



The EWTCA China Forum was attended nearly by 50 participants from Belarus, China, Latvia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Sweden and Lithuania. Presentations were delivered by representatives of transport and logistics companies serving Asian-European trade flows, and by other outstanding experts. Representatives of the Ministries of Communication and Transport of Lithuania and China were also among the participants of the conference.



Eligijus Masiulis, Minister of Transport and Communication, Lithuania

In the opening speech Eligijus Masiulis, the minister of transport and communications of the Republic of Lithuania, highlighted that “by developing Lithuanian transport infrastructure we have been implementing the advanced information systems and promoting interoperability of different transport modes necessary for the effective cargo (freight) transportation. We are ready to provide high quality transport services and envisage great perspectives in developing transport projects connecting the Baltic Sea region with Asia and other regions of the East-West Transport Corridor.”

An interesting presentation “Development of the Container Train “Mongolian Vector” within the Context of EWTC Association” was prepared by Baatar Purevchuluun (Mongolia) and Na Shun (China). Partners from Mongolia, Belarus and Russia commenced the Project back in 2002. Today it is a regular container block train running every two weeks and reaching the destination (Ulaanbaatar - Brest) in 15 days. In 2005 Huh Hot province (China) has also joined this Project. In 2010 partners of the “Mongolian Vector” became members of EWTCA. Since then project executors have been looking for an opportunity to expand the Project to new countries and first of all to Lithuania and Sweden.

“*The work in developing the corridors as more efficient, faster and more cost effective transport solutions should concentrate on emphasizing the corridor thinking as such. Green or not green is not the real issue; By making any corridor working more smoothly the green aspect will in most cases come as a natural result of a clear business focus,,*

emphasized
Andres Wiberg, Sweden

During the exhibition “Transport and Logistics” held on 5 June in Shanghai, the international East-West Transport Corridor Association (EWTCA) which connects transport and logistics companies and institutions from 12 countries interested in mutual cooperation in developing European and Asian transport hubs, organized a conference EWTCA China Forum.



*Baatar Purevchuluun
TUUSHINH Ltd. , Mongolia*



Speakers (from left): Anders Wiberg, Algirdas Šakalys, Eligijus Masiulis, Baatar Purevchuluun, Na Shun, Vytenis Ališauskas



MAIN TOPICS OF THE FORUM:

Strengthening co-operation between origin, transit and consumer countries along East West Transport Corridor;
The East West Transport corridor in Southern part of Baltic Sea Region –a way for co-operation between Asia and Europe ;
The development of “green corridors” using advanced technology and co-modality in order to achieve higher levels of energy efficiency and reduce environment consequences;
Promoting good governance and exchange of best practices related to the reduction of barriers and simplification of border –crossing ;
From China to the European market, the Lithuanian-Baltic gateway;
New developments in Klaipeda Seaport –one of main transport hub in the Baltic Sea Region ;
New Lithuanian railways and forwarding companies initiatives in development Europe – Asia connections (container train Merkurijus, Saule and other);



EWTC Association president A.Sakalys with Mongolian Vector partners

Algirdas Šakalys presented the EWTC Association as an innovative instrument of inter-regional cooperation which is involved, differently from the traditional associations, not in the lobbying of separate business types/spheres, but in the enhancement of cooperation between all transport modes, logistics companies, intermodal operators, cargo forwarders and customers, national, regional and local governments.

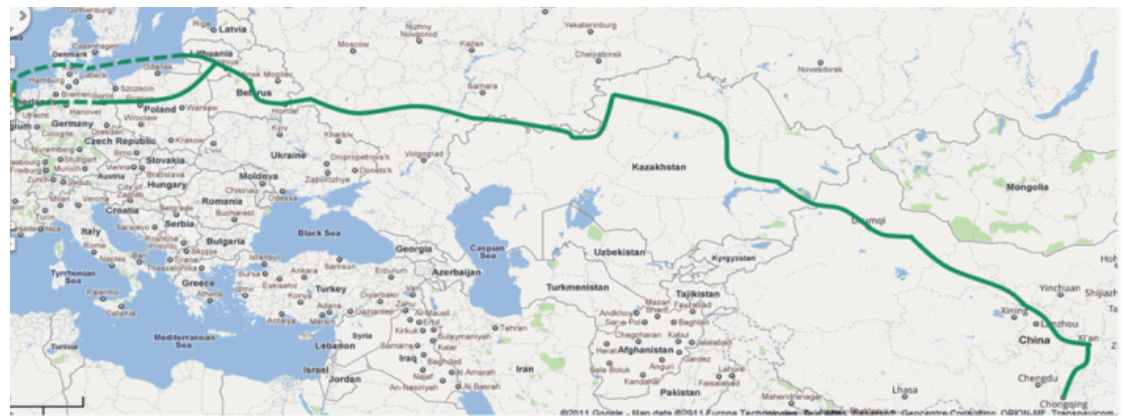
By nature transport and logistics are international and global businesses. Here the main competition is not so much developed among separate companies as between the global transportation-distribution channels. In view of this, it is necessary to have an institution which could assist the stakeholders to better coordinate their actions.

Today EWTC consists of about 2 thousand business companies embracing 8 business associations, 17 non-associated transport and logistics companies, two regional administrations and two universities from twelve European and Asian countries (Belarus, Denmark, Kazakhstan, China, Lithuania, Mongolia, Belgium, France, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine and Germany). In 2010 the total Asia-Europe trade volumes reached EUR 552 billion. “We have an ambitious task ahead of us: to seek that within the mid-term perspective (10-15 years) 10 percent of this trade flow is served by members of our Association”, said President of EWTC.



EWTC China Forum

The final, especially important part of the forum was arranged for *tete-a-tete* meetings initiated by EWTC partners and their business interests. During the meetings the agreement was reached concerning a visit of Lin Beizhang (Vice President of the Eurasian Continental Land Bridge Logistics Association) to Lithuania in the second half of August of this year, and on the organization of the EWTC meetings to be held in Potsdam (2012) and Huh Hot (2013).



From CHINA to EUROPE



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