



Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
Topic: Infrastructure in Southeast Asia
Country: United Arab Emirates

Improving infrastructure in Southeast Asia is critical in any effort to create long term and substantial economic growth in the region. While current infrastructure development projects throughout the region are expected to have a positive impact on the area, much more has to be done in terms of putting better and more numerous plans into action. Not only does the United Nations have to promote national development projects, but international projects as well, to allow for shared growth. Within the region, there is a substantial gap between the growth rates of the different countries' economies, with some growing at around 6-9% each year and others at a mere 3-5% annual growth. One problem with creating either national or international infrastructure projects is the inexperience of many developing nation's leaders in projects of this nature. Additionally, corruption of developing governments is an unacceptable evil that must be removed from powerful offices to ensure the integrity of any initiative. This is especially necessary if private businesses are expected to become involved in infrastructure investment. Another thing that must be addressed to allow private involvement and confidence in our projects is the widespread uncertainty of a project's expected impact and security. This is an issue because many professionals simply do not have experience or understanding of the details of such a project. Many Southeast Asian countries, such as Burma, Vietnam, and Laos are currently employing Public- Private Partnerships (PPP) models which allow for the involvement of private businesses in partnering with government agencies on different projects, which could be and is effective in helping fund infrastructure projects. Lastly, as to not lose track of the need for sustainability, new infrastructure must be environmentally safe and efficient, as to not contribute to climate difficulties that may easily destroy all of our infrastructure in the near future.

The United Arab Emirates believes in the incredible importance of infrastructure in development. It has been generous in its efforts to aid countries' growth. For example, the UAE recently gave India a US\$75 billion fund to aid them in their infrastructure projects. The UAE also firmly believes in the importance of trade and business policies within countries that allow for foreign, private investment in infrastructure projects. As an international community, we cannot rely only on governments to aid each other, but we must have people helping people to create a more unified world. The UAE recently made a trade deal with Vietnam that encourages not only trade, but foreign investment between the two countries. What has happened since is the cooperation of Vietnamese and UAE companies in creating joint venture projects in the areas of infrastructure and tourism. This private cooperation can be crucial to develop progress and partnerships.

First, to ensure that all governments in the region of Asia and Pacific are "on the same page" of the infrastructure scene, in terms of technology, expectations, etc. The UAE calls on all countries in the region to agree to attend the Global Infrastructure Forum. Next, as an effort to create a unified region in the realm of infrastructure, the UAE proposes the creation of a Pan-Asian Coordination Infrastructure Board, composed of representatives from each country in the region. This organization would help develop intra regional and inter regional infrastructure



projects as well as universal guidelines and regulations to ensure any new infrastructure is built to a certain quality. In order to ensure the development a versatile infrastructure scene, the board would also focus heavily on the creation of a private business friendly atmosphere within the Southeast Asian region. They would do so by promoting PPP platforms and trade deals to allow for multinational joint ventures, while concurrently advertising these policies to private businesses, to ensure maximum usage of these opportunities. Groups of professionals from the United Nations along with local leaders and visionaries would be asked to participate in assessing infrastructure projects in the the region to evaluate their compliance with PACIB regulations as well as the security and expected success on plans, to allow private businesses a peace of mind when investing. These boards would also be asked to work with Transparency International to ensure the projects are run by governments with honesty and good intention. Lastly the board would create guidelines for ensuring green agriculture, such as energy requirements, ensuring the safety of designated lands, usage of sustainable building practices, etc. The UAE knows this board would be effective in uniting the region in its efforts to create a more sustainable and faster growing community.

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Committee: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific

Topic: Future of Food

Country: United Arab Emirates

Populations are growing, the world is becoming increasingly urbanized, the climate is changing. As the stage for agriculture becomes more and more uncertain, with the climate becoming progressively unpredictable and available lands being depleted or dedicated to other purposes, questions arise as to how the world will sustain its increasing population's food demands. One important aspect of sustainable agriculture and food production is the concept of Climate Smart Agriculture, which is vital to ensure our agricultural practices remain environmentally friendly and practical as we work to halt the effects of climate change. Many countries have already noticed insect farming as a viable option as a new food source. Over 1,000 species of insects have been identified as edible species of bugs, with less than .5% being speculated as having any harmful effects to humans when consumed. With current livestock taking up 70% of all agricultural land, expansion of conventional livestock would inevitably cause the depletion of environmentally crucial lands. Additionally, insects produce more than 10% less waste than other conventional protein options, are six times more productive than beef for each invested pound of feed, produce less greenhouse gas emissions, and use significantly less water in production. Most importantly, insects can be humanely farmed in extremely dense conditions, making them viable to be farmed even in urban settings. Lastly, many countries that are heavily affected by climate change are economically vulnerable and they are vital food exporters.

The United Arab Emirates struggles with agriculture because of the unavailability of water for many farms. Currently, around 44% of the world's population is under water stress. This is estimated to increase to 47% of the population by 2050, concentrated in many agriculturally important countries. With rising sea levels, the UAE sees the importance of making use of the salt water that dominates our earth. The UAE in general is passionate about the importance of sustainable agriculture. It hosts a yearly conference, the Global Forum for Innovations in Agriculture, to foster thought and discussion towards new innovations in sustainable agriculture. The UAE hopes this committee will be able to make significant progress in the global efforts to advance our agricultural practices.

The United Arab Emirates would first stress the importance of all countries beginning a move forward to insect farming. The benefits in terms of land and water use, waste, and expense are substantial for all countries who adopt such a practice. Of course, there is, in many cultures, a social stigma against eating bugs, so all countries would be encouraged to simultaneously launch social campaigns to display the tasteful side and nutritional benefits of insects. Next, in order to address the importance of Climate Smart Agriculture, the United Arab Emirates calls on every country in the Asia and Pacific region to gain membership to the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture. To address the problem of water scarcity, the United Arab Emirates calls on all countries to begin extensive desalination research and investments to ensure water not only for agriculture, but for drinking as well. Lastly, the United Arab Emirates proposes a United Nations disaster relief fund that will specifically aid countries that are low in GDP and high in agricultural production after large scale natural disasters. This relief fund will



receive .1% of every UN country's GDP and will rebuild agricultural land and help retain the food security of the citizens of any directly affected countries. The GDP percentage will result in a large amount of money, which will be necessary as the frequency and scale of disasters increases.

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Committee: Economic and Social Council for Asia and Pacific
Topic: Labour Migration and Illegal Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific
Country: United Arab Emirates

Labor migration in the Asia-Pacific has become an increasingly necessary force for the development of the region. Migrants can be crucial in operating the vital industries of receiver countries, and in contributing to advancements such as infrastructure. Labor migration is also often beneficial for the sender countries, who can receive significant amounts of their GDP from remittances sent home from labor migrants. However, local populations often hold biases against labor migrants, assuming that the migrants take their jobs and hurt the economy. Another serious issue in the region is the inconsistency of national policies. Each country, even countries of similar status such as sender or receiver, low income or wealthy, will have policies towards labor migration that acutely differ. This can make life very confusing for labor migrants, and also cause tensions between countries in their efforts to send or receive labor migrants in their own way. It is vital, if the countries present hope to reap the benefits of labor migration, that we develop some form of standardized agreements throughout the region.

The United Arab Emirates has, since the discovery of its oil supply, become a huge destination for migrant workers. In 2013, it was the fifth largest receiver of migrant workers, with 7.8 million migrants and a total native population 9.2 million. Migrant workers make up 90% of the country's private workforce. In recent years, the UAE has greatly improved its bilateral agreements with countries that send them large amount of labor migrants, such as the Philippines. They have also created a Wage Protection Agency which has effectively protected many migrants from unfair employers, 600 of which have already been penalized. The UAE has also taken measures to curb human trafficking which have proven effective, such as awareness campaigns, amnesty policies, and stricter immigration processes. The UAE strongly believes in the benefits of the labor migration system and wants to ensure its accessibility to all within the Asia-Pacific region.

The United Arab Emirates proposes the creation of an organization, to be called the Asia-Pacific Labor Migration Partnership (APLMP), composed of representatives from all countries in the Asia-Pacific as well as representatives from any willing and credible NGO. APLMP would create a framework for expectations in the region in terms of labor standards for migrant workers and human rights standards, as well as agree on certain measures that all countries are strongly encouraged to take to combat evils such as human trafficking and local detestment of labor migrants. Provisions of these standards would be to uphold the UN Declaration of Human Rights, ensure safe working conditions, ensure fair wages for labor migrants, etc. Other strongly encouraged measures would be the launching of awareness campaigns against human trafficking and implementation of amnesty policies such as the one the UAE used that proved very effective in the integration of illegal migrants into UAE society. Lastly, countries would be encouraged to launch campaigns to raise the awareness of their citizens in terms of the benefits of labor migration, for workers and host countries alike, in order to decrease the effect of the prejudices of local populations on migrant workers.

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