

AFRICAN PORTS/MARITIME CONFERENCE

The Role of Ports in Regional Integration

COMESA Secretariat

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Introduction

- The ESA Region has:
 - 25 states
 - population of 420 million people
 - 24 deep sea ports
 - 15 designated corridors
- There are:
 - three dedicated Regional Economic Communities namely COMESA, EAC and SADC
 - a number of specialised intergovernmental Organisations as TTCA, IGAD, IOC ISCOS
 - Various regional transport and freight forwarding associations PMAESA, FESARTA, ASANRA, etc

Regional Integration Agenda

- Trade Development
- Promotion of Investment
- Development of Physical Infrastructure
 - Transport
 - Communications
 - Energy
- Trade and Transport Facilitation
- Global Examples. See the EU, ASEAN NAFTA etc.

Trade Development

- Regional Trade Preferences
- COMESA Free Trade Areas (FTA) established in 2000
- Establishment of Customs Union thru Common External Tariff (CET) to be established in 2008
- Removal of Non Tariff Barriers
- Regional Payments System

Promotion of Investment

- Common Investment Area
 - Harmonisation of Investment Policies
 - Regional Investment Centre
- Private Sector Development
- CAADP
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)
- Capacity Building for SMEs

Development of Physical Infrastructure

- Development of Regional Connectivity in Transport, Communications and Energy
 - Transport including road, rail, ports, airports etc.
 - ICT Projects (COMTEL, SRIL and EASSy)
 - Power Generation and Regional Inter-connector Projects
- COMESA Priority Infrastructure Projects
 - Compendium of Infrastructure Projects
 - Infrastructure Database
- COMESA Infrastructure Fund

Trade and Transport Facilitation

- COMESA Transport Facilitation Instruments
 - COMESA Carrier Licence
 - Harmonised Road User Charges
 - Harmonised Axle Load Limits
 - Overload Control Certificates

Trade and Transport Facilitation

- Third Party Motor Insurance (Yellow Card)
- Corridor Management Institutions
- Inter Railway Operations Agreements
- One Stop Border Posts
- Customs Instruments
 - COMESA Customs Document (CD)
 - Regional Customs Bond Guarantee

Role of Ports in Regional Trade

- About 80 percent of international trade in volume terms is currently carried by sea
- Ports are the nodes through which both regional and international trade passes through
- The efficiency of ports can greatly influence the level of trade and hence the development of their hinterlands
- Inefficient ports will impose high costs to trade and hence reduce the volume of exports and imports for their hinterlands

Regional and Continental Issues

- Participation in the drawing up of policy and regulatory frameworks in the maritime transport sector
- Promote research on maritime issues
- Promotion of Corridor Management Approach
- Cooperation in capacity building
- Exchange of information to combat undesirable practices in order to enhance safety and security of life, vessels and cargo
- Active participation in Regional, Continental Initiatives such as NEPAD, AU

Role of Ports in Fostering Economic Integration

- Provision of efficient port services
- Networking with stakeholders
- Initiating and participation in stakeholder fora such as corridor groups.
- Capacity Building for stakeholders in the region through provision of training facilities and peering
- Providing examples of best practices

Areas for Cooperation for RECs and Ports

- Projects Development
- Corridor Development and Management
- Information Sharing (Data Exchange)
- Extended Application of ISPC Code
- Capacity Building

Cooperation in Projects Development

- Projects Identification and Prioritisation
- Projects Preparation
- Establishment of Projects Databases
- Promotion of Investments in Priority Projects

Corridor Development and Management

- Corridor Infrastructure Development
 - Identification of projects on transport corridors
 - Ports investment along corridors
- Establishment of Corridor Management Structures
- Capacity Building in Corridor Networks

ESA Main Transport Corridors

- Djibouti Corridor
- Mombasa (Northern) Corridor
- Dar es Salaam Corridor
- Central Corridor
- Nacala Corridor
- Mtwara Corridor
- Beira Corridor
- Maputo Corridor
- Walvis Bay Trans Kalahari and Trans Caprivi
- North South Corridor (Durban Corridor)
- Lobito Corridor

Information Sharing (Data Exchange)

- Many ports provide information in the form of detailed Statistics, tariffs and news and events
- Many ports have now set up websites
- The format of statistics provided varies greatly among ports
- Information of websites not always updated

Information Sharing (Data Exchange)

- Port Statistics and Performance Indicators
 - Container Statistics
 - Cargo Statistics
 - Ship statistics
 - Performance indicators
- Updating of information
- Tariff Structures
- Website Designs
- Training – establishment and joint use of training institutions e.g. Egypt, Seychelles...

Way Forward

- Coordination with RECs in order to harmonise regional transport policies and regulatory environment
- Coordination with port users including transporters and forwarders
- Participation in setting standards and in capacity building in the transport industry
- Safeguard the regional interests in by providing world class services so as not to be marginalised at the expense of regional trade
- Facilitate the emergence of regional shipping services through coastal seafaring
- Establishment of Community Information Systems to network and share information

End

Thanks for your attention