

C O N C E P T N O T E

International Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Urban Mobility

Organized by the Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MOID), Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS) and Society of Transport Engineers Nepal (SOTEN),

Hotel Royal Tulip, Gwarko, Lalitpur, Nepal | Wednesday, September 9, 2026

1. Background and Context

The UN Decade of Sustainable Transport (2026–2035), aims to accelerate global action toward safe, affordable, accessible, and low-carbon transport systems. Coordinated by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) with Regional Commissions and partners, the Decade promotes integrated solutions that link transport with climate action, health, equity, and economic resilience, advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation, policy coherence, and inclusive mobility for all. The implementation plan provides a shared vision for the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport and outlines six priority areas and the means of implementation needed for transformative action by all relevant stakeholders. In line with this decade, various initiatives, activities have been planned and implemented globally and nationally. Similarly, with rapid urbanization and major population of the world being in cities, it is urgent to deal with the urban transportation system i.e. urban mobility challenges. Integrated mass transportation, investment in non motorized transport and pedestrian facilities are one of the common strategies adopted as part of urban mobility.

Nepal is also prioritizing the development efforts in transport infrastructure, which is well reflected in periodic plans and annual budget programs at the central, provincial as well as local levels. Efforts are aimed at achieving safe, easy, and quality transport services by the expansion of road networks, air transport, railways, and waterways as stipulated in the current 16th Five Year Plan. The Kathmandu Valley, Nepal's economic and political heartland, exemplifies this challenge: the Valley is experiencing accelerated urban growth, a surge in motorised vehicles, worsening air quality, and mounting pressure on existing road infrastructure. To tackle this issue, government is working for Kathmandu Valley Urban Transportation Master Plan along with discussion regarding implementation of mass transportation. Similarly, the transport sector's efforts are aimed at overall national prosperity. Therefore, it must be linked with the various activities, and services, for all tiers of administrative, economic, as well as social structure.

In these circumstances, the Society of Transport Engineers Nepal (SOTEN) has taken initiatives to bring the international and national stakeholders into a common forum for an interface and understanding of the approaches and efforts of planning and implementation of Sustainable Transport Decade implementation plan and urban mobility. SOTEN has concluded three international and three national seminars on various aspects of transportation engineering and planned to organize the 3rd International

Conference. This International Symposium is jointly organized with the Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MOID) and Eastern Asia Society of Transportation Studies (EASTS). The Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS) is one of the region's most prominent platforms for transport research, policy dialogue, and professional exchange. The International Symposium on Sustainable Transport provides the ideal forum to present, deliberate, and build regional consensus around such transformative initiatives.

2. About the Symposium

Event	International Symposium on Sustainable Transport and Urban Mobility
Organised by	Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MOID), Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS) and Society of Transport Engineers Nepal (SOTEN)
Date	September 9, 2026 Wednesday
Time	08:00 – 17:30
Venue	Hotel Royal Tulip, Gwarko, Lalitpur, Nepal
Format	Keynote Speeches, Country Sharing, Technical Presentations, Panel Discussion
Participants	Government Officials, Consultants, Contractors, International Experts, EASTS Society Representatives, Professionals & Researchers

3. Objectives

The main objective of this Symposium is to disseminate the state-of-art approaches, proven best practices, and scientific know-how for addressing the issue related to sustainable transport and urban mobility. At the same time, it aims to provide a greater opportunity for the transport sector professionals to understand the policy and practices adopted by countries to tackle issues on the symposium theme. The specific objectives are:

- Provide a high-level regional platform for dialogue on sustainable urban transport challenges, innovations, and solutions across Asia-Pacific.
- Share country-specific experiences from EASTS member societies to foster cross-border learning and peer exchange.
- Present and deliberate on the JICA-supported Urban Transport Master Plan for the Kathmandu Valley, soliciting expert input and actionable recommendations.
- Facilitate a structured panel discussion on a concrete way forward for sustainable mobility in the Kathmandu Valley.
- Strengthen networks among transport professionals, academics, and policymakers from across the region.

4. Programme

Programme at a Glance — September 9, 2026	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration & Welcome of Participants
09:00 – 09:05	Opening by Master of Ceremony
09:05 – 09:10	All guests take dais
09:10 – 09:15	National Anthem
09:15 – 09:20	Welcome Remarks: <i>Symposium Convenor: Hemant Tiwari</i>
09:20 – 09:25	Remarks from EASTS President: Prof. Dr. Akimasa Fujiwara
09:25 – 09:30	Remarks from MOID: Mr. Gopal Prasad Sigdel, Secretary, MOID
09:30 – 09:40	Chief Guest Remarks: Lalitpur Metropolitan Mayor
09:40 – 09:45	Special Guest Remarks: Remarks from Provincial Government
09:45 – 09:55	Chief Guest Remarks:
09:55 – 10:00	Concluding Remarks: Dr. Hare Ram Shrestha, President, SOTEN
10:00 – 10:30	Keynote Address: "The Future of Urban Mobility" Speaker: Dr. Bambang Susantono <i>Dean, Cities & Local Governments Institute Asia Pacific Professor, Diponegoro University, Indonesia Former Chairman, Nusantara New Capital Authority (2022–2024)</i>
10:45 – 12:15	Technical Session 1: Country-Specific Sharing <i>Regional experiences and best practices in sustainable transport from EASTS member countries</i> <i>Session Chair: Shinya Hanaoka, Secretary General of EASTS</i> <i>Session Moderator: Bhimarjun Adhikari, Joint Secretary, MOID</i> • Prof. ONG Ghim Ping Raymond — Singapore <i>Professor, Transportation Engineering</i> • Dr. Kyaing — Myanmar <i>Associate Professor, Yangon Technological University</i>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:45	Technical Session 2: International Best Practices. <i>Session Chair: Bhimarjun Adhikari</i> Prioritizing transport infrastructure interventions for climate resilience: a data-driven approach: Ilaria Marino, Senior Consultant, TRL Dr. Haris Muhammadun — Indonesia Jean Paul — New Zealand

	<i>Representative, Transportation Sector (timing/session TBC)</i>
14:45 – 16:15	Panel Discussion: "Kathmandu City & Where We Should Learn" Urban Transport System Master Plan in Kathmandu: Insights from a JICA-supported project ---- Aya Iwatsuji, Session Moderator: Dr. Hareram Shrestha, President, SOTEN Panel: Er. Sunil Poudyal (TBC) Panel: Er. Bhushan Tuladhar (TBC) Panel: Er. Surya Raj Acharya (TBC) Panel: Er. Arjun Jung Thapa (TBC)
16:30 – 16:40	MC opens & calls guests to dais
16:40 – 16:45	Remarks from Yu-Chiun CHIOU: 1st Vice-President of the Eastern Asian Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS)
16:45 – 16:50	Remarks: MOID
16:50 – 17:00	Speech: National Planning Commission
17:00- 17:10	Remarks: Chief Guest (5 min)
17:10 – 17:30—	Token of Love & Concluding Remarks
5:30	Program Closes

5. Featured Keynote Speaker

FEATURED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Bambang Susantono

Dean, Cities and Local Governments Institute Asia Pacific

Professor, Diponegoro University, Indonesia

Former Chairman, Nusantara New Capital Authority (2022–2024)

Keynote Title: "The Future of Urban Mobility"

Dr. Bambang Susantono is one of Asia Pacific's foremost authorities on urban development, sustainable transport, and city planning. With extensive experience spanning government, academia, and international institutions, he brings a unique multidisciplinary perspective to the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of urban mobility across the region.

Additional keynote addresses and country-specific presentations will be delivered by distinguished representatives of EASTS Societies from across the region. Speaker profiles and presentation abstracts will be shared with registered participants in advance of the Symposium.

5a. Special Dignitaries — Country-Specific Sharing Session

The Keynote Session on Country-Specific Sharing (10:00 – 13:00) will feature presentations from the following distinguished dignitaries representing EASTS member societies:

Jean Paul — New Zealand

Representative, Transportation Sector — New Zealand

Jean Paul represents New Zealand's transportation community at the Symposium, bringing perspectives on sustainable transport practices, policy frameworks, and infrastructure innovation from one of the region's advanced transport systems.

Prof. ONG Ghim Ping Raymond — Singapore

Professor, Transportation Engineering — Singapore

Professor ONG Ghim Ping Raymond is a leading academic voice in transportation engineering, contributing extensive research and practical expertise on Singapore's globally recognised transport systems and urban mobility planning to the regional dialogue.

Dr. Haris Muhammadun — Indonesia

Representative, SOTEN Partner Delegation — Indonesia

Dr. Haris Muhammadun brings deep experience in Indonesia's transportation sector, sharing insights on sustainable urban mobility strategies and cross-country collaboration within the EASTS network.

Dr. Kyaing — Myanmar

Associate Professor, Yangon Technological University — Myanmar

Dr. Kyaing is a notable researcher in transportation engineering and serves as a prominent representative for Myanmar within the Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies (EASTS), contributing valuable regional research perspectives on sustainable transport development.

6. Expected Outcomes

- A shared regional understanding of emerging sustainable transport trends and solutions applicable to rapidly urbanizing Asian cities.
- Documented recommendations from the Panel Discussion on the way forward for Kathmandu Valley's transport system.
- Strengthened bilateral and multilateral partnerships among EASTS Societies and partner organizations.
- Greater regional visibility for Nepal's urban transport agenda within the EASTS network.
- A summary proceedings document capturing key deliberations, presentations, and consensus recommendations.

7. Target Participants

- Representatives from Ministry of Infrastructure Development and other government employee representing federal, provincial and local government
 - Transport policy professionals from Nepal and the wider region.
 - Academic researchers specializing in sustainable mobility and transport systems.
 - Distinguished delegates and keynote speakers from EASTS member societies across Asia-Pacific.
 - Representatives from JICA Nepal and the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport, Government of Nepal.
 - Development partners and multilateral agency representatives.
 - Civil society organisations and private sector transport stakeholders.
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8. Conference Registration and Fee

The registration fee for the event includes:

- International Delegate: \$100
 - Institutional Participant: NRs. 5,000.00 (Excluding VAT)
 - SOTEN Member: NRs. 3,500
 - Associate Member (With Valid Student ID Card): NRs. 1,000
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