

The Russian Federation

UNESCAP

The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia

In South East Asia today, infrastructure plays a crucial role in many aspects of the development of the states in this region. Currently, there is a large imbalance in the existing level of infrastructure due to the high amount of economic deviation found in different areas, and the fact that many of these countries have begun their developmental stages relatively recently. Infrastructure development is also an ever increasing priority to the region as it is forecasted to account for 60% of global infrastructure spending by 2025, and most of this financing will come from investors. Investment in the form of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) should be at the forefront of this topic, as it is necessary that the Asian infrastructure market is attractive to foreign investors through government policies and opportunity. In the past, regional and local infrastructure initiatives have failed due to lack of funding and government policies, which creates an opportunity for improvement by the global community. Infrastructure development in the areas of transportation, energy, telecommunications, water, sanitation, solid waste management, and irrigation is not only a priority, but a necessity to the developing South East Asian society

The Russian Federation, as a sovereign state which is geographically a part of Asia, currently has large infrastructure development prospects. Russia's grand total of completed, planned, and in progress infrastructure projects have a combined financing total of 969.4 Billion USD, with 937.6 Billion of it being for planned and in progress projects. Transportation infrastructure, and more specifically railroads, are a large part of Russian society, and Russia leads the world in length of electrified railroads at 43,000 kilometers. Though excelling in certain areas, Russia has lacked infrastructure investment in the past 10 years, putting it behind its geographical neighbor of China in current world ranking, but initiatives in the near future have the potential to create an infrastructurally advanced nation. From a policy standpoint, Russia understands what is necessary to develop infrastructure in the Asia/Pacific region, and believes that regional cooperation to develop infrastructure combined with strategies to make this region more favorable for investment from both domestic and foreign investors

To efficiently address the smaller issues in the overlying issue of Infrastructure in South East Asia, Russia believes in a set of comprehensive ideas. Due to the necessity of infrastructure knowledge in development, especially in lesser developed nations like those in the Asia/Pacific region, Russia proposes the use of the World Bank's Private Participation in Infrastructure Database, which identifies information on infrastructure projects specifically in middle to low income countries, allows for the well planned cooperation of countries, and provides critical data and analysis to government policy makers, consumer representatives, the donor community, and other stakeholders. To provide tangible technical assistance with private investment to governments and to create a more sound and attractive environment for this investment, Russia believes in the use of the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF), which would provide technical assistance grants, frame infrastructure development strategies, organize stakeholder consultation workshops, and build governmental institutional capacity. Another prevalent issue in the Asia/Pacific area is the lack of transportation infrastructure connecting land and sea ports for trade. For this purpose, Russia believes that the creation of an initiative involving experts on regional

development to work governments to determine areas where this type of infrastructure is necessary, and to design individual projects to fit the specific needs of the area being developed.

Bibliography:

"The Road to 2030: A Survey of Infrastructure Development ..." EY, 2014. Web. 28 Oct. 2016.

"Private Participation in Infrastructure (PPI) Project Database - World Bank Group." *Private Participation in Infrastructure (PPI) Project Database*. World Bank, 2016. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

"PPIAF." *PPIAF*. World Bank Group, 2016. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

"Infrastructure Development in Russia and Global Insights." *EY-Building a Better World*. Ed. EY. Ernst & Young Global Limited, n.d. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

"Infrastructure Development in Asia Pacific (APEC)." (2014): n. pag. Oct. 2014. Web. 3 Nov. 2016.

Hilliard, Susan, and John Sullivan. "Opportunities and Challenges for Infrastructure Investment in Asia." *KWM*. King & Wood Mallesons, 2016. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

The Russian Federation
UNESCAP
Future of Food

The future of food in Asia and the Pacific should be a bright one if efforts to mitigate climate change as well as initiatives to ensure sustainability are put into place. As the global community has developed and a change in climate has been recognized, it has become necessary that contemporary sustainability efforts like climate-smart agriculture (CSA) be taken to preserve the earth while still providing ample food for the 7.125 Billion people (2013) that reside here. Creating a more sustainable and food stable region in Asia and the Pacific, which still has near 500 Million undernourished people should continue to be a priority to the global community in its attempts to attain Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 2, which is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

As a whole, the Russian Federation has a relatively robust food situation, but agriculture has not previously been a large part of the Russian economy due to the fact that only 7.41% of Russia's territory is considered arable land. Because of this, the Russian Federation enacted food sanctions on the European Union, United States, Canada, Australia, and Norway in 2014 that have banned imports of beef, pork, fish, fruits, vegetables, and dairy to spur agricultural development in its territory and become more independent in its food production. As a result, many sustainability upgrades, such as the initiative created by Dow Seeds that proposes tailored package of technologies to reduce impact on the environment and deliver healthier and more sustainably produced crops, and the Sustainability services offered by Russian based cooperation SGS have been successfully implemented.

To successfully achieve the goal of this committee, which is to ensure a more food secure Asia and Pacific region, and to mitigate climate change, Russia plans to propose to the committee a set of comprehensive solutions. To take a substantial regional effort to solve this issue, Russia proposes the creation of a regional knowledge hub that will allow Asian and Pacific countries to share knowledge and collaborate on issues involving climate adaption, and also mitigation practices in agriculture. Another method to create a more sustainable agriculture scene in this region is to implement the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), as rice is prevalent as the staple crop of the region. SRI is a climate-smart, agroecological methodology for increasing the productivity of rice and more recently other crops by changing the management of plants, soil, water and nutrients, that is currently used by over 10 million smallholder farms in over 55 countries, and could easily be utilized to its full extent in the Asia/Pacific region. As the extreme use of water by agriculture has become unsustainable on a global scale, Russia believes that the implementation of Vertical Agriculture (VA) systems would help to prevent this and to save space, time, and money, making agriculture much more sustainable for those practicing it. VA

takes regular food growing, but stacks it vertically in layers and occasionally adds controlled-environment agriculture tactics to create a compact farm with reduced water usage due to the fact that these farms use black-water recycling systems.

Bibliography:

"SRI International Network and Resources Center." System of Rice Intensification. Cornell University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, 2016. Web. 20 Oct. 2016.

Khāosa'āt, Mingsan, and Benjavan Rerkasem. *The Growth and Sustainability of Agriculture in Asia*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2000. Oxford University Press. Web.

ESCAP. *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok: United Nations ESCAP, 2009. Web.

Macfarquhar, Neil. "Organic Farms Become a Winner in Putin's Feud With the West." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 18 Nov. 2014. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.

Bernabe, Maria Dolores. "Harmless Harvest." *Harmless Harvest: How Sustainable Agriculture Can Help ASEAN Countries Adapt in a Changing Climate* (n.d.): n. pag. *Policy Paper*. Oxfam, May 2015. Web. 29 Oct. 2016.

The Russian Federation

UNESCAP

Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficking in the Asia

Migrant workers make up a significant part of global workforce, as there are currently an estimated 150.3 Million international migrants who are currently employed or are unemployed and seeking employment in their present country of residence. From a Asia/Pacific standpoint, labor migration is extremely significant to all members of the international community in this region because of the fact that 21.9% of all global labor migration goes on here, and there is the clear need for regional policy upgrades and other methods of improving the situation for both receiving and sending migrant workers.

In the Asian region, Russia is currently the largest receiver of these labor migrants, as it is the second largest receiver in the world only behind the United States in amount of labor migrants residing in it. Within this migration, 4.5 Million citizens come from the former Soviet Republics of Central Asia, which is about 40% of the foreign population residing in Russia as of 2014, making it extremely important to Asia as a receiver of labor migrants. Migration has had a positive influence on Russia for the most part, as it has bettered the development of communication, infrastructure, and public service delivery and worked to strengthen the banking system while increasing competition in the financial sector. One notable issue in labor migration is pension, and to solve this issue, Russia enacted a policy in 2013 that requires the employer to make pension contributions to the migrant worker if they have signed an employment contract that is over 6 months. Another significant issue in labor migration is the avoidance of insurance support by employers of unlicensed workers. To prevent this, the Russian Federation has put into place a change in its Labour Code that requires the policy of voluntary medical insurance to receive a working license

As there are very apparent issues in the current labor migration system in the Asia/Pacific region, Russia believes that it is necessary to cover a large amount of smaller issues in its proposed solutions. Russia recognizes the current changes in central asian societies that have created a need for programs that give social support to migrant workers, and recommends that on a state level governments formulate a plan for how these workers are to be treated by government bodies. A multidimensional approach to this issue is also necessary to properly address issues faced by migrants involving remittances that involves both the state, whether it be a receiving or sending state, and international organizations. Due to the potential of tensions, whether involving physical conflict or a lesser form of conflict, Russia believes that it is also necessary to implement education initiatives to inform the general public of predominantly receiving countries of the benefits of labor migration and the mixing of migrants with native people. This could prevent these potential conflicts and create a more welcoming environment

for migrant workers who will in turn boost the economy and help to fill in the gap that the aging populations of many parts of Asia and the Pacific leave.

Bibliography:

ILO Department of Statistics Labor Migration Branch, comp. "ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology." *ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers* (n.d.): n. pag. *International Labor Organization*. United Nations, 15 Dec. 2015. Web. 2 Nov. 2016.

Hoffer, Frank. "The Real Problems Of Migration And Work And How To Solve Them." *Social Europe*. Social Europe, 29 Apr. 2014. Web. 1 Nov. 2016.

Malinkin, Mary Elizabeth. "Russia: The World's Second-Largest Immigration Haven." *The National Interest*. The National Interest, 10 Aug. 2014. Web. 1 Nov. 2016.

Malyuchenko, "Labour Migration from Central Asia to Russia: Economic and Social Impact on the Societies of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan," Norwegian Institute of International Affairs and OSCE Academy (Bishkek), February 2015, 3

MPC Team. "MPC Migration Profile: Russia." *EU NEIGHBOURHOOD MIGRATION REPORT 2013 - RUSSIA* (2013): n. pag. Web. 1 Nov. 2016.

Kul, Yavuz. "T.C. Dışişleri Bakanlığı'ndan." *T.C. Dışişleri Bakanlığı*. Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Dışişleri Bakanlığı, 2011. Web. 03 Nov. 2016.