

The Role of Transport and Logistics in Globalised Economies: A Case of International Shipping and Port

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Abstract— The world becomes ever more globalised and interlinked each other. A nation's economy cannot be sustainable without having its interdependent partners across the globe; in other words, the global economy becomes a kind of network-based economy. As a typical industrial sector of network-based economies, the transport and logistics industry has been a key player in the process of globalisation. In this speech, I will talk about a number of ongoing issues in the concepts of globalisation and globalised economies, the expected role being taken by the transport and logistics industry, and the potential implications. A detailed discussion will be made with the case of international shipping and port as a major driver of globalised transport and logistics sector. The shipping and port industry as a component of maritime transport and logistics has gradually evolved over the years. Recent years, however, have seen that the industry seems to face with a new dimension of challenges, some of which are unprecedented – that is, unimaginably increased scale of vessel size thanks to technological advancement and its operational implications to shipping companies and port/terminal operators. Creating strategic alliances with once-competitors becomes an industry norm, leading to a fact that the bigger becomes even the bigger. At the same time, port and terminal operators are under ever greater pressure from their users and customers (viz., shipping lines and shippers) to work more with less. Being effective is already a starting point in the port/terminal sector, while being efficient becomes more expected in order to sustain their long-term competitiveness. All these issues will be discussed in a single conceptual framework based on the speaker's extensive experiences in academic research and practical involvements over the years.

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