

## Growth of Import and Export at Colombo Sea Port and its Transport & Economic Reflections

Tissa U. Liyanage, Krishani R. Perera, Mahesha Perera, Gayashan Dalpethado

**Abstract:** The import and export of Sri Lanka is mainly handling through the Colombo Sea Port as the main logistic hub for international linkage despite some air freight movements are made through Bandaranaike International Air Port. The Colombo Sea Port has been considered for expansion over years and had been attended for improving its capacity with different recent projects to introduce new terminals, with higher capacities for container handling for continuous growth of the import and export through the sea port. There are many logistic centres owned by government and private agencies and such import and exports are running through such facilities as Export Processing Zones (EPZ), Industrial Estates (IEs), Container Yards, etc. Therefore, understanding the logistic & transport linkage between such facilities and the main logistic hub as the Colombo Sea Port is much important to reveal the interactions and how such network efficiencies are reflected in the economic growth of the country.

It has been observed through empirical surveys that there is a growth of over 40% freight movements at the Colombo Sea Port since year 2013 up to year 2017. This is generally over 10% compound growth of the freight movements per year over last 4 years. The special distribution of the freight movements at import and export has been separately analysed and found that the existing national road network are heavily used by this freight movements for both import and export over a longer length. The network efficiency for internal logistic management and international logistic options are discussed in this research paper with the comprehensive travel data through three comprehensive Origin and Destination Surveys carried out at the Colombo Sea Port in 2013 and 2017. The impact to the transport and economic growth of the country is also discussed through various transport and economic attributes through the data analysis carried out based on the comprehensive data set collected at the above Truck OD Surveys.

**Keywords:** Colombo Sea Port, Transport and Logistic Hub, Export Processing Zones (EPZ), National Economy and Transportation, Freight Movement Growth Rate, Import & Export,