

Regional Meeting of the Small Island Developing States on Sustainable Transport

19 March 2026
Conference Room 3
United Nations Conference Centre
Bangkok and online

DRAFT PROGRAMME

The invitation-only regional meeting on 19 March 2026 is dedicated to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Asia and the Pacific with the aim to provide a space to discuss priorities and exchange views in the context of the preparation for the forthcoming Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific (2027-2031). The Regional Action Programme, adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) member States and associate members, represents a collective effort to promote sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific through sustained regional cooperation among members and associate members of ESCAP.

The meeting will draw upon ESCAP's broad scope of work on transport, including analytical work and capacity building, as well as tailored projects for SIDS and, notably, the 16th tranche of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA 16) project on "Moving towards efficient, resilient, low carbon and accessible port cities in Asia-Pacific Small Island Developing States to achieve better transport connectivity and accessibility for all".

The regional meeting is organized in conjunction with the Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Regional Meeting and Capacity-Building Workshop towards Accelerating Implementation of the Aichi 2030 Declaration (2021-2030) which would provide a wider exposure to the current sustainable transport issues in Asia and the Pacific on 16 – 18 March 2026.

19 March 2026	
10:00 -10:15	<p>Registration and opening</p> <p>Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Ms. Lee Everts, Senior Economic Affairs Officer and Deputy Head of the Subregional Office for the Pacific, ESCA</p>
10:15-11:00	<p>Session 1: Supporting Regional Cooperation on Sustainable Transport in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Sooyeob Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division</p> <p><i>Sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific: regional cooperation mechanisms and upcoming opportunities for SIDS</i>, Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division</p> <p><i>Current issues in sustainable transport development in Asia and the Pacific and future priorities for regional cooperation</i>, Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division</p> <p><i>Connecting the dots: transport and Sustainable Development Goals in SIDS</i>, Mr. Sudhir Gota, Co-Team Lead, Asian Transport Observatory</p> <p>Discussion on SIDS priorities and activities for regional cooperation</p>
11:00-12:30	<p>Session 2: Maritime Connectivity and Port Development in SIDS: Lessons Learned and Proposed Regional Priorities for 2027-2031</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division</p> <p><i>The state of maritime connectivity and port development in Asia and the Pacific</i>, Mr. Sooyeob Kim, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division</p> <p><i>Lessons learned from national case studies on efficient, resilient, low carbon and accessible port cities in Asia-Pacific SIDS</i>, Mr. Edouard Chong, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division</p> <p><i>Port Safety issues in SIDS: outcomes of the ESCAP/IMO collaboration on Implementation of Port State Control Policies</i>, ESCAP/IMO (tbc)</p> <p>Discussion on SIDS priorities and activities for regional cooperation</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break

<p>13:30-15:00</p>	<p>Session 3: Building Sustainable and Inclusive Transport Accessibility and Mobility</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division</p> <p><i>Assessing mobility barriers and showcasing inclusive transport solutions in SIDS, Ms. Kalpana Viswanath, Co-Founder, Safetipin</i></p> <p><i>From national priorities to regional action: aligning sustainable and inclusive transport development, ESCAP (TBD)</i></p> <p>Discussion on SIDS priorities and activities for regional cooperation</p>
<p>15:00-15:15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Coffee/tea break</p>
<p>15:15-16:45</p>	<p>Session 4: Preparing for the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Transport (17-20 November 2026)</p> <p><i>Briefing on the timeline of the 5th Ministerial Meeting and the transition from current Regional Action Programme to the 2027–2031 cycle, Ms. Azhar Jaimurzina Ducrest, Chief, Transport Connectivity and Logistics Section, Transport Division</i></p> <p><i>Redefining the SIDS agenda: new thematic pillars and enhanced priorities for the 2027–2031 Regional Action Programme, Ms. Wei-Shiuen Ng, Economic Affairs Officer, Transport Division</i></p> <p>Moderated discussion for SIDS to share their views on the remaining thematic areas of Regional Action Programme, suggest changes, identify gaps, exchange relevant experiences and advise on the best way to engage SIDS in the MCT5 preparatory process and proceedings, including a special event for SIDS.</p>
<p>16:45-17:00</p>	<p>Conclusions and recommendations ESCAP secretariat</p>
<p>17:00-18:00</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Networking Event</p>