

Discussants Presentation by Kazushige Endo, Director of UNCRD

I thank to UNDESA for the opportunity of presenting my opinion in this Transport Webinar. I will deliver two key messages.

First message is on how COVID-19 has impacted transport and travel.

COVID-19 impacts on transport are huge and complicated, and also there are vast impacts even on associated policy measures, such as economic development of land-locked countries.

Such impacts should be studied in a comprehensible manner. Because of uncertainties about this virus and its long-term impacts, such study requires advanced knowledge in transport sector.

I found one study result that World Conference of Transport Research (WCTR) has conducted a questionnaire survey of experts in the transport sector.

The survey was conducted worldwide between the end of April and late May 2020, (of course geographic regions, type of workplace and working duration, and others are balanced.

Experts were requested to provide opinions and suggestions as well as concerns in the questionnaire.

WCTR analyzed the survey results, and finds the realities of lockdowns, restrictions of stay-home activities and other physical distancing requirements, as well as modal shifts.

I will provide link to the website in the chat box after my presentation. Please visit the WCTR web sites.

<https://www.wctrs-society.com/>

<https://jpn01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fssrn.com%2Fabstract%3D3611806&data=02%7C01%7Cy-hayashi%40isc.chubu.ac.jp%7C1f0eed98193d49034c7c08d80b3144b6%7Cb7585466645>

a4a6c899ad76a722d2cc3%7C1%7C0%7C637271653545885185&sdata=Jpu3a3vYLk1%2BV9hJki37T6hWXSdkQKzESA1uH7YPY8%3D&reserved=0

Second message is on how we need to adjust sustainable transport solutions in response to COVID-19.

I would like to comment on the new normal called “with COVID-19”. We know that the new normal will be very different from the normal before COVID-19.

Some would say that it could be more car dependent, and others would say it is a major opportunity for more virtual communications to replace longer trips.

This is clearly a unique and rare opportunity for policy makers and transport researchers to work together.

It is really a good chance to devise new policies in order to change our life toward more SDGs and sustainable life and work.

I believe this is how we seek for forward-looking transport solution.
This is the end of my second message.

Finally, I have an announcement. UNCRD will organize the Region EST forum (Environmentally Sustainable Transport forum) in Bangkok this year, it will be 11-13 November.

It will be a webinar style, jointly organized with UNESCAP Transport Committee. It will be a good chance to share ideas in relation to COVID-19. We would appreciate for your participation.

That is all, and thanks for your attentions.