



Webinar on COVID-19 and Maritime Transport: Disruption and Resilience in Asia

4 March 2021

8:30 – 11:00 hrs (Geneva); 9:30 – 12:00 hrs (Beirut); 14:30 – 17:00 hrs (Bangkok)

The webinar on “*COVID-19 and Maritime Transport: Disruption and Resilience in Asia*” is organized in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA). The event is an activity carried out under the framework of the special United Nations project on “Transport and trade connectivity in the age of pandemics: Contactless, seamless and collaborative UN solutions”.

The strategic role of maritime transport is well recognized with over 80 per cent of global merchandise trade by volume and more than 70 per cent by value being carried by sea. Therefore, any disruption to global maritime transportation networks can have far-reaching implications for a highly globalized world economy. While experiences regarding the disruption may vary depending on pre-existing conditions and levels of preparedness, all in all, maritime transport and logistics kept essential goods and trade flows moving during the pandemic. However, restrictions introduced in response to the pandemic have caused disruptions affecting ports, shipping, and supply chains. Various industries faced challenges along their supply chain such as raw material shortages, lead time issues, port closures, delays, and ocean blank sailings. UNCTAD carried out an assessment of the immediate impacts on the sector and ways in which key stakeholders from government and industry responded to the new challenges arising from the disruption. These differ depending on the maritime transport segment and whether the transport operation is domestic or international. They also varied by region, level of development, and the state of prior preparedness. UN-ESCAP and UN-ESCWA are working at a focused regional level to evaluate the specific challenges and impacts, as well as to strengthen regional and sectoral collaboration in the crisis response and recovery policies.

UNCTAD’s assessment clarifies the extent of the COVID-19 disruption and its impact on the global and regional maritime transportation systems. Insights generated through this work and shared regional experiences will support informed policy and decision-making processes as well as strengthen the capacity of countries to anticipate and recover from disruptions to their maritime supply chain. Countries will be enabled to upgrade their risk management capabilities and enhance the resilience and sustainability of their maritime supply chains.

The webinar is scheduled to take place on **4 March, 8:30 – 11:00 hrs (Geneva); 9:30 – 12:00 hrs (Beirut); 14:30 – 17:00 hrs (Bangkok)**. To join the meeting please connect via WebEx at <https://rtce-unog.webex.com/rtce-unog/onstage/g.php?MTID=eaeed8c7e98837cd2713d408785852a58>. For your reference, the event’s programme is featured below.

More information about the event is available at <https://unctad.org/meeting/webinar-covid-19-and-maritime-transport-disruption-and-resilience-asia>.
