**Smart Mobility in Pacific SIDS: Opportunities and Challenges for the 2030 Agenda**

# Side Event: 80th Session of the Commission, ESCAP

# *Thursday, 25 April 2024, 12:45-13:45 hours GMT+7*

# *Hybrid Format: United Nations Conference Centre, Conf. Room 3 and Zoom*

*Meeting Link:*<https://zoom.us/j/95212648532>

# Organizer(s)

# Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of the Republic of Korea; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Transport Division (TD)

# Registration

To register for this side event, please use this link: [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccKnWFjT0h4dDj2H7NC0W4bRUMFpQVUhGVzFVWUNPNVFaWTdTNkpBN0kxVC4u](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2FPages%2FResponsePage.aspx%3Fid%3D2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccKnWFjT0h4dDj2H7NC0W4bRUMFpQVUhGVzFVWUNPNVFaWTdTNkpBN0kxVC4u&data=05%7C02%7Ckatrin.luger%40un.org%7C186235323914406209a708dc53a82056%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638477228752027478%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NBedNEgiS75rsupDvtG7smenqZccy84K%2Fs0qwKZARtk%3D&reserved=0)

To attend the side event in person, all registrants must also register on Indico by April 15 using the link here:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1007591/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others (Side events, Exhibition, etc.)” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Centre. Kindly be advised that individuals who have already registered as accredited representatives to attend the 80th Commission Session are not required to register again.

# Background

Smart mobility utilizes digital technologies to make transport more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly. This includes optimizing traffic flows, integrating various transport modes, and encouraging the use of cleaner vehicles. As a result, smart mobility can help to reduce pollution, alleviate congestion, and decrease travel time for commuters. Smart mobility is also essential for smart cities as it enhances the environmentally-friendliness of transport services by using sustainable transport modes (e.g., electric mobility) and user’s convenience by providing efficient and flexible services tailored to user’s demands.

In recent years, smart mobility has evolved with the integration of new technologies, including mobile applications for ride-sharing and ride-hailing services, as well as the adoption of electric and autonomous vehicles. These technologies are being increasingly employed in Asian metropolises and bring beneficial advancements toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals **9** (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure), **11** (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and **13** (Climate Action).

Still, the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have not yet fully tapped into the potential of smart mobility technologies. The Pacific SIDS face specific challenges due to their unique geographic features, vulnerability to extreme weather conditions, including the impact of climate change and relatively limited development of transport infrastructure. The advantages of smart mobility are of importance for countries with limited physical infrastructure and financial resources. The potential of benefits from smart mobility technologies has been underestimated due to limited awareness, knowledge and technical capabilities of policymakers, specifically in the design, planning and regulation of such services.

There is also a greater need to address different mobility needs of women and vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and older persons. The concepts of integrated mobility planning, universal accessibility, barrier free access and safe mobility with smart mobility technologies are yet to be applied in practice in many cities/countries in the region. Hence, transport policymakers, planners and stakeholders need to be provided with adequate tools, policies, and practices to address gender equality, women’s empowerment and social dimensions of transport to ensure universal accessibility, inclusiveness and security of transport systems and services.

Leveraging digital innovation, such as smart mobility technologies, is important for sustainable and inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific, specifically for Pacific SIDS. This presents a significant opportunity, especially given that these technologies are based on mobile platforms, which facilitate quick deployment. The purpose of this side event is to facilitate a dialogue about the challenges and opportunities for smart mobility in Pacific SIDS in the context of moving towards smart cities, as outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

# Key Questions and Objectives

**Questions**

* What are the challenges and opportunities in implementing smart mobility technologies in Pacific SIDS?
* What kind of lessons can be learned from other countries to successfully implement smart mobility technologies in Pacific SIDS?
* What are government roles to support smart mobility technologies in Pacific SIDS for the 2030 Agenda?
* How can smart mobility technologies address the specific mobility needs of women and vulnerable groups in Pacific SIDS?

**Objectives**

* Share national and/or international experiences on utilizing smart mobility technologies;
* Explore the challenges and opportunities in implementing smart mobility technologies to existing transport systems;
* Share the pain points of transport services in Pacific SIDS and how they can be improved with smart mobility technologies;
* Exchange perspectives across different stakeholders in the smart mobility domain, e.g. governments, agencies, industries, users;
* Raise awareness of policymakers and other key stakeholders on the opportunities of smart mobility technologies and how they contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (esp. SDGs 9, 11, 13).

This event will bring together government representatives, experts and academia. The key beneficiaries of the event are the transport planners and policymakers in the government authorities in charge of transport of ESCAP member States. Additionally, it will serve professionals and organizations in the fields of information and communication technology (ICT), local government bodies, transport associations and operators, intelligent transport systems associations, transport research institutions, and companies related to transport and ICT.

# Programme

*Some speaker nominations tentative and subject to change.*

*Event duration 60 minutes*

Moderator: Ms. Katrin Luger, Transport Division, ESCAP

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| **Time** | **Agenda Item** |
| 12:45 | **Opening remarks**  Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana  Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP |
| 12:50 | **Opening remarks**  Mr. YounJin Park  Director General for Policy Planning  Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea |
| 12:55 | **Opening remarks**  Mr. Jeong-han Hahm  Permanent Representative to ESCAP  Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Thailand |
| 13:00 | **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing ceremony**  Mr. YounJin Park  Director General for Policy Planning  Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea  Mr. Adnan H. Aliani, Director  Strategy and Programme Management Division, ESCAP  **Presided over by**  Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana  Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP  *and*  Mr. Jeong-han Hahm  Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Thailand |
| 13:15 | **Remarks from the Pacific – smart mobility in Fiji**  TBA  Ministry of Public Works, Transport & Meteorological Services, Fiji |
| 13:25 | **Expert speaker**  Mr. Intaek Jung  Senior Researcher  Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT) |
| 13:35 | **Speaker TBA on smart mobility**  TBA |
| 13:45 | **Closing of the event by moderator** |