CASCADING FEEDER VESSELS AND THE RATIONALIZATION OF SMALL CONTAINER PORTS

Dr. Jason MONIOS

Transport Research Institute, Edinburgh Napier University, UK

Date: Mar 30, 2017 (Thu), Time: 1:00 p.m., Venue: Drake 343

Abstract: Small container ports rely on feeder services from hub ports to provide access to unitised trade flows for their hinterlands. They generally possess limited water depth and handling facilities, as investments required to handle larger vessels are not justified by their low container throughput. This paper questions the future of small ports due to larger vessels cascading down as a result of ever-larger vessels on the major trade lanes. The paper uses vessel call data to identify all world ports currently served by sub-1,000 TEU vessels. Data on the dimensions of the vessel fleet and order book are analysed in conjunction with accessibility constraints at these small ports. Results show that with 15% of the sub-1,000 TEU fleet currently laid up and very few on order, larger feeders with deeper drafts seem certain to serve at least some of these routes. But with 90 container ports (21%) having berth depth of less than 9.1m and the need to accommodate design drafts of at least 8.7m, larger vessels will threaten the viability of these ports unless they commit significant investment. A geographical analysis is also conducted, mapping the distribution of small ports across the globe and classifying coastal, estuary, river and island locations, as well as identifying clusters of small ports that could in future be served by second-tier hubs, such as Southeast Asia and the Baltic Sea.

Speaker’s Biography: Dr. Jason Monios is Associate Professor in Transport Planning and Geography and Head of the Freight Transport and Logistics group at the Transport Research Institute, Edinburgh Napier University, UK. His primary research areas are intermodal transport planning and the geography of port systems, with a specific interest in how these two subjects intersect in the port hinterland. Jason has over 70 peer-reviewed academic publications in addition to numerous research and consultancy reports, covering Europe, North and South America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. He has co-authored technical reports with UNCTAD and UN-ECLAC and been adviser to the Scottish parliament. Recent book publications include Institutional Challenges to Intermodal Transport and Logistics (2014) and Intermodal Freight Terminals: A Life Cycle Governance Framework (2016).

For further enquiries, please contact: umti@umanitoba.ca

ALL ARE WELCOME!!