

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING? : SOME REFLECTIONS ON INCREASED PORT SECURITY AND ITS COSTS

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Presentation outline

- Increased port security : Comforting or choking?
- Securing port perimeters : Whose security, whose agenda?
- The high costs of upgrading port security.
- Splitting the bill on port security.
- Maritime security : The road ahead.

Increased port security : Comforting or choking?

- 9-11 attacks re-defined 'security' realm.
- The strikes highlighted the need for maritime sector to beef up security.
- Ports are strategic trade facilitators, hence need to be well protected.
- Maritime security landscape has changed dramatically since 9-11.

Increased port security : Comforting or choking?

- Many security measures have been implemented by there are still loopholes.
- Focus was on 'traditional' security threats.
- Are the measures warranted? Is the threat being perceived correctly?
- Amid the DPW-P&O fiasco, serious questions should be asked about maritime risk assessment.

Securing port perimeters : Whose security, whose agenda?

- Many measures aimed at enhancing maritime security introduced since 9-11.
- Measures like ISPS has helped improve port security.
- Stakeholders felt left out of the process while bearing the brunt of the costs.
- Figures quantifying the costs are lacking.
- Has maritime security risk been overblown?

The high costs of upgrading port security

- Security, once a peripheral task of many stakeholders, has become a central issue.
- Post 9-11 measures have raised operating costs and caused inconvenience to players.
- To recover security costs, some have resorted to passing them down.
- Speed and efficiency have been compromised!

The high costs of upgrading port security

- Doubts over technological viability of some measures i.e. gamma ray.
- Increased security is affecting goodwill amongst port stakeholders.
- Dynamics of their relationship will continue to be tested over security costs.
- Tensions among them must be checked lest relationships sour over the issue.

Splitting the bill on port security

- Conflicting views on security measures need to be harmonized.
- Should international trade security be treated as a global public commodity?
- 'Democratizing' port security costs amongst port stakeholders.
- Pushing 'user pays' principle beyond port?
- Given the cost and government initiatives, state funding is crucial.

Maritime security :

The road ahead

- Measures embraced apprehensively but have improved port security tremendously.
- Ports have faced up with security issues previously unattended to.
- Case of secure ports being more competitive.
- Costs of measures have caused strains.

Maritime security :

The road ahead

- Port security requires a multidimensional approach.
- The need to be secure and competitive must be reconciled.
- Ports are part of the supply chain, so to secure them, the chain must be guarded.
- Consultative approach is needed for all-around acceptance.
- Burden of security must be shared by all.

Maritime security :

The road ahead

- 'Measuring' port security is an elusive task.
- More security means less speed and efficiency. Balancing them is crucial.
- Port security is a big-picture issue.
- Security costs should be quantified and shared by ports' stakeholders.
- Securing ports = Securing supply chain.

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*“Those who fail to plan,
plan to fail”*

THANK YOU

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