

## Editorial

## Current State and Future of Shipping and Logistics

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Globalisation of the world trade and the resulting increase in trade volume has increased the importance of shipping and logistics activities. Customer expectations regarding service levels in addition to product quality, shortened product life cycles, developments in zero-inventory systems, rapid developments in information and communication technology, sustainability issues and formation of supply chains through long-term co-operations among members of the distribution channels have raised several problems while improving business, performance and processes. There is significant importance of developing strategies targeting ‘low costs’ besides ‘customer service’ within the framework of maintaining long-term competitive advantage. Needless to say, developing such strategies needs scientific analysis.

The purpose of this special issue is to present some of the latest developments in the field while giving a place for extensive review of particular topics within the framework of scientific approach. Therefore, the title is selected as “Current state and future of shipping and logistics” which encourages review papers as well as original papers with change-making and state-of-art contributions. This issue covers four major topics: *Maritime Policy*, *Port Pricing*, *Transport Networks*, *Ship Management* and *Logistics Research*.

Michael Roe presents an interesting debate on the nature of Maritime Policy. He questions the traditional paradigm while comparing the form and process of maritime policies. The impact of globalisation is an emerging issue and governments are usually retrospective to rapidly changing environment of the

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industry. The role of *flexibility, movement, change and acceleration of change* is indicated in terms of governance framework.

An extensive review of Port Pricing is performed by Michele Acciaro while providing a systematic analysis of current issues in the literature. He also draws attention to existing gaps in the literature and points out emerging topics in the field. Five main themes are investigated in these circumstances: *Strategic pricing, Pricing and market conditions, Pricing and infrastructure cost recovery, Pricing and external costs and Empirical studies.*

The disconnection between two literatures: Cities in transport research and Transport in city-urban systems research, is debated by Cesar Ducruet and Igor Lugo. Authors originally discuss the association between these research fields and attempt to combine them while addressing *the theory of complex networks and the graph theory.*

Kyriaki Mitroussi investigates the ship management industry and particularly pays attention to the recent developments and changes. Author classifies the implications into *Economic aspects, Human resource aspects and Management practice.* The lack of sufficient research on sustainability in the ship management is questioned.

Taxonomy of topics, methods and theories in the logistics research is presented by Cimen Karatas Cetin and Gul Denktas Sakar. By reviewing a number of leading journals in the logistics field, authors provide a route-map which classifies methods, theories and major topics found in the literature. The theoretical spillovers from other disciplines are investigated and the motives of the most part are found on the fields of *Strategic management, Economics, Marketing and Organisational research.*

Yapa Mahinda Bandara, Hong-Oanh Nguyen and Shu-Ling Chen investigate an original topic, the *Port Infrastructure Pricing* which is neglected in the existing literature. By using a large sample of port charges around the world, authors reveal the drivers of port infrastructure pricing as the demand, port management and governance model.

We hope that this special issue will contribute to the development of strategies as well as increasing the quality of research in the field of both in shipping and logistics.

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