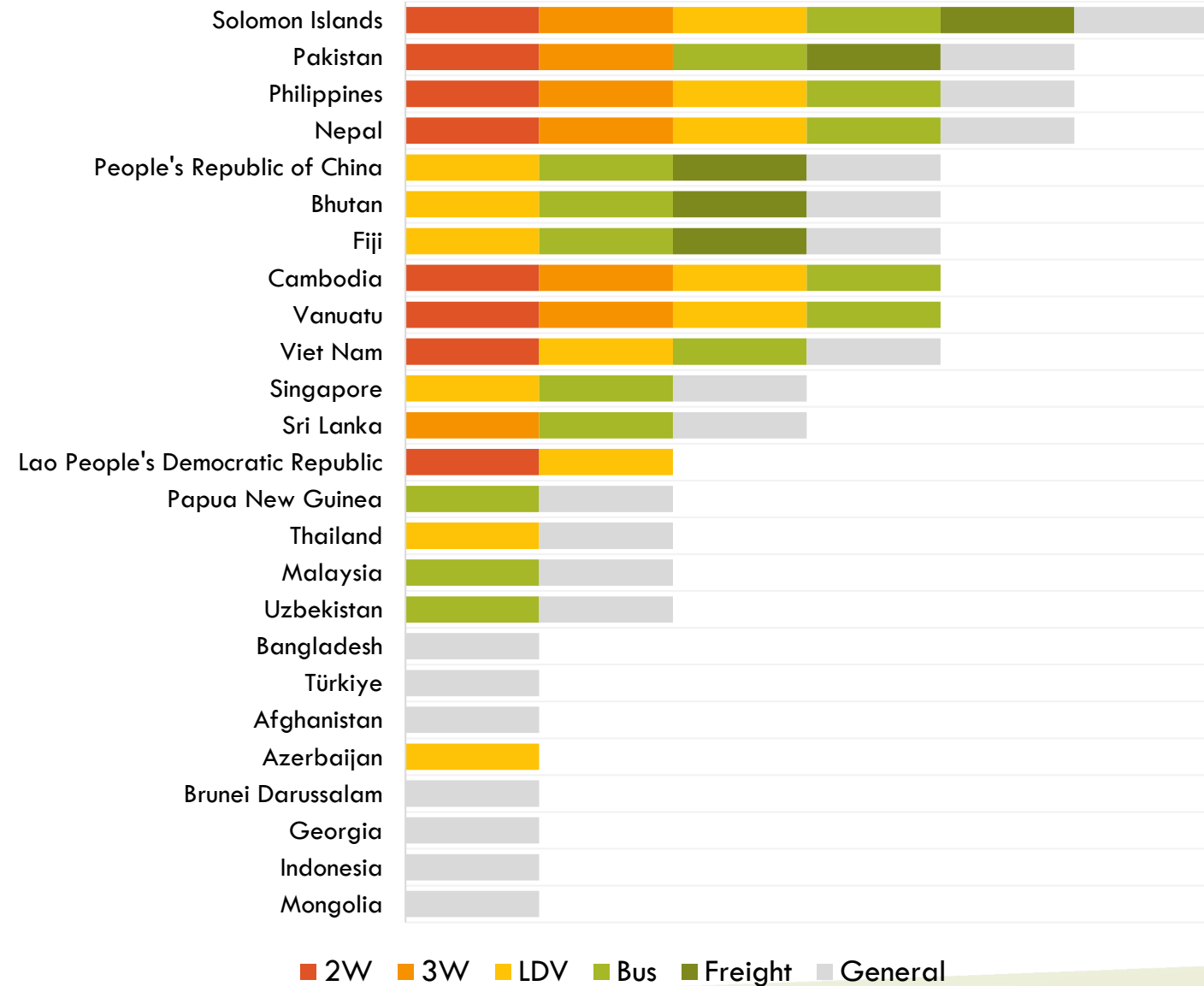
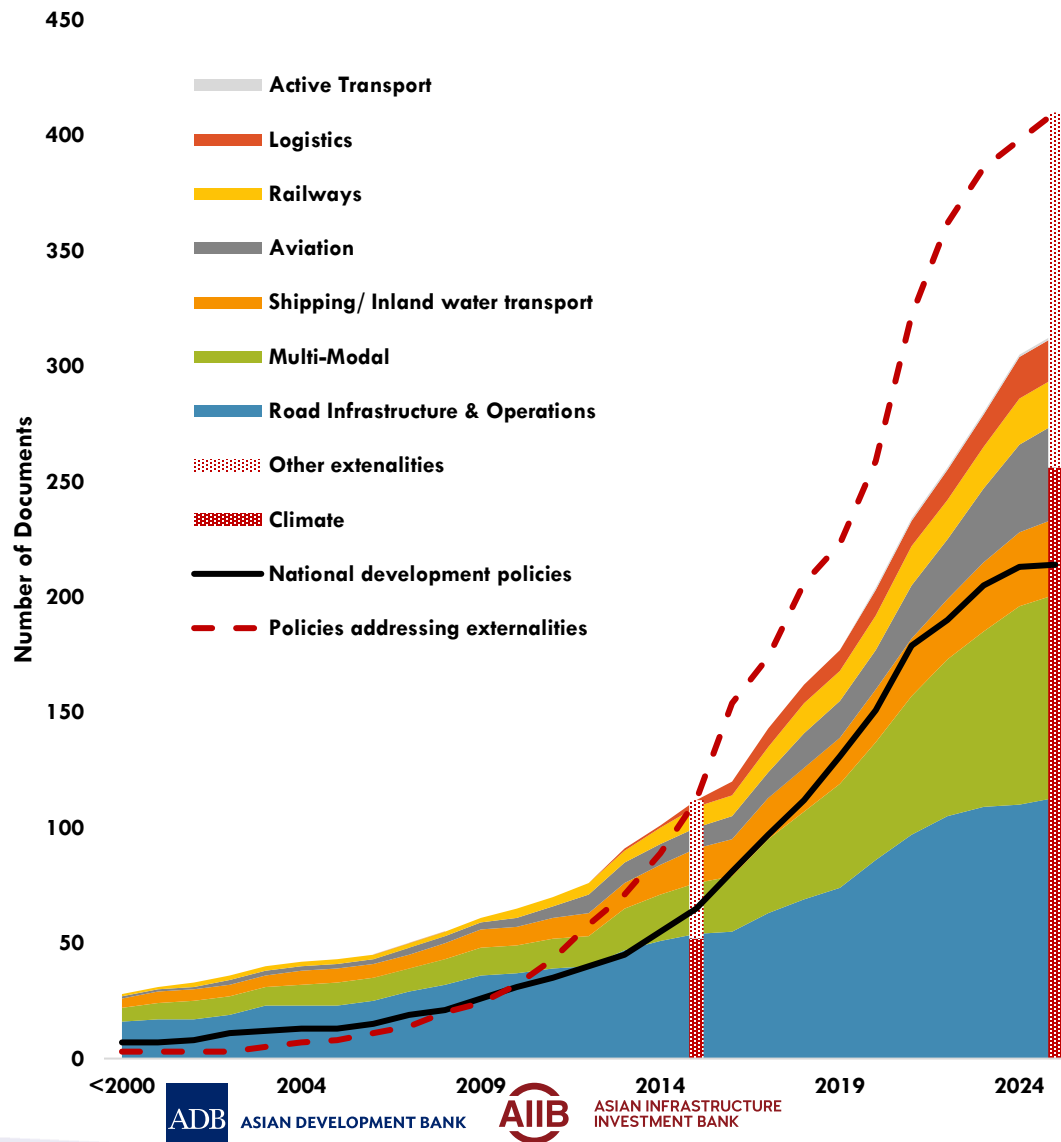
Multi-hazard Expected Annual Financial Damages to Transport Infrastructure by Region and Country



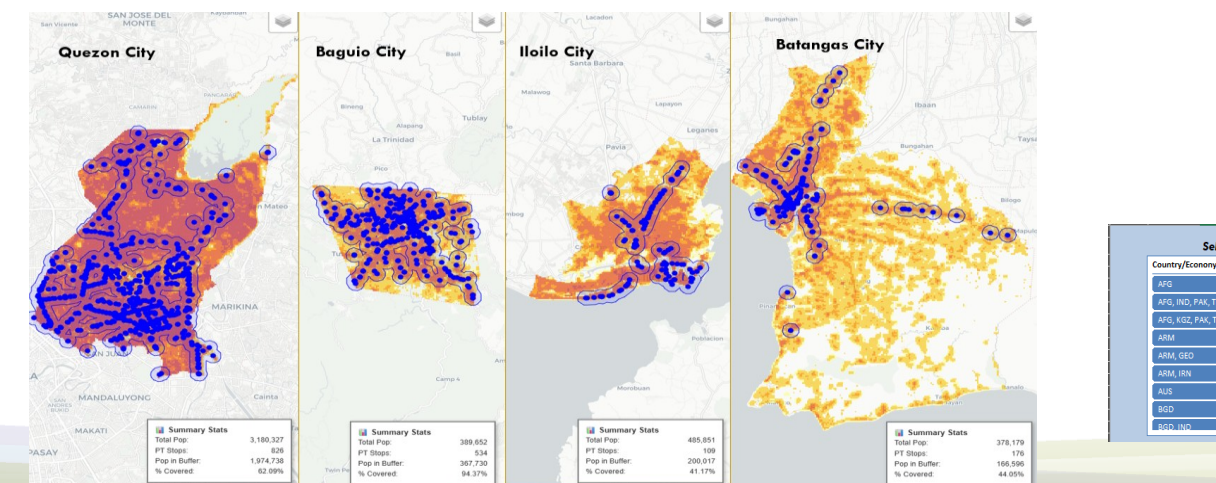
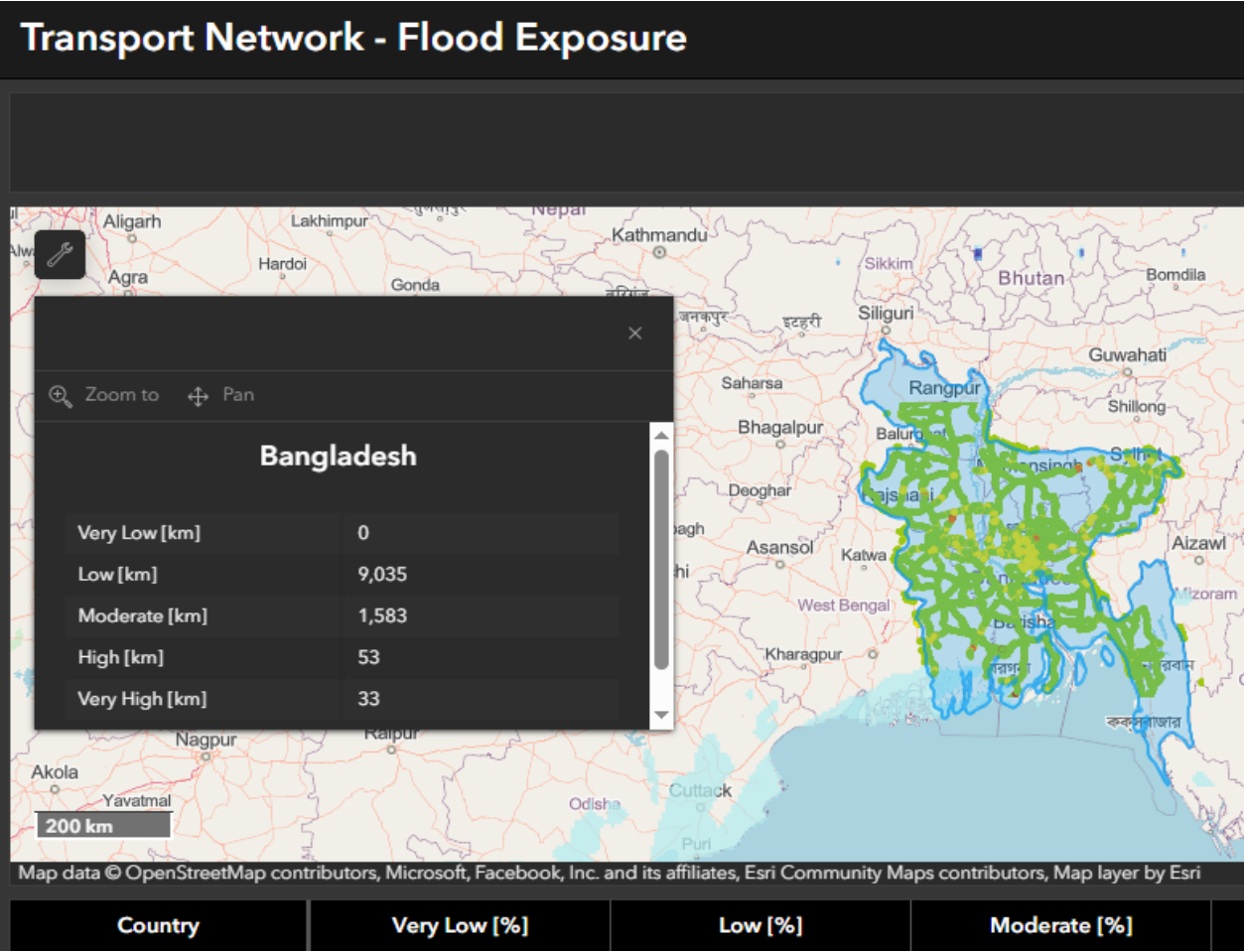
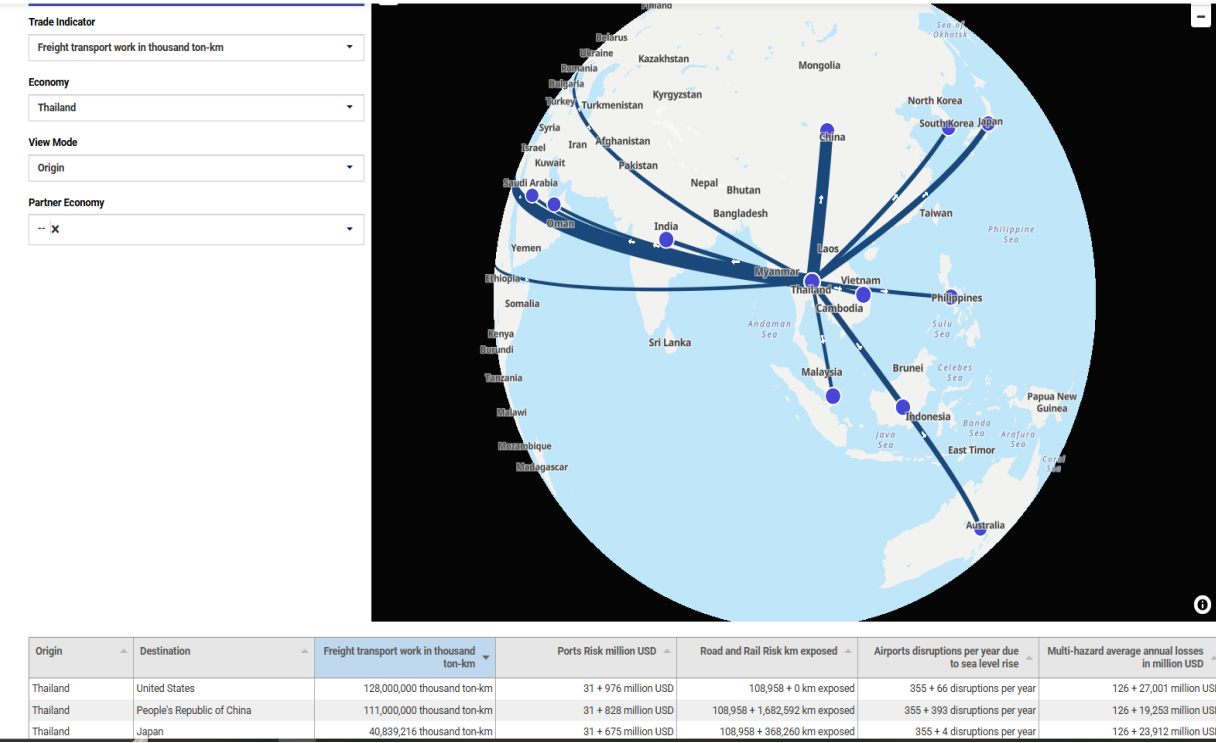
Source: ATO Visualization based on Koks et al. (2019)

Insights on Policies

EV Mode target setting



New Tools with Partners



Selection	Geographical Location	Predominant Sector (General)	Project Type	Status	Cross-border connectivity
AFG	[Palau (Belikhemay)] - Bueng Kan (Thailand), P...	Air Transport	Construction	Proposed	Aviation
AFG, IND, PAK, TKM	15 Outermost and Frontier Islands (e.g., small M...	Other	Construction, Rehabilitation	Proposed (Feasibility Stage)	Border city/regions
AFG, KGZ, PAK, TKM	Adana	Rail Transport	Construction, Upgrade	Proposed / In Progress	Cross-border
ARM	Addu Atoll (Hithadhoo - Maradhoo - Maradhoo-f...	Road Transport	Expansion/Extension	Repaying	Shipping
ARM, GEO	Adelaide	Water Transport	Expansion/Extension, Rehabilitation	Signed	(blank)
ARM, IRN	Agra		Expansion/Extension, Upgrade	Tendering	Intermodal
AUS	Ahmedabad		Rehabilitation	Under Construction	Yes
BGD	Ahaz		Rehabilitation, Upgrade	(blank)	(blank)
BGD, IND	Jaya State (Jaya International Airport)		Upgrade		

ATO across the sector

News, papers, and other works referencing the Asian Transport Observatory



[View list](#)

~300 reports, journal articles, news article citations

asiantransportobservatory.org

“ATO translates data into insights, policies, and investments”

ATO Team	info@asiantransportobservatory.org
Jamie Leather	jleather@adb.org
Andres Pizarro	andres.pizarro@aiib.org
Manuel Benard	manuel.benard@aiib.org
Alvin Mejia	alvinmejia@asiantransportobservatory.org
Sudhir Gota	sudhirgota@asiantransportobservatory.org
Mel Francis Eden	meleden@asiantransportobservatory.org
Adwait Limaye	adwait@asiantransportobservatory.org
Benjamin Soco	benjaminsoco@asiantransportobservatory.org