

MARITIME LOGISTICS: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

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viii List of Contributors

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Dong-Wook Song and Photis M. Panayides

An academic discipline evolves as knowledge, experiences and insights are accumulated and tested over the period by scholars and scientists as well as industry professionals. Maritime logistics is certainly one of the newly generated disciplines, which is currently being developed from segmented or occasionally fragmented sector-based works on shipping and ports from the managerial, economic and operational perspectives of shipping, ports and logistics. Transportation in general is regarded as a main engine for logistics and supply chain management. Transportation by sea is well recognised as the main means for regional and international trade: so-called seaborne trade; it carries almost 90% of world freight cargoes. Recent developments in the business environment such as globalisation, off-shoring and outsourcing have, however, caused sea transport to be incorporated into a global logistics supply chains. In other words, shipping and ports are to be managed and operated from a logistics and supply chain perspective.

Both editors have been for over 50 years collectively researching and teaching the subjects of shipping, port and logistics management. Over those years, we have observed an evolution in discipline development with the convergence of two distinct fields of shipping and port operations and management. The convergence occurs with the use of another field of study: logistics and supply chain management. This change has created the necessity to launch a bridge linking the traditional sector-oriented approach with the more integrated one with other players along the global logistics and supply chains. The present work is an outcome of our efforts to bring all latest works in the field into a single volume discussing the contemporary issues in the maritime logistics field.

Topics and contributors were carefully scrutinised and selected to represent at least some 'key' aspects of what maritime logisticians are faced with and should think of as a way of looking ahead. The book is divided into two parts: 'management, operations and strategic issues' and 'green and sustainability issues'. The first part discusses container shipping and container port development, operational empty container repositioning, congestion and its implications to maritime logistics, port choice model for transshipment cargoes, security and risk management matters, IT

and value chains. On the other hand, the second part covers corporate social responsibility, green and environmental matters. It can be said that the book covers a fair share of the contemporary issues associated with maritime logistics management and operations. Each chapter deals with its unique areas but to some degree there is overlap with others. This does in fact reflect the fact that those overlapped or repeated topics or themes seem to carry the heavier weight in terms of importance and significance in the industry. You will surely find these topics interesting as the more or less same topics are discussed from a similar but different angle and viewpoint.

It is our hope that the present volume provides a platform with which stakeholders in the field of maritime logistics can further the ongoing discussion and debates so as to identify and harmonise the trajectory forward for the further evolution of maritime logistics. The editors would love to join those discussions and debates as well and hear from you on any area for improvement and inclusion in the future edition.

Enjoy reading it.