

Port and logistics infrastructure investment opportunities in SEA

TOC Asia Conference

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Introduction

Royal HaskoningDHV is an international engineering consultancy founded in 1881.





Agenda

We focus the agenda on the terminal operator's port investment decision making process.





Key market segments

The market segments can be categorised by the location of handling/storage and the cargo types handled.



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Sea-side

Vessel sizes have reached a limit due to physical or commercial constraints. Further upsizing is unlikely without significant investments in the Suez Canal or changes in the cargo trade.



Source: RHDHV



Port-side

The port operator's revenue model is mainly from cargo handling, storage and gate collection/delivery. The port operator has limited influence/control on the marine and inland transportation and movements.



Source: RHDHV

Revenue model

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Port-side

Port operators can access to the necessary technical and operating expertise to provide high levels of productivity. The investment and operating cost is the main determinant of the service level provided.

RHDHV port assignments



		Productivity drivers	CAPEX	OPEX
	Container	Dependent on operator skill and trucks deployed	High	High
	Liquid/gas bulk	Number of pipelines and limited by safety measures	High	Low
	Dry bulk	Number of cranes and conveyors deployed	High	Medium
4	Roro	Drivers deployed	Low	High

Source: Anecdotal from past RHDHV projects

Capable operators have shown that high berth productivity can be achieved at a cost.

Assuming the vessel size limitation and productivity being equal, competition among operators is based on pricing and land side solutions.



Inland transportation

Shippers will choose the lowest-price option offered by the transporters. Transporters aim to fulfil the service using the lowest-cost mode, which is distance dependent. Port operators operate inland transportation companies to anchor the volumes to the port, and often at cost or low margins.



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Inland storage

Port operators are becoming increasingly involved in inland logistics facilities, viewing them as an extension of the port, to serve the hinterland.





Traditionally, the economic activity is seen as the driver of cargo growth. The drivers can be further refined based on the consumption and production drivers.





The population boom is over. We have shifted to slower growth, an aging population, and potentially negative population growth in Northeast Asia and Europe. The impact is lower consumption demand.



Source: Oxford Economics



The drive towards renewable energy generation is key to lowering carbon emissions. Thus far, the emissions are not reaching the target levels.



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The adoption of renewables for power generation is increasing but will not be sufficient to replace fossil fuels completely. Renewable energy would have a limited impact on selected cargo types, and is not a game-changer that changes major trade flows.



Energy source	Type of cargo involved	Long-term outlook								
Solar	Container	\uparrow Volumes are for the installation phase								
Wind	Break bulk	\uparrow Volumes are for the installation phase								
Hydrogen, ammonia and methanol	Liquid bulk	\uparrow Volumes will not be a like for like replacement for fossil fuels.								
Coal, gas and refined petroleum	Dry bulk and Liquid bulk	Plateau, followed by a decline in volumes in the long-term.								

Source: IRENA, RHDHV-OSC's desktop research



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The China + 1 strategy resulted in an increase in semi-processed goods from China to SEA, and an increase in the finished product exported to the US. The cargo flows will be further altered should there be changes in the US trade tariff policies.

Drivers of cargo growth

Percentage of container exports from Asia to USA, 2010-2023 (%)



The **China + 1 Strategy**, or Plus One or C+1, is a supply chain strategy that reduces a company's reliance on China by diversifying sourcing and manufacturing to other countries. Should US impose further tariffs, China could take one of three routes:

- 1. Retaliate
- 2. Double down on China + 1
- 3. Negotiate

Estimated 80 MTEU of imports. 1% of change equates to 800,000 TEU of exports



Source: IRENA, RHDHV-OSC's desktop research



7SEA investment review

The table below shows the classification of Southeast Asian countries on their attractiveness for various port logistics and port investments.

Α	Acce	Accessibility for investment							Good																			
V	Volu	me ol	ıtlook					Fair																				
Μ	Fina	Financial margins						Poor																				
									Not meaningful																			
		Vietnam		Indonesia		Cambodia		Thailand			Philippines			Malaysia			Singapore			Laos			Myanmar					
Contain	ner	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V		A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V	M
Liquid b	oulk	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M
Dry bull	k	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V	M
Logistic assets	s	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V	M
Renewa	able	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V	M	A	V	M	A	V		A	V		A	V	M



Funan Techo Canal

The Cambodian Government plans to build a canal to connect the capital to the sea, bypassing cargo transfer in Vietnam.

Cambodia's seaports and their hinterland connections



Status

- 1. Cambodia has a river port in Phnom Penh and a deep sea port in Sihanoukville.
- 2. All container volumes handled at Phnom Penh port are barged from/to a port in Southeast Vietnam as the seagoing vessel cannot sail up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh.
- 3. The Cambodian government plans to build a 180 km canal from Phnom Penh to reach the Gulf of Thailand. The declared cost is 1.7 billion USD.

Potential impact

1. Up to 0.4 MTEU of containers could be shifted from Southeast Vietnam to the port of Sihanoukville.



Sources: PAS and PPAP annual and guarterly reports

Thai Landbridge

The Thai Landbridge plans to handle gateway, transit and transhipment volumes using a two-port land bridge concept.

shipping network To East Asia (EA) Bangkok Por Andaman Laem Chabang Port s e a Land Bridge Chumphon Port ing shipping networ To EU/SA/ME Songkh Population density strait (thousand persons per km² nd a 0.02 5 76

Thailand plan development -Thai Land Bridge and aspired change in

Source: https://issuu.com/, RHDHV/OSC

Thai Land Bridge concept



Status

- 1. The project is at a feasibility stage.
- 2. Targeting gateway, transit and transhipment cargo

Potential impact

- 1. **Gateway**: Gateway to the South Thailand market and an alternative to the volumes going through Penang port.
- 2. Transit 1: Rail cargo from South China
- 3. Transit 2: Bypass Malacca Straits (limited by land bridge capacity)
- 4. Transhipment: Compete for the TS market in SEA.



Vietnam's container market grew strongly from 0.9 MTEU in 2000 to 22.8 MTEU in 2024, a CAGR of 14.3%. The growth in 2024 is projected at 18.4%. In particular, the Cai Mep Thi Vai region is growing at a CAGR of more than 30%.



- Country container volume growth: The historical CAGR from 2000 to 2024 is 14.3% for Vietnam container ports.
- Regional container volume: The growth of the North and South Vietnam port volumes aligns with the country-level growth. The Central region's growth is marginally lower, accounting for 4.2% of the total country volume.
- **Recent growth:** The growth in 2024 is projected at 18.4% based on the YTD volumes. The drivers for the growth are:
 - Inventory was run down in 2023 as buyers waited as shipping lines rerouted to avoid the Suez Canal due to ship attacks in the Red Sea. The inventory was replenished in 2024 as the services stabilised.
 - Buyers increased their inventory, anticipating potential disruptions due to union negotiations in the US East Coast ports.
 - Producers believe that the 2024 volume growth is a one-off and not likely to be sustained into 2025.

Source: VPA website. 2024 volumes are extrapolated from 7-month YTD data. Note: ¹Selected ports in Hai Phong (Red River Delta) did not report their volumes annually and had their volumes excluded when calculating the CAGR. ² The volume presented includes foreign and domestic containers but excludes barging containers.



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