**Daniel Gay**

**New Zealand Delegate**

**Representative by Maple Leaf International School**

**Winnie Zhao**

**10th November 2016**

**United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asian and the Pacific**

Topic 1: The Role of Infrastructure in the Development of South East Asia

New Zealand’s infrastructure is a major enabling component for our economic activity, our transport system owes its characteristics due to it’s dependency on external trade which coincides with remoteness from many of its trading partners, but also to New Zealand’s rugged terrain, scattered population and the division of the country into two main islands spanning 2,011km in length (New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, 2016). Twenty-four million dollars of New Zealand’s revenue is produced through internal construction projects, the number of construction projects has risen by one hundred and fifty plus, since 2014, in Christchurch alone. This have caused a seventeen percent increase in growth in construction employment during the 2013 to 2014 period (New Zealand Trade & Enterprise 2016), this growth has made construction and infrastructure a major importance in New Zealand’s growing economy. Our infrastructure also includes reliable electricity, clean drinking water, and transport networks. The central and local government owns over two hundred billion dollars in infrastructure assets in the ten years to 2025 which forecasts infrastructure spending to be one hundred and ten billion dollars (National Infrastructure Unit, 2015). New Zealand has recently produced ‘The Thirty Year New Zealand Infrastructure Plan 2015’, known as The Plan, provided a new approach to infrastructure management and planning to tackle the challenges over the next 30 years, along with supporting actions. This provides national direction to infrastructure development in New Zealand as well as confidence in the private sector (National Infrastructure Unit, 2015).

As an island nation New Zealand’s main form of transporting cargo remains to be frieght ships. This allows for the majority of our trade along south-east asain countries that posses a coastline. This trade has proven to be very promising as trade with China has nearly tripled in the past decade (Statistics New Zealand, 2016). Our dependency on China has recently dropped as the imports for clothing, communication devices, and proccessing machines. In the latest quarter we have observed that Merchandise imports, exports, and terms of trade fell by 2.4%. In order to build and improve South-East Asian and Pacific countries’ economies counties should invest in building ports to maximise sea trade.

Topic 2: Future of Food

New Zealand has managed to remain one of the largest exporters of diary, beef, wool, sheep meat, and kiwifruit in the world. This has been achieved throught the innovative forms of Pastoral farming (New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, 2016). The large amount of livestock in New Zealands’ farms are diary cows that produce butter, cheese, high quality meat, 95 percent of which is exported globally. Our industry has produced seventeen billion New Zealand dollars since the years starting from December 2014 (New Zealand Trade & Enterpise, 2016). From 1984 to 2007, the agriculture sector’s total productivity increased by an annual compound growth rate of 3.3 percent. Although New Zealand has cut its sheep flock by more than 50 percent, 30.8 million since 1984, it still produces similar volumes of sheep meat through the use of best practice integrated systems from seeds, pasture, genetics, animal health and farm management to food processing (Easton, 2016). Unfortunately this was achieved at the cost of New Zealand’s natural habitats; lowland native forest which were cut donw, wetlands were drained, and erodable land was poorly maintained by not planting trees to bind the soil (Ecologic.org, n.d). These issues are of New Zealand’s major enviromental concern. A past New Zealand delegate Reene Yap delivered a statement explaining the difficulty of sustainable agriculture during July 2016, stating “…increasing food production could lead to an increase in emissions. Equally, aiming for zero emissions for agriculture, while still producing enough food for the world, will not be possible” (Trade & Yap, 2016). Unlike emmissions from fossil fuels agriculture emmisions comes from a biological procces, currenly New Zealand lacks the technology that has the capacity to limit this issue. However, New Zealand believes that with strong investment in research and a collaborative international effort, it will be possible to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing food security(Trade & Yap, 2016).

Topic 3: Labour Migration & Illegal Trafficing in Asia-Pacific

Currently New Zealand’s labour market is focusing itself on attracting talented migrants to fill gaps in the market through providing patheways that lead to becoming a legal perminant resident. This gap has been created through constant immigration and emmigration to neighboring countries such as Australia. Due to a long hsitory fo frienship and political talks an agreement between the two countries which allowed citizens of either country to live and work in the other without applying for a tourist or work visa, only people seeking perminant residents of a their country of birth would need to apply for a viza for the country in which they want to stay (New Zealand Government, 2016).

Naturally, the New Zealand government has full intentions of eradicating all forms of human trafficing. These acts can include, but are not limited down to, sex slavery, forced agricultural work, forced work in the hospitality sector, removal of organs, or any other form of exploitation. One example of New Zealand’s efforts to combat this an omnibus bill was written, called the ‘Oraganized Crime and Anti-Corruption Legislation Bill’, this is meant to prosecute those guilty of human trafficing. The punishment(s) for trafficers can lead to a twenty years prison term, a fine of $500,000, or both depending on the severity or amount of involvement the person(s) were proven with (Adams, 2015). Unfortunately New Zealand remans a possible target for exploiting and or transfering victimes of human trafficking of men and women (allegedly from Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietname, and Thailand) (New Zealand Law Society, 2014). As a trafficker was recently caught and persecuted trafficking remains a major concern. Currently New Zealand is still working towards recognizing domestic and internal trafficking, as well as providing avenues for the victims to receive proper recovery and protection, and giving those found guilty of trafficking to receive harsher punishments.

References

New Zealand Trade & Enterprise,. (2016). *Infrastructure*. *Nzte.govt.nz*. Retrieved 2 November 2016, from <https://www.nzte.govt.nz/en/invest/sectors-of-opportunity/infrastructure/>

National Infrastructure Unit,. (2015). *National Infrastructure Plan — National Infrastructure Unit*. *Infrastructure.govt.nz*. Retrieved 2 November 2016, from http://www.infrastructure.govt.nz/plan

Statistics New Zealand,. (2016). *Trade with China nearly tripled in past decade*. *Stats.govt.nz*. Retrieved 2 November 2016, from <http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/industry_sectors/imports_and_exports/trade-china-tripled-decade.aspx>

New Zealand Trade & Enterprise,. (2016). *Agribusiness*. *Nzte.govt.nz*. Retrieved 3 November 2016, from <https://www.nzte.govt.nz/en/buy/our-sectors/agribusiness/>

Easton, B. (2016). *2. – Economy – Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand*. *Teara.govt.nz*. Retrieved 3 November 2016, from <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/economy/page-2>

New Zealand Government,. (2016). *Moving to Australia*. *New Zealand Government*. Retrieved 5 November 2016, from https://www.govt.nz/browse/leaving-nz/move-and-live-in-australia/moving-to-australia/

Ecologic.org,. (2016). *Ecologic » Environmental problems of NZ agriculture*. *Ecologic.org.nz*. Retrieved 4 November 2016, from <http://www.ecologic.org.nz/?id=67&amp%3Bpage=Environmental+problems+of+NZ+agricult>

Trade, N. & Yap, R. (2016). *High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Session 5: Food security & sustainable agriculture, climate action, sustainable oceans & terrestrial*. *New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*. Retrieved 5 November 2016, from <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/ministry-statements-and-speeches/high-level-political-forum-on-sustainable-development-session-5-food-security-and-sustainable-agriculture-climate-action-sustainable-oceans-and-terrestrial/>

Adams, A. (2015). *Organised Crime and Anti-corruption Legislation Bill 219-2 (2014), Government Bill 5 Section 98D replaced (Trafficking in people by means of coercion or deception) – New Zealand Legislation*. *Legislation.govt.nz*. Retrieved 4 November 2016, from <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2014/0219/11.0/DLM6150629.html>

New Zealand Law Society,. (2014). *Modern day slavery and human trafficking - NZ Law Society*. *Lawsociety.org.nz*. Retrieved 4 November 2016, from https://www.lawsociety.org.nz/lawtalk/lawtalk-archives/issue-851/modern-day-slavery-and-human-trafficking