



Pavilion at COP29 UNFCCC: Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development

Pavilion F8, Blue Zone COP29 UNFCCC, Baku city Azerbaijan

Side event: “Green transportation in Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Opportunities in the Face of Climate Change”

Date: November 20, 2024

Time: 12:00 - 13:30 (90 minutes)

Moderator: Rysmendeev Bekzhan, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic;

Online participation: To participate online, please register using the following link: [link](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with details on how to access the conference. Registration is required only once, and the provided link will grant you access to all events at the Pavilion “Kyrgyzstan: Sustainable Mountain Development” throughout its entire duration November 13-21, 2024.

Background

Climate change is one of the most serious threats to the sustainable development of Kyrgyzstan, located in the mountainous Tien Shan region. The country is experiencing the consequences of global warming, such as rising temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, and an increase in the frequency of natural disasters, including avalanches, floods, and mudslides. These changes pose risks that complicate safe movement within the country and contribute to the premature deterioration of transport infrastructure.

The condition of road surfaces is also affected by climate change. At high temperatures, asphalt can melt or deform, leading to the formation of ruts and decreased safety. The increased frequency and intensity of snow avalanches and heavy rains cause soil erosion, damage to road surfaces, collapse of bridges, and landslides in mountainous areas, disrupting transport communications.

Avalanches in the Tien Shan region most frequently affect highways in February and March, accounting for 63% of the total number of avalanches that cause damage to road infrastructure. January and April also see high avalanche activity, with 16% and 13%, respectively. Avalanches are less common in November and May, with 1.5% and 2.5%. In Kyrgyzstan, experts register between 800 and 1,500 avalanches of various sizes annually, and with the increasing anthropogenic pressure on mountainous areas, avalanche hazards are on the rise. In addition, the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic is prone to mudflow and flood processes, which pose a threat to settlements, transport infrastructure, and other critical facilities.

In June 2024, mudflows caused significant damage to road infrastructure in the Batken, Osh, and Jalal-Abad regions, with the estimated damage exceeding 415 million som. During the mudflows, one bridge in the Batken region, four bridges in the Osh region, and two bridges in the Jalal-Abad region were damaged. To mitigate the consequences of the emergencies, 158.5 million som was allocated from the Road Fund on July 5, 2024.

The increasing costs of maintaining transport infrastructure is another issue. Frequent repairs and clearing of damaged or blocked roads and bridges place additional financial burdens on the government. This also leads to delays in the transportation of goods and passengers, negatively affecting economic and social stability, especially in the most vulnerable mountain communities.

Kyrgyzstan's transport sector needs fundamental changes, and railway electrification is one of the most promising solutions for sustainable development. Railways can be a key element in the transition to environmentally friendly and efficient transport systems. The transport sector as a whole accounts for about 16.2% of global CO2 emissions, with more than 70% of these emissions related to road transport. An increase in the number of cars exacerbates the environmental situation, leading to air pollution and increased noise levels. The transition to electrified railways will make the transport system more sustainable and efficient, contributing to a reduction in the negative impact on the environment and an improvement in air quality. This solution will lower the overall level of pollution and enhance the reliability of transportation, which is especially important for the sustainable development of the country.

The key challenges are the need to reduce CO2 emissions, protect transportation infrastructure from natural disasters, and the lack of funding to implement sustainable technologies. Sustainable development of the transportation sector requires attention to innovative solutions and investments to ensure adaptation to climate change and reduce negative environmental impacts.

Over the past three decades, Kyrgyzstan has made efforts to modernize its transport infrastructure, yet many projects have been hampered by lack of funding. Examples of successful initiatives:

- **North-South Alternative Road:** A strategically important project that improves connectivity between regions and provides access to resources, but requires sustainable solutions to adapt to climate change.
- **Airport Modernization:** Increasing capacity and adapting to climate change with clean technologies.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy (2018-2040) focuses on reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change. The enacted Green Economy Laws provide the necessary regulatory framework to facilitate the development and implementation of sustainable transportation solutions.

In addition, Kyrgyzstan is proactive in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, which reaffirms the country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change:

- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** urgent action to tackle climate change and its impacts ([UN SDG, 2023](#)).
- **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure):** Support sustainable infrastructure and deploy innovative technologies ([UN SDG, 2023](#)).

Data and evidence

- **Railway electrification:** The project on electrification of “Turksib (Lugovaya)-Balykchy” section plans to reduce emissions of harmful substances into the air by train diesel locomotives by 13842.3 tons/year or 100%, including carbon oxide by 5069.38 tons/year, nitrogen oxide by 7459.54 tons/year, sulfur oxides by 598.61 and soot by 1014.8 tons/year.
- **Electric buses:** The introduction of the first electric buses in Bishkek in 2023 has shown a reduction in CO2 emissions, which has significant implications for urban air quality.
- **Avalanche protection galleries:** The project to build protective galleries on the North-South Alternative Road is aimed at reducing the number of accidents and increasing safety in the context of climate change.

Side event objectives:

1. **Discuss the impact of climate change on the transport sector of Kyrgyzstan** and the need for its adaptation, focusing on specific challenges and solutions related to climate change.
2. **Present projects on electrification and the implementation of environmentally friendly technologies, including:**
 - The project "Electrification of the railway section 'Turksib (Lugovaya) - Balikchy'."
 - The project "Construction of avalanche protection galleries and viaducts on the North-South Alternative Road."
3. **Create a platform for the exchange of experiences and cooperation** between governmental, private, and international organizations on issues of sustainable transport and climate adaptation, which will allow for the integration of knowledge and resources to achieve common goals in the field of sustainable transport infrastructure development.



Agenda

12:00 – 12:05 | Opening

Welcome remarks:

Keynote Speech: “Green Transportation in Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Opportunities in the Face of Climate Change”

Speaker:

- Rysmendeev Bekzhan, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic;

12:05 – 12:10| Introductory video

- *Video about the transport sector of Kyrgyzstan*

12:10 - 12:40| Presentation session: Introducing new initiatives (30 minutes, 2 presentations)

1. “Electrification of the railway section “Turksib (Lugovaya) – Balykchy”

Speaker: Amanturov Belek - Head of Investment Department of the State Enterprise “NC ‘Kyrgyz Temir Zholu’ under MOTC KR

2. “Construction of avalanche protection galleries and viaducts on the North-South Alternative Road”

Speaker: Zhamalidinov Bakyt - Contract Administration Specialist, Project Implementation Unit, MOTC KR

12:40 - 13:10| Panel Discussion: Lessons Learned and Resilience (30 minutes, 3-4 panelists) (30 minutes, 3-4 panelists)

Panelists:

- Rysmendeev Bekzhan, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic;

- Amanturov Belek - Head of Investment Department of the State Enterprise “NC ‘Kyrgyz Temir Zholu’ under MOTC KR

- Zhamalidinov Bakyt - Contract Administration Specialist, Project Implementation Unit, MOTC KR

13:10 - 13:15| Closing remarks

- Rysmendeev Bekzhan, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic

Administration information

Person in charge of the event: Orozalieva Diliara Maratovna

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Requirement for translation (English/Russian): No

Preliminary agreement with speakers: Yes

Availability of accreditation for access to the COP29 Blue Zone for speakers: Yes

Availability of support for participation (travel and accommodation) in COP29 for speakers: Yes

Additions/Clarifications

Clarifications for additional technical or administrative support: