

GLOBAL NETWORK

FOR ROAD SAFETY LEGISLATORS

Report of the 2022 Annual Meeting of The Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Road Safety Legislators

Thursday, 1 December 2022

Time: 8.00 – 9.30 Geneva local time via Zoom

Agenda 1: Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr Nikorn Chamnong, Member of Parliament, Thailand, and Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Road Safety Legislators. Mr Chamnong welcomed participants and recalled the establishment of the Global Network for Road Safety Legislators in 2016. Since then, Thailand has advanced road safety improvements in support of the deliberations of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020, one of which is the introduction of anti-lock braking system (ABS) for motorcycles regulation in 2021.

Mr Chamnong expressed his belief that goal of reducing road traffic deaths by half by 2030 can be achieved. He stressed the need for an Asia-Pacific Regional strategy focusing on motorcycles as it an important mode of day-to-day travel in the region as public transport system is inadequate to meet mobility needs. He expressed concern of the cost of implementing ABS which is causing delay in uptake in countries even though it is a proven measure to reduce motorcycle related injuries and fatalities. In addition to ABS, Mr Chamnong proposed three measures to be that can be implemented in the Asia-Pacific region, including: 1) the introduction of Automatic Head Light On (AHO) for motorcycles as it is a simple and effective measure, 2) road safety education on road safety for children and young people and 3) improving law enforcement using demerit point system and the establishment of a dedicated traffic court.

As one of the founding members of the Global Network for Road Safety Legislators and the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for two consecutive terms, Mr Chamnong expressed his gratitude to all the members and looked forward to continuing to contribute to the Network throughout this decade.



Agenda 2: UNGA High Level Meeting on Road Safety

Dr Matts-Ake Belin, WHO Geneva Global Lead, Decade of Action for Road Safety updated participants on the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Road Safety. He provided the historical highlights of global road safety including the start of the global road safety policy process within the UN system in 2004, the 1st global ministerial conference in Russia in 2009 which announced the first Decade of Action, the 2nd global ministerial conference in Brazil in 2015—the same year road safety became part of the SDG goals, finally the 3rd global ministerial conference in Sweden in 2020 which reviewed the progress during the decade.

Following the Stockholm Declaration in Sweden, the UNGA adopted a Resolution on road safety in August 2020 proclaiming 2021-2030 as the 2nd Decade of Action for Road Safety with the goal to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by at least 50% between 2021 and 2030. Subsequently, the High-Level Meeting was held between 30 June and 1 July 2022 in New York with the main theme as the 2030 horizon for road safety: securing a decade of action and delivery. The key outcome was the political declaration of the High-Level Meeting on improving global road safety which requests a progress report during 78th (2023) and 80th sessions (2025), the convening of the next High-Level Meeting in 2026 and the establishment of a network of heads of lead agencies (focal points).

WHO Geneva is taking the role of coordinating a network of heads of lead agencies. About 116 heads of lead agencies on road safety have been invited to attend the first on-line meeting on 14 December 2022 to launch this network. An in-person meeting is expected to be held in June 2023 in Stockholm. This provides an important opportunity for the international road safety community to understand challenges at the country level and to explore how international stakeholders can better support countries in achieving the goal during the 2nd Decade.

Agenda 3: Asia Pacific Road Safety Observatory Dialogue on Powered Two-/Three-Wheelers

Mr David Shelton, Senior Transport Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asia Development Bank introduced to participants the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory which serves as a regional forum on road safety data, policies and practices. The Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory was established in 2020 with a mission to support countries to generate robust road safety data and analysis to positively impact on policies

and actions for road safety in the region. Currently, there are 24 participating countries. Mr Shelton encouraged Members of Parliament to invite their respective countries to join the Observatory.

Mr Shelton highlighted the importance of a dialogue on powered two-/three-wheelers (PTW) safety. PTW deaths comprise 28% of the global total, with WHO estimating that in 2013 there were over 286,000 fatalities from PTW crashes. Globally, 88% of PTW registrations are in low- and middle-income countries. Road traffic deaths and serious injuries involving PTWs in these countries can exceed 70% of the total national road trauma. Reaching the target of 2030, will not be achieved in many countries unless motorcycling is made safe by implementing proven interventions.

On 11-13 October 2022, the Asian Development Bank hosted the Global Regional Road Safety Observatories Dialogue on Powered Two-Wheeler Safety and the Asia-Pacific Road Safety Observatory Annual Meeting in Manila, Philippines. The event was attended by more than 200 participants, including parliamentarians. The events involved high-level knowledge sharing sessions from a range of leading global road safety organizations to showcase and launch critical tools. A statement of participants was released at the end of the sessions outlining key principles for adoption by governments and funding bodies at all levels and can be accessed via <https://www.aprso.org/article/news-release/statement-participants-global-regional-road-safety-observatories-dialogue>



Agenda 4: updates from WHO Geneva

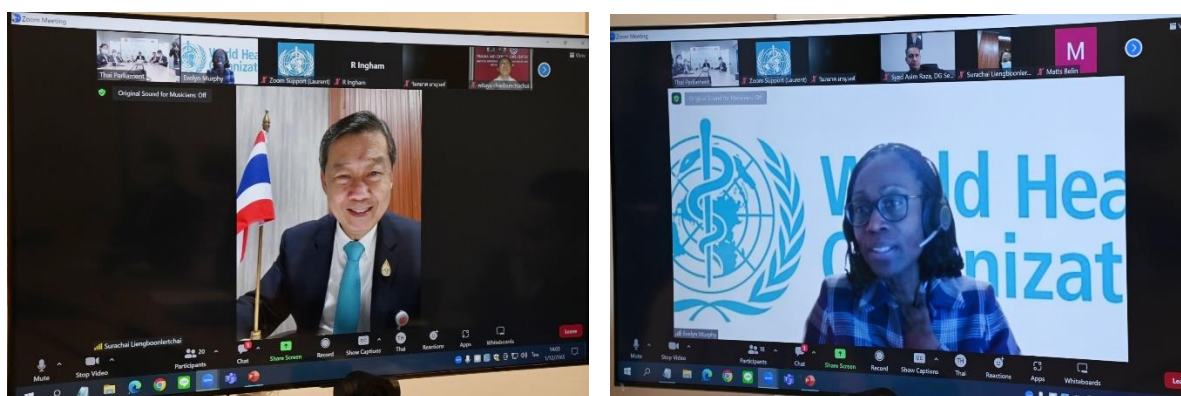
Ms Evelyn Murphy updated participants that as more road safety related studies have been made available in the past years, WHO Geneva is in the process of updating all the road safety manuals (the green book). Information regarding the release dates of updated manuals will be provided in due course.

Agenda 5: Country update

Mr Surachai Liengboonlertchai, Senator from Thailand and the former Chair of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Road Safety Legislators, updated progress on road safety work by the Thai Senate during the past years. The Commission on Integration of Emergency Resuscitation and Road Safety was established and chaired by Mr Liengboonlertchai, bringing multi-sectoral efforts to tackle road traffic injuries through improving drivers' licensing process and vehicle condition inspections, integrating road traffic crashes data across several data keepers to address black spots, coordinating with the police to improve law enforcement, raising awareness, and engaging the public to create a safety culture.

The Thai Senate has passed two important laws including the demerit point system and the amendment of the Land Traffic Act which legislates, among others, seat belts for all seats, the use of child seats, increased penalty for drink and drug driving. The Senate will prioritise the consideration of the traffic court law when the bill is submitted.

Since 2019, road deaths in Thailand have been on a downward trend, declining from approximately 20,000 deaths to 12,000 deaths per year (or 26/100,000 population). Thailand aims to reduce road deaths to 12/100,000 population by 2027. About 70% of road deaths in Thailand occurred among motorcycle riders. Mr Surachai expressed his commitment to continue his efforts to achieve the road safety target within this new decade.



Agenda 6: Governance & Planning

Following the stepping down of Mr Chamnong, WHO Geneva, in its role as the secretariat of the Asia-Pacific Regional Network for Road Safety Legislators will invite MPs in the Asia Pacific Region to submit expressions of interest. Pending an in-person meeting in 2023, voting may be facilitated virtually. In the meantime, MPs interested in chairing the Asia Pacific Regional network are invited to submit expressions of interest to globalnetwork4rs@who.int.