



TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS



CCO BRIEF
ON
TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS
COOPERATION

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

May 2024

BRIEF ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATION

I. Introduction

Transportation is vital for global connectivity, facilitating the movement of people and goods. It is the backbone of economies, enabling trade, commerce, and the exchange of resources on a global scale. It plays a crucial role in connecting people, goods, and services. It also links producers with consumers, businesses with markets, and communities with essential services. Efficient transportation contributes significantly to economic growth by reducing production costs, improving market accessibility, and connecting producers with consumers. Moreover, it enhances social cohesion by connecting communities, enabling people to access essential services, education, and employment opportunities. In addition, it plays a vital role in emergency response, ensuring timely access to healthcare and disaster relief. In this regard, transportation is indispensable for the functioning of societies, driving progress, and fostering development.

Technological innovations add a dimension to the field of transport as well. In this context, the integration of technological innovations to the transportation systems, brings the new concept as Intelligent Transportation Systems, which further enhances the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of transportation networks. Intelligent Transportation Systems optimize traffic flow, reduce congestion, improve road safety, and promote environmental sustainability by leveraging advanced technologies and data-driven solutions. Thus, Intelligent Transportation Systems build upon the foundation of traditional transportation infrastructure, providing innovative solutions to address the evolving needs and challenges of modern societies.

Considering the importance of the issue, the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group (TCWG) has devoted its 22nd and 23rd Meetings to “Developing Intelligent Transportation Systems in OIC Member Countries”. Enhancing the cooperation among the member countries on this theme through sharing experiences and the best practices would directly contribute to the realization of related output areas of the COMCEC Strategy.

II. Transport and Communications Cooperation under the COMCEC

Improving the functioning, effectiveness, and sustainability of transport and communications in the Member Countries is the main objective of the COMCEC Strategy in the field of transport and communications. Within this framework, since the 39th COMCEC Session, the COMCEC TCWG elaborated on developing intelligent transportation systems in its 22nd Meeting.

A. Measuring the Environmental Impacts of Transport Infrastructures in OIC Member Countries
(The 22nd Meeting of the Transport and Communications Working Group)

The 22nd Meeting of COMCEC TCWG was held virtually on May 6th, 2024, with the theme of “Developing Intelligent Transportation Systems in OIC Member Countries”.

In order to deepen the discussions and contribute to the debates during the meetings, a Policy Guide with the same theme is being prepared for two consecutive COMCEC TCWG Meetings (22nd and 23rd). While the preliminary findings of the Guide were submitted to the 22nd TCWG meeting, the final version of the Guide will be submitted to the 23rd TCWG Meeting. The study will examine best practices, innovative approaches and successful initiatives in developing intelligent transportation systems in OIC Member Countries or outside, and produce a handbook that can guide countries in this regard.

The study is also expected to draw attention to the current and future impacts of developing intelligent transportation systems, as well as trigger a serious debate on the identified issues and how to better address them. In addition to its strong theoretical background and analysis, the study will provide a useful and applicable guide to the Member Countries to be used to develop intelligent transportation systems.

The 23rd Meeting of the COMCEC Transport and Communications Working Group will be held on 24-25 September 2024 with the same theme.

B. The COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism

COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) is the other important instrument of the Strategy. Projects financed under the CPF need to serve cooperation among member countries and must be designed in accordance with the objectives and expected outcomes defined by the Strategy in the transport and communication section. Projects also play important roles in realizing the policy recommendations formulated by the member countries during the TCWG meetings.

In this respect, in 2024, the project titled “Improving Human and Institutional Capacity for the Development of an Institutional Framework for Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in The Gambia” will be implemented by the Gambia and Qatar, as the beneficiary country. The purpose of the project is to share experiences and devise a blueprint for an institutional and strategic framework for an intelligent, efficient, and environmentally sustainable urban transportation system in The Gambia and OIC countries. The activities of the project are for Gambian officials to embark on a Peer-to-peer Experience Sharing field visit to Qatar’s Ministry of Transport, to learn about their urban intelligent transport systems.