



# ASEM SYMPOSIUM

## on Eurasia Transport & Logistics Network

Seamless Eurasia: Making Connections



## BACKGROUND

In October 2013, South Korean President Park proposed the Eurasia Initiative at the 2013 International Conference on Global Cooperation in the Era of Eurasia, under the theme “one creative, peaceful continent”.

*“I believe now is the time to open a new channel to enhance communications in Eurasia and bring out its potential for cooperation.*

*Getting past the disconnect and isolation as well as tension and conflict, we need to build a new Eurasia where all of us can carry out peaceful exchanges and achieve prosperity through mutual understanding and door-opening efforts. To this end, I want to propose the Eurasia Initiative, a set of directions for making Eurasia into a single united continent, a continent of creativity and the continent of peace.”*

*- Remarks by President Park Geun-hye -*

The initiative projects an integrated system of transport, energy, and trade networks across the vast Eurasia continent. It is a follow-up to the Silk Road Express, which would connect rail and road transport networks from Korea to Europe, as well as a new maritime route through the Arctic Ocean. This transport network is to be followed by the elimination of trade and logistic barriers, allowing a seamless movement of people and goods around the continent. In October 2014, President Park Geun-hye proposed the Symposium on International Cooperation for Establishing an Effective Intermodal Transport Logistics Network at the Asia-Europe Meeting which took place in Milan, Italy.

*“First, strengthen the physical connections of our two continents. Through the Silk Road Express, we experienced the growth of civilization from East to West. It is time to establish a multi-modal transport and logistics network that would connect rail, road, sea and air networks by developing new sea routes utilizing the Arctic Sea. I propose a symposium to discuss a multi-modal transport and logistics network across Eurasian nations. And I hope to form a group of experts to address such challenges as customs clearance and the improvement of transportation infrastructure.”*

*- Congratulatory address by President Park Geun-hye -*

The Chair’s statement at the ASEM Summit highlighted the importance of “enhancing Europe-Asia connectivity in all relevant fields and to explore concrete steps, including the possible establishment of a working group on connectivity towards this end” and activity to enhance Europe-Asia connectivity. The Republic of Korea proposed to host the Symposium on International Cooperation for Establishing an Effective Eurasian Intermodal Transport and Logistics Network, which was welcomed by ASEM leaders. For this reason, the Republic of Korea will host ASEM’s Symposium on Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 in Seoul.

Co-sponsor countries: China, India

## OBJECTIVES



To establish a system which provides the venue to identify the current status and issues of the Eurasian transport and logistics network and to ensure continued discussion of efforts to foster peace and comprehensive economic growth of the Eurasian continent by means of an integrated transport and logistics network, i.e. the Eurasia Initiative.

The following issues to be covered at the symposium are the practical matters to achieve for continuous cooperation in envisioning the Eurasia Transport & Logistics Network.

### Identifying Current Status of Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network Infrastructure and Development

- Transport and logistics network infrastructure conditions by modes in relevant countries
- International organizations’ efforts to build the network
- Multimodal freight transport network infrastructure

### Multi-National Effort for Better Network Connection and Management

- Cooperation among countries to build and manage the network
- Standardization of technologies and facilities
- Cooperation to improve border crossing
- International cooperation for the Arctic Ocean route to enhance the logistics network

### Financing Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network Infrastructure

- National and international investment for the network
- Competitiveness and feasibility of multimodal logistics
- Innovative finance scheme to improve infrastructure
- Public-private partnership (PPP) to develop the network

### International Platform to Build Seamless Network

- Review of international cooperation schemes to build the network
- Development of working group platform to continue the discussion

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM



The Symposium will be held over the span of 3 days, from September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Organized under the framework of the ASEM Symposium on Eurasia Transport & Logistics Network, a Welcome Reception and Senior Officials' Meeting will begin on Day 1 (Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>).

The international symposium will start on Day 2 (Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>). During the second day specific contents will be discussed including each nation's efforts and achievements to establish the Eurasia network with status and improvement plans to build a seamless transit network. On Day 3 (Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>), participants can experience the North and South Korea cross-border railways as a technical tour. It provides a unique opportunity for international participants to seek joint plans for the Eurasia network.

### WEDNESDAY

9 September 2015

#### Overview

The Senior Officials' Meeting, a preliminary meeting where responsible officials will touch upon the Symposium agendas, will consist mainly of reviews. First, the meeting will gather, organize and confirm the opinions of each stakeholder of the Seoul Declaration which will be adopted and announced in the seminar. Second, the composition and articles of incorporation, etc. of the experts' working group, which is likely to be set up as a follow-up to the seminar, will be discussed so that the establishment thereof can be announced along with the Seoul Declaration. The Meeting will be followed by the Official Welcome Dinner for major participants.

#### SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

15:00~18:00

- Review and confirm the Seoul Declaration
- Examine the composition plan and articles of incorporation for Expert Group
- Participants: high-level government employees of each country

18:00~20:00

#### WELCOME DINNER

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

### THURSDAY

10 September 2015

#### OPENING CEREMONY & PLENARY SESSION

#### Overview

The Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session will be comprised of a single session. The session will begin by announcing the Eurasia Initiative, and encourage discussions on how to engage and connect the transport and logistics networks of Europe and Asia. Also, ministers of participating countries will present their respective plans and strategies with regard to the aim of reinforcing Eurasian connectivity. This session will consist of round table presentations in which each minister will take turns, followed by a few minutes of Q&A and discussion presided by the moderator.

#### OPENING CEREMONY

- 9:30~10:00
- Opening Remarks
  - Welcoming Remarks
  - Video Congratulatory Message
  - Congratulatory Remarks

#### 10:00~10:10 GROUP PHOTO

#### PLENARY SESSION: OVERVIEW OF EURASIA TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS NETWORK

- 10:10~11:10
- 1) Korea's Eurasia Initiative and Implementation Strategies
  - 2) Response and Strategies of Each Country for Eurasian Integration
  - 3) Discussion

11:10~11:30 Coffee Break

#### SESSION I: BUILDING SEAMLESS NETWORK TO BRIDGE EUROPE & ASIA: LAND & AIR TRANSPORT

#### Overview

This session identifies the current status and obstacles of Europe-Asia transport and logistics, sets forth strategies and countermeasures of each country against such obstacles, and proposes joint multi-national agendas and cooperative work needed to solve them, which will derive a joint strategy in the land and aviation sectors for Eurasia's transport and logistics cooperation. First, the current status of Europe-Asia logistics and transport will be presented, followed by each country's major logistics and transport strategies and focus, and proposal of a multinational cooperative system. The presentations will center on countries located in the Eurasia Initiative Belt.

- 11:30~12:50
- 1) China's One Belt, One Road Transportation Strategy and International Cooperation Strategy
  - 2) Russia's Transport and Logistics Strategy to Strengthen Eurasia Connectivity (New Eastern Policy, Transportation Strategy 2030)
  - 3) Role of Central Asia's Railway as a Nodal Region in Europe-Asia Connectivity
  - 4) TIR System Establishment Status and International Cooperation Strategy (Europe's Eurasia Connectivity Efforts)
  - 5) Flight Network Setup Strategy to Strengthen Eurasia Connectivity: Airport, Land Transportation Connectivity
  - 6) Rajin-Hasan Railway Modernization Status to Strengthen Eurasia Connectivity and Korea's Efforts to Link the by the Transcontinental Railroad

12:50~14:00 Luncheon

## TENTATIVE PROGRAM

### THURSDAY 10 September 2015

#### SESSION 2: BUILDING SEAMLESS NETWORK TO BRIDGE EUROPE & ASIA: SEA TRANSPORT

##### Overview

This session identifies the status and obstacles of Europe-Asia marine transportation and logistics, sets forth maritime strategies and measures of each country to overcome the obstacles, and proposes joint agendas and room for cooperation between countries to set joint maritime strategies that foster cooperation in Eurasia's transport and logistics. In addition, the significance of a North Pole Route in terms of connecting Eurasia's logistics is stressed, and measures to further develop the North Pole Route and foster multilateral cooperation are proposed. Moreover, participants will discuss how to secure dry ports to facilitate logistics and transport in the region. Presentations will start with the current status of Europe-Asia transport and logistics, and elaborate key international logistics and transportation strategies of China, Russia, Europe, etc., and proposals for a cross-border logistics cooperative system. In addition, the significance of multi-national cooperative strategies and dry port strategies will also be presented.

- 14:00~15:20
- 1) China's One Belt, One Road Transportation Strategy (Port Logistics)
  - 2) Russia's Transport and Logistics Strategy to Strengthen Eurasia Connectivity (Russia's Efforts to Strengthen the Northeastern Shipping Network and Secure Ports)
  - 3) TIR System Establishment Status and International Cooperation Strategy
  - 4) International Cooperation Strategy to Secure and Promote North Pole Route Usage and Economic Value
  - 5) Establishment of Dry Ports for International Logistics
  - 6) Korea's Strategies to Secure and Attract International Logistics

15:20~15:40 Coffee Break

#### SESSION 3: BUILDING SEAMLESS NETWORK TO BRIDGE EUROPE & ASIA: FACILITATION & FINANCING

##### Overview

This session observes case studies of Europe-Asia transport and logistics systems, institutional weaknesses in international cooperative systems or customs systems, and the lack of a control tower function, in order to propose and discuss institutional action plans and strategies and discuss the role of international financial organizations to facilitate international financing of transport and logistics business. Starting with the case of UNESCAP, an organization in charge of international transport and logistics cooperation, presentations will focus on the bottlenecks in customs and transportation faced by international logistics companies and propose institutional solutions for international transport and logistics by putting forward best practices such as cutting customs duties. Furthermore, the need and role of international financial organizations in terms of funding international transport and logistics infrastructure will be emphasized.

- 15:40~17:00
- 1) Cases of International Transport and Logistics Connectivity Projects and Institutional Cooperative Measures
  - 2) Bottlenecks in International Logistics and Transport Faced by the Private Sector and Solutions
  - 3) Proposals for Cost Reduction in International Transport and Logistics, such as Reducing Customs Duties and Setting up Border Area Checkpoints
  - 4) The Role of International Financial Organizations for Eurasia Connectivity and Financing Support Measures

17:00~17:20 Coffee Break

#### WRAP UP SESSION: TOWARD SEAMLESS EURASIA & CLOSING CEREMONY

##### Overview

The moderator wraps up by reviewing what was discussed in previous sessions, and proposes international cooperation and the role of respective international organizations for establishment of Eurasia's transport and logistics connectivity.

- 17:20~17:40
- WRAP UP SESSION: TOWARD SEAMLESS EURASIA**
- 1) Summary of Each Session
  - 2) The Role of International Organizations and Cooperation-Seeking Measures

- 17:40~18:00
- CLOSING CEREMONY**
- 1) Reading of Seoul Declaration
  - 2) Composition and Establishment of Expert Group
  - 3) Closing Remarks

19:00~21:00 **GALA DINNER**

## TECHNICAL TOUR

The unification of the two Koreas is essential to complete the Eurasia Initiative. In light of this, a technical tour of the Korean Demilitarized Zone and North Korea's Kaeseong Industrial Complex will be provided to symposium participants who apply for it. Participants interested in the tour are asked to promptly apply for the program as the number of daily visitors to the Korean Demilitarized Zone is limited to 90.



Panmunjeom

Panmunjeom is where the 1963 Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. It is a historic landmark which signifies Korea as the world's only divided nation.



Kaeseong Industrial Complex

Kaeseong Industrial Complex is a symbol of inter-Korean economic cooperation located in the North Korean bordertown of Kaeseong.

## EXHIBITION

An exhibition related to the ASEM Symposium will be held during the symposium. The exhibition is an ideal opportunity for any organization, institute or company involved in transport and logistics or related activities to raise their profile through presenting products, services and other industry initiatives to a global audience. Exhibitors will be able to develop profitable relationships and present themselves to the professional world.

Approximately 40 publicity booths will be set up in the symposium. Due to the limited number of booths available, interested participants are asked to apply for booths as promptly as possible. Countries, state institutions, and companies interested in using booths are kindly asked to contact organizers via the official webpage or Secretariat of the symposium.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPERT GROUP

Korea seeks to establish a Eurasia experts' working group under ASEM and annually host an experts' conference for major ASEM countries from 2016 to carry on discussion of the Eurasia Initiative. Insights and participation of ASEM member countries are kindly requested.

## VENUE

### Seoul

Seoul is the capital and largest metropolis of South Korea, forming the heart of the Seoul Capital Area, which includes the surrounding city of Incheon and Gyeonggi Province. It is the world's second largest metropolitan area with over 25 million people. It is home to over half of South Koreans along with 678,000 international residents. Seoul has been the nation's capital for more than 600 years since the Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910). Today's Seoul is a bustling metropolis, acting as the hub for political, economic, social and cultural matters, along with business.



### The Shilla Seoul

The symposium will take place in Seoul, Korea from September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at The Shilla Seoul.



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**Website:** [www.shilla.net](http://www.shilla.net)

## INFORMATION

### Host

#### Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

The Korea Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) is responsible for land where people work and live, and for transport that connects people in Korea. It creates a beautiful and fruitful territory for future generations and builds global transport and logistics hubs, which develops Korea into one of the best countries in the world.

### Organizer

#### The Korea Transport Institute

The Korea Transport Institute (KOTI) is a Korean government affiliated research institute, with the governance of the National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRCS) under the Prime Minister's Office. KOTI has contributed to development of the nation's transport and logistics policies and technologies by conducting relevant research and providing professional advice to central and local governments and public agencies. Its mission is to create an optimal transport system through specialized research and technical innovations, while positioning itself as one of the world's leading transport research institutions.

## REGISTRATION

**Website:** [www.asemkorea2015.org](http://www.asemkorea2015.org)

### Contact

**ASEM Symposium Secretariat**

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