

Significance of Transportation Connections

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Transport is the means to move people and things from one place to another. It is essential for trade, exchange and travel. It is a supporting pillar for economic and social development. Without transport connection between countries, countries are isolated with each other and not able to make mass production and distribution for modern agriculture and industrialization. Without transport, there is no international trade.

The presentation highlights the role of transport and regional transport connectivity in economic and social development. It provides facts to stress the importance of transport connectivity for Northeast Asia. Northeast Asia has 20% of the world's land area and 23% of the world's population. Four countries in Northeast Asia are leading traders, major international travel destinations and key providers of transport services in the world. Northeast Asia takes a share of 22% of the world's GDP. The 2nd and 3rd largest economies in the world are in Northeast Asia. This subregion has the highest percentage of intra-subregional trade in the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, the Northeast Asian countries are balanced in natural resources and production. All the facts indicate a strong need for effective transport connections. Enhanced regional transport connectivity will serve as new driver for further economic growth and trade development. It will also promote cooperation among countries and facilitate exchange between people in the region. Enhancing transport connectivity will provide a lot of opportunities for massive infrastructure investments to stimulate economic growth.

The presentation recognizes the great achievements of the Northeast Asian countries in developing transport connectivity. Based on global assessment by the World Bank, the presentation outlines the need for further improvement of transport infrastructure in the Northeast Asian countries. Meanwhile, the presentation stresses the need to improve institutional connectivity, such as cross-border formalities and logistics services. The presentation finally suggests the Northeast Asian countries to strengthen their efforts on land transport infrastructure network, intermodal transport connections and transport related e-service integration to enhance transport connectivity in this subregion.