



# OTIF



**Press Release**

**Bern, 03.10.2013**

**Intergovernmental Organisation  
for international Carriage  
by Rail**

## **Visit of the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) to OTIF's headquarters in Berne**

On 11 September 2013, the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter "UNESCAP"), Mr Sandeep Raj Jain, visited the OTIF Secretariat in Berne.

The aim of this visit was to gather information for the preparation of an extensive study of railways within the UNESCAP region, which would identify barriers to border crossing and to rail transport operations in international traffic between Asia and Europe.



The Secretary General, Mr Davenne, gave a presentation on how OTIF works and on the technical Appendices to COTIF and stressed the importance of a pragmatic vision. All endeavours must focus on the establishment of unified CIM/SMGS law (for the carriage of freight) and of technical law ensuring easy wagon exchange across Eurasia.

Mr Carlos del Olmo, head of OTIF's legal service, presented the Regulations concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail (RID).



Mr Sandeep Raj Jain gave a presentation on his organisation, the current situation of Asian railways, the different corridors and gauges, the traffic flow, etc. @ [Click here to read](#) this very interesting presentation!

The definition of the original and interesting concept of “dry ports” is of particular interest: dry ports are multimodal terminals for freight which are located on traffic nodes and help increasing inland traffic. As a matter of fact, the vast majority of trade is dependent on sea ports and the prosperity generated by its development do not reach inland cities. Building such infrastructures is identified as a development factor by UNESCAP.

Lastly, Mr Davenne described the advantages that acceding to OTIF would bring to the States in this region and explained the accession procedure and modalities.



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