

Distr.  
LIMITED  
E/ESCWA/SDPD/2013/Technical Paper.5  
17 December 2013  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)**

**ESCWA DOCUMENTARY ABOUT ECO-DRIVING IN LEBANON**



United Nations

13-0348

In 2011, the transportation sector accounted for 31 per cent of the total final energy consumption in the Arab region. This figure is slightly higher than the global average ratio of 28 per cent.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the contribution of the transport sector to global GHG emissions amounts to more than 13 per cent, and its share of GHG from fossil fuels combustion stands at 23 per cent (three-quarters of which results from land transportation).

Land transportation consumes about 50 per cent of petroleum products, both worldwide and in the Arab region. Consequently, regional and international organizations have agreed that this sector must be a priority target of measures aimed at improving energy efficiency, reducing fossil fuel consumption and mitigating climate change.

Conscious of the environmental stakes involved in the transport sector in the Arab region and the potential impact on climate change, ESCWA has carried out several activities related to these topics and issued a publication entitled *Policies and Measures to Promote Sustainable Use of Energy in the Transport Sector in the ESCWA Region* (2011). This publication reviews possible means of reducing energy consumption in the transport sector, with a focus on the potential adoption of cleaner fuel in transport activities in the ESCWA region with the aim to reduce pollution. It also reviews the policies and measures to be adopted in support of the sustainable use of energy in the transport sector, and available funding resources for projects. These include specialized international and regional bodies active in relevant fields, in addition to partnerships between the public and private sectors. The study ends with a set of conclusions used as a basis for a number of measures and policies that can be adopted by member countries to ensure the sustainable use of energy in the transport sector.

Building on the findings of this publication, ESCWA was invited by the Lebanese Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the IPT Energy Centre (IPTEC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to participate in the National Campaign for Air Pollution Reduction in Lebanon through Efficient Energy Use in Land Transportation, which uses multi-media initiatives to raise awareness among the Lebanese population on how simple energy efficiency measures in the transport sector can substantially reduce air pollution. IPTEC is a specialized research center established by IPT, and it aims to increase awareness and knowledge in the field of sustainable energy by promoting the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficient solutions in different sectors, supporting solutions with low environmental impact and reduced air pollution, and encouraging the adoption of energy efficient policies and measures in Lebanon.

In Lebanon, the transport sector has grown significantly; its share of energy consumption stands at 40 per cent, inducing many negative environmental consequences. Nor have any serious measures concerning sustainable transport yet been implemented. It is therefore clear that there is an urgent need for measures and policies that reduce energy use in this sector and decrease emissions, in order to move towards sustainable transport, and thus sustainable development. This state of affairs led to the initiative for a national campaign to promote sustainable energy use in land transportation, and in this way contribute to the reduction of air pollution.

This national campaign includes a number of tasks which are directly accomplished by IPTEC and supported by the MOE and ESCWA in collaboration with sponsors and partners. ESCWA is specifically contributing to the campaign through the preparation of a policy brief for consultation by stakeholders, as well as a documentary on the theme of “Eco-driving and impact of driving practices on fuel consumption”.

This contribution is part of ESCWA’s commitment to promoting energy efficiency in key sectors and engaging a wide range of stakeholders. Indeed, ESCWA decided to dedicate a major part of its efforts in the energy field to improving energy efficiency in those sectors principally responsible for energy consumption, one of the most important of which is the transport sector. The related work conducted by ESCWA in

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<sup>1</sup> IEA, Energy Balances of Non-OECD countries-2013 Edition.

Lebanon is currently in its initial stages, and the focus will later be upscaled to cover improving energy efficiency in other high-consumption sectors and other ESCWA member countries.

The documentary shows how modern lifestyles have created the energy consumption problem in the Lebanese transport sector. It demonstrates how current land transport patterns and practices contribute significantly to overall carbon dioxide emissions in Lebanon, as well as being the largest contributor to air and noise pollution in the country. The documentary calls for the development of an integrated package of land transportation policies that would take environmental considerations into account alongside economic and social development goals, and calls for the adoption of legislative and institutional systems that will preserve air quality and encourage the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in the transport sector.

The documentary also demonstrates how changes in driving habits and attitudes in line with the eco-driving principles can help significantly reduce energy consumption associated with land transportation, lower harmful emissions, and reduce energy costs for end users.

This national campaign is in line with the efforts led by the League of Arab States to promote energy efficiency in the region, and the documentary is a valuable contribution to the annual celebration of the Arab Day for Energy Efficiency. This celebration was established by the League to focus attention on the importance of conservation and efficiency in the regional energy equation, and the role they play in reinforcing energy security. ESCWA fully endorses the position of the League in this regard, and has striven to contribute to these efforts by including relevant activities in its annual work programs, the latest of which are included in the annual agendas of SDPD for the 2012-2013 biennium.

The documentary is provided in short- and full-length versions, both in Arabic and English. It can be accessed on the ESCWA website through the following link:

<http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/teams.asp?teams=Energy&division=SDPD>.