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Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) NGUYEN HONG TRUONG

Country/Organization: VIETNAM

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Speech by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Hong Truong, Deputy Minister of Transport at the UNESCAP Transport Minister Meeting

Dear Excellency Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased and honored to participate and speak at the UNESCAP Transport Minister Meeting held in Moscow, Federation of Russia. Firstly, on behalf of Vietnam delegation, I would like to thank UNESCAP and the host Russia for their excellent arrangements, hospitality extended to Viet Nam delegates and for the meeting to happen successfully.

For past decades, with support from international communities, Vietnam Government has been investing to develop and implement priority infrastructures projects for poverty reduction and economic development, enhancing commercial exchange and attracting foreign investment.

Within cooperation framework of UNESCAP, we would like to brief you some updates and orientation of Vietnam transport development.

Firstly, Trans-Asian highway and railways:

On Highway: our National Highway No. 1 – coincide with AH1 within Asian Highway Network is Vietnam North-South backbone nearly 1700 km from Hanoi – HCM city has been upgraded and widened to 4 lanes- class I road. North – South Expressway are under construction, with around 200 km constructed, 100 km under construction and another 1300 km being prepared for construction within period 2016 – 2021. AH14 section in Vietnam from Hai Phong – Ha Noi – Lao Cai expressway connecting with China about 380 km, 4 lanes have been constructed and put into operation at end of 2015. According to our road development plan by 2020, all AH sections within Viet Nam will not be under class III, some will be 4- 6 lanes expressway. For regional connectivity, Viet Nam and Laos are promoting the study for investment and construction of Ha Noi – Vientiane capital (725 Km). Viet Nam and Cambodia are discussing to promote the study and construction of Ho Chi Minh city – Phnom Penh capital expressway (180 Km) etc.

On railway: our North – South railway are being improved and rehabilitated, with weak bridges improved and 5 other bottleneck sections including Hai Van pass and Khe Net pass and so on being prepared for improvement to increase average speed of the whole line to be 90 km/h. For connecting with China, Ha Noi capital – Lao Cai railway 300 km has been being upgraded. For connection with Cambodia, Viet Nam and Cambodia agreed to promote the investment and construction of Ho Chi
Minh city – Phnom Penh capital railway (FS completed 2012), a missing link of SKRL. Also, for connectivity with Laos, Feasibility Study for investment and construction of Vientiane capital (Laos PDR) – Vung Ang port (Viet Nam) railway link 500 km is on-going with support from KOICA and be completed by end of 2017. Viet Nam is also preparing to invest more of high speed trains in the country after 2022. Vietnamese rail has already been in HCM city since the 19th century.

Secondly, with regards to operation and facilitation of cross-border transport:

In parallel with infrastructure developments, Viet Nam signed and implements series of road transport agreements with neighbour such as China, Laos and Cambodia and accessed to multilateral agreements such as Cross-border Transport Agreements between and among governments of greater Mekong Subregion countries (GMS-CBTA agreement), ASEAN framework agreement on facilitation of goods in transit and now negotiating ASEAN framework agreement on cross-border transport of passengers by road vehicles ... Implementation of transport agreements Viet Nam especially transport facilitation measures has been contributing to promotion of trade, investment and tourism between Viet Nam and its neighbours and Viet Nam with the rest of the region.

Thirdly on Traffic safety: Road safety in Viet Nam has been given attention from the National Assembly, the Government and all stakeholders, therefore, from 2011-2015 the number of accidents, number of deaths and injuries have been reduced significantly. 2014 is the first time after 14 years, the number of death reduced under 9,000. In 11 months of 2016, the number of death reduced 1,48% compared to the same period last year. In 2016, the road safety topic is “tightening control of road transport operators”. Such measures implemented are:

- We have a plan to restructuring of transport sector, to increase the market share of inland-waterway and railway from 26% to 32% and 1% to 2,6% respectively, up to 2020 reducing the pressure on road transport;
- We applied ICT in order to reduce the involvement of people in the drive’s testing process, to increase the quality of drivers; applied camera surveillance for enforcement;
- 2015 is the first year we implemented the road safety audit for all newly road construction or road improvement projects in the nationwide;
- Viet Nam also applied itinerary-tracking devices in all commercial vehicles to control working time of driver, speed and illegal stopping and
parking... Up to now, the number of speed violation has been reduced about 70%;

- We also have a plan to revise road traffic law in 2017... On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to UNESCAP for helping us to implement project for strengthening capacity in road safety for Viet Nam.

Before ending, at this meeting, we would like to call for supports from different countries and international communities in knowledge exchanges, policy making and financing for transport infrastructure developments, road safety, climate change resilience as well as training human resources on logistics in international cargo rail transport.

Thank you for your cooperation and attention.