Infrastructure’s Role in Lowering Asia’s Trade Costs

Building for Trade

Edited by Douglas H. Brooks, Senior Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan and David Hummels, Professor of Economics, Krannert School of Management, Purdue University and Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, US

‘Most of the analysis of infrastructure’s impact on trade costs has focused on conditions in more developed countries. This volume contributes to our understanding by examining the situation in developing Asia, the world’s most populous and fastest growing region. Chapters explore topics ranging from Asian trade patterns and trade costs to port competitiveness, congestion, and foreign direct investment in trade-related infrastructure. Empirical estimates complement the analysis of issues to inform the policy-making process.’

– From the foreword by Masahiro Kawai, Asian Development Bank Institute

This book analyses and draws policy implications from infrastructure’s central role in lowering Asia’s trade costs.

Infrastructure is shown to be a cost-effective means of lowering trade costs and thereby promoting regional growth and integration. This book combines thematic and country studies, while breaking new ground in quantifying infrastructure’s impact on Asia’s trade costs. The contributors examine empirical estimates of Asia’s trade costs and infrastructure’s influence on those costs while also contributing to a better understanding of the region’s logistics challenges. The book includes interesting case studies of rapid growth and congestion (in PRC), inland transportation challenges (India), port competition in an archipelago (Indonesia) and transportation modal switching as value-added rises (Malaysia) that are policy- and project-relevant in their own right.

The analysis and policy implications in this book will be of interest to trade and infrastructure policy-makers and academics at graduate and higher levels involved in economic development or Asian studies, as well as the broader development community.


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Contents & Contributors:

Foreword  Masahiro Kawai

1. Infrastructure’s Role in Lowering Asia’s Trade Costs
   Douglas H. Brooks

2. Trends in Asian Trade: Implications for Transport Infrastructure and Trade Costs
   David Hummels

3. Trade Infrastructure and Trade Costs: A Study of Selected Asian Ports
   Jon Haveman, Adina Ardelean and Christopher Thornberg

4. Empirical Estimates of Transportation Costs: Options for Enhancing Asia’s Trade
   Prabir De

5. Port Competitiveness: A Case Study of Semarang and Surabaya, Indonesia
   Arianto A. Patunru, Nanda Nurridzki and Rivayani

6. Infrastructure and trade costs in Malaysia: The importance of FDI and Exports
   Tham Siew Yean, Evelyn Devadason and Loke Wai Heng

   Liqiang Ma and Jinkang Zhang

8. Trade Transportation Costs in South Asia: An Empirical Investigation
   Prabir De

Index