

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK TO EVALUATE THE ROLE OF DRY PORTS IN PORT HINTERLAND LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The paper aims at developing a conceptual framework to evaluate the role of dry ports in the port hinterland logistics performance.

Design/methodology/approach: The criteria hierarchy for the assessment was developed based on an extensive literature review. The key performance dimensions are based on cost, time and reliability (Banomyong & Supatn, 2011).

Findings: In the light of port regionalization (Notteboom & Rodrigue, 2005), the evolution of dry ports plays a vital role in boosting the port-hinterland integration. Such inland nodes might be located in different locations within logistics chains to facilitate the movement of cargo between hinterland and seaports (Nguyen & Notteboom, 2016; Notteboom & Rodrigue, 2009; Roso et al., 2009).

There exist relationships between dry ports' characteristics and regional port hinterland settings. The role of dry ports in facilitating logistics performance depends on different characteristics, such as the size and performance of terminals and connection between dry ports and seaports.

Research limitations/implications (if applicable): This is just the first step of a broader study and therefore there is no empirical data to validate the conceptual framework being developed.

Practical implications (if applicable): The conceptual framework can be used as a guideline for policy makers to explore the role of dry ports within national logistics systems.

Originality/value: This proposed conceptual framework is a first attempt to assess the impact of dry ports on national logistics performance

Keywords: National logistics performance, dry ports, hinterland and ports