

**Concept of the conference “Silk Road. Strategic Regional Solutions”**<http://silkroad.dars.info>

The conference closes the program of the international transport exhibition TransportLogistic-China-2010, the major event in the transport and logistics industry of Asia.

([www.transportlogistic-china.com](http://www.transportlogistic-china.com)).

The conference “Silk Road” is organized not only for the transport companies operating in the region, but for the international manufacturers of China, Korea, Japan, who are looking for the new logistics schemes to deliver their cargo to Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Estonia and other European countries.

**PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE**  
**“Silk Road. Strategic Regional Solutions”**

09.30 – 10.00            Registration

10.00 – 13.00            Session 1. **Silk Road – opinion of interested parties**

The issues of existing and new transport corridors and their influence on the development of the regions will be discussed at the first session of the conference. Logistics is the most dynamic sector of economy. Being a link between manufacturers and customers, the logistics often defines not only the place and the period of the transport infrastructure projects, but the major investment projects which have effect on the economy of the countries.

**Topics of the first session:**

- Transport corridors of China – the manufacturing center of the world.
- Latvia as a Hub of Silk Road in Northern Europe
- How infrastructure development influences the effectiveness of the logistics
- Indispensable and adequate conditions for attracting investments into projects of the transport infrastructure sector.
- Assessment of alternative routes by an international logistics company
- Logistics as a factor of regional development
- Effectiveness criteria of regional projects in the transport infrastructure industry
- Role of Russian Ports Special Economic Zones in Eurasian transport system.

**Among speakers of the first session are:**

- Mr. Kaspars Gerhards, Minister of Transport and Communications of Latvia
- Mr. Juhan Parts, Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia
- Mrs. Raisa Parshina, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Far Eastern Transport Group/DVTG, Russia
- Mr. Māris Kancāns, Member of the Board “Latvian Railway Cargo” (LDZ Cargo)
- Mr. Vildan Zinnurov, Minister of Industry and Transport of Ulyanovsk Region, Russia
- Mr. Rene Varek, Chairman of the board, RailCar, Estonia
- Mr. Igor Nosov, Deputy CEO, Special Economic Zones, Russia

**Topics for discussion Silk Road – balance of regional interests**

- What will happen with the freight rates and how it will change the competitive environment in the world?
- Will the new routes be developed in the region?
- Who is responsible for the operating results of the transport infrastructure – owner of the Infrastructure or operator?

13.0 – 13.30 Coffee break

13.30 – 15.30 Session 2. **Advantages of Eurasian transit via Kazakhstan.**

The advantages and disadvantages of the regional strategies and the ways of implementing the investment projects in the transport and logistics market will be discussed at the second session of the conference. So far, neither Trans-Siberian Railway, nor Silk Road can compete with the sea route to deliver cargo from Asia to Europe. At the same time, the overland transit corridors have gained in importance over the past years both in Asia and Europe.

**Topics of the second session:**

- Eurasian Railway Transit via Republic of Kazakhstan
- Opportunities and challenges of implementing infrastructure and logistics projects.
- Components of effective competition in Eurasian transit

**Among the speakers of the second session:**

- Mr. Edil Iskakov, Counsellor to the President, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (Kazakhstan Railways), Kazakhstan
- Mr. Askar Sagyndykov, President, Kaztransservice, Kazakhstan
- Mr. Arman Sultanov, Director of Transportation Marketing, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (Kazakhstan Railways), Kazakhstan
- Mr. Czjan Gosi, Managing Director, China Railway International Multimodal Transport, China

Topics for discussion

- What should be changed in the legislation for attracting investments? Can we expect the investments into the transport infrastructure in the contemporary context?
- How does the level of infrastructure development influences on an investor's choice of the region?
- Monopoly and free competition in the cargo transportation industry. How can we find the golden mean?
- How strong is the economic dependence of the region on transport and logistics?

15.30 – 16.00 Press session

15.30 – 16.00 Networking