

**Minutes of the Third Meeting of the Coordination Council of the International "North-South" Transport Corridor held at New Delhi on 20-21 October, 2005**

In pursuance of the Article 6 of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on International 'North South' Transport Corridor, the third Meeting of the Coordination Council of the International 'North-South' Transport Corridor was hosted by the Republic of India in New Delhi on 20-21 October, 2005.

2. The meeting was attended by representatives from India, Iran, Russian Federation, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Ukraine. The representatives of Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Ukraine participated as Observers.

3. The list of delegates of the participating countries is annexed.

4. At the beginning of the meeting, the leaders of the heads of the participating countries delivered speeches and assessed the role of the Corridor in promoting trade and cooperation in the transport as vital and crucial.

5. It was decided that the Coordination Council will be presided over by India from the date of the third meeting of the Coordination Council till the next Coordination Council meeting.

6. Discussion and decision about accession of the new Members to the Inter-Governmental Agreement on International 'North-South' Transport Corridor

6.1 Representative of Iran (the Depository State) explained the procedure for accession to Inter-Governmental Agreement on International 'North-South' Transport Corridor.

6.2 The procedure of accession is governed by Article 10.2 of the Agreement. Following this procedure Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman and Tajikistan have already become members after depositing their instruments of accession. In respect of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Syria, the three

founding members namely India, Iran and Russia have given their no objection. However, they are yet to deposit their instrument of accession.

6.3 The Coordination Council urged the representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia to expedite submission of the requisite instruments of accession. A model instrument of accession form was also given to them. As Syria did not participate in this Coordination Council meeting, it was decided that Iran, the depository State will apprise Syria about this requirement.

6.4 The Coordination Council observed that India and Iran have given their no objection to the request made by Turkey, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Bulgaria for accession to the Inter-Governmental agreement. However, the Russian side is yet to revert with their views. The coordination Council urged the Russian side to send their views to the depository state at the earliest.

6.5 In summary, the position regarding accession to Inter-Governmental Agreement on International 'North-South' Transport Corridor is as under:

Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman and Tajikistan (four countries) are now members taking the total number of members at present to seven.

Azerbaijan, Armenia, Syria (three countries) will become members after 30 days of depositing their instrument of accession to Iran.

Turkey, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Bulgaria (four countries) who have participated in this meeting as observers are keen to accede.

7. The Coordination Council adopted the recommendations made by the two Expert Groups held at Astrakhan on 1-3 December, 2003 and at New Delhi on 20-21 October, 2005.

8. Conclusion/Observations by Member countries for increasing goods transport through International 'North-South' Transport Corridor.

8.1(a) It was observed that while number of countries willing to join the corridor has been increasing, cargo movement along the corridor has not been increasing.

(b) There is also a problem of imbalance of cargo moving from North to South.

8.2 It was observed that presently approximately 3 million ton cargo per annum is flowing through the corridor in Iran section of International 'North-South' Transport Corridor.

8.3 The Coordination Council discussed the idea of single operator for better coordination of movement along the corridor mooted by Indian and Russian side and the idea of unit tariff on Container-Km basis on the entire route (on the lines of pricing done in the case of East-West Corridor linking Kazakhstan to Turkey) mooted by Iranian side.

8.4 It was agreed that Russia and other member nations will send the papers/background material with respect to single operator concept and Iran will send the papers/background material pertaining to fixation of unit railway tariff to India within three months. India will circulate these papers to the participating countries for taking the idea further.

8.5 In order to promote the corridor, member countries may consider investing in projects identified by other member countries on this corridor.

8.6 In order to facilitate better coordination of various activities and resolution of various issues (from time to time) in between Coordination Council and Expert Group meetings, it was decided that each member country will nominate one person each for the two Expert Groups as nodal person. The nomination of India is as under:

### **India**

#### *Expert Group (1)*

Mr. S.S. Rangnekar  
Director (L&PS),  
Shipping Corporation of India,  
245, Madame Cama Road,  
Mumbai – 400 021  
Tel: +91-22-22021816  
Fax: +91-22-22022949  
E-mail: s.rangnekar@sci.co.in

## *Expert Group (2)*

Ms. K. Subramanian  
Joint Secretary (Customs),  
Ministry of Finance,  
Department of Revenue,  
North Block,  
New Delhi  
Tel: +91-11-23092978  
Fax: +91-11-23093475  
E-mail : jscus@excise.nic.in

8.7 The representatives of the remaining countries will intimate the names within 10 days to India. The nodal persons will be in touch with each other on regular basis through e-mail, telephone/video conference etc.

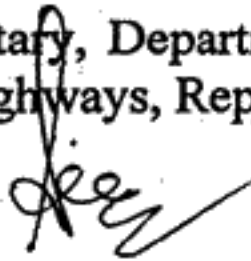
8.8 The Coordination Council discussed the progress made vide the decision taken earlier regarding study of problems/bottlenecks on this corridor and noted that the Study Group Report prepared by the Indian representatives has been circulated in this meeting to the participating countries.

8.9 After detailed discussions, it was resolved that it will be desirable to have a common Report. To facilitate this it was decided that the name the representatives of the countries participating in the study shall be furnished to the Indian nodal person of Expert Group (1) within 10 days and the study of Indian and Iranian leg of the corridor will be completed within three months. Because of extreme winter conditions, study of Russian leg may take more time but will be completed before 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006.

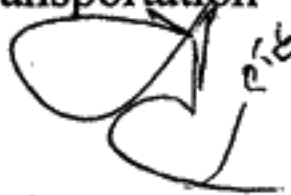
9. Kazakhstan being full member of North-South Corridor volunteered to host the next Co-ordination council and Expert Group Meetings. All participating countries welcomed the offer given by Kazakhstan. Accordingly, the 4<sup>th</sup> Coordination Council meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> Expert Group meetings of the International North South Transport Corridor will be held at Akhtau, Kazakhstan in the second half of 2006.

Done at New Delhi in 6 originals, in English language.

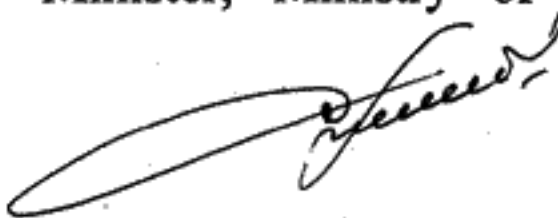
Mr. Susheel Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Republic of India.



Mr. Nooruddin Ali Abadi, Deputy for Traffic, Railway Organisation, Islamic Republic of Iran and a member of Iranian Cooperation Council, North-South Corridor, Ministry of Road and Transportation



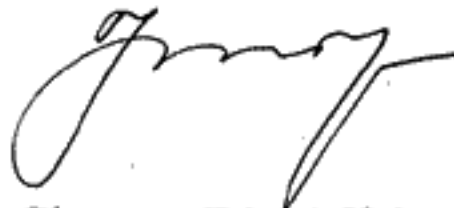
Mr. S.A. Aristov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport, Russian Federation



Mr. Oleg Laptanok, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to India, Republic of Belarus



Mr. Issayev Abylay A., Deputy Director of "International Trading Port Aktau", Republic of Kazakhstan



Mr. Suhrob Rajabov, 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary Charge D' Affairs, Embassy of Tajikistan, Embassy of Tajikistan