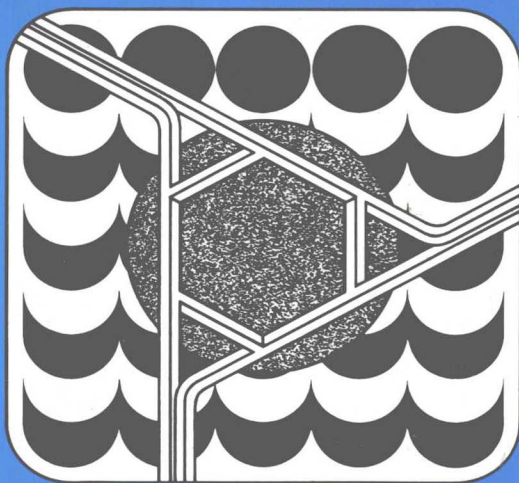


Pacem in MARIBUS XVIII

Ports as Nodal Points in a Global Transport System



Edited by
Antony J. Dolman
and
Jan van Ettinger

International Ocean Institute

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Ports as Nodal Points

in a

Global Transport System

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Contents

Editors' Introduction

I. Introduction to the Volume	1
II. Report on the Conference	2
III. Recommendations	20
IV. Addresses and Papers	27

PART I ADDRESSES

Opening Address

<i>Mrs J.R.H. Maij-Weggen</i>	31
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Opening Address

<i>Jan Pronk</i>	35
I. Introduction	35
II. The World Market	35
III. Prospects for the 1990s	36
IV. Ports as Nodal Points in a Global Transport System	37
V. Global Transport System	38
VI. Transport and the Developing Countries	38
VII. New Strategy	39
VIII. Netherlands Maritime Aid	40
IX. Conclusion	40

Concluding Remarks

<i>Elisabeth Mann Borgese</i>	43
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CONTENTS

PART II THEME: A GLOBAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Changes in the Patterns of World Trade

Sheila Page 51

I. Introduction 51

II. The International Trade Net 52

III. Implications for Future Trade Patterns 57

IV. Implications for Policy and for The Future 60

Ports as Nodal Points in a Global Transport System

W. Winkelmans 65

I. Introduction 65

II. Globalization of the Economy 66

III. New Trans-port Technologies 70

IV. Transport and the Environment 72

V. Globalization of Trans-port 73

VI. Epilogue 76

Ports as 'Nodal Points'

F. Suykens 77

I. Ports as Transhipment Centres 77

II. Port Management and Development 78

III. Conclusions

Efficiency in a Global Transport System

James H. McJunkin 83

I. Definition of Efficiency 83

II. Increased Efficiencies 85

III. Ports 86

IV. Ships 88

V. Land Carriers 89

VI. Summary 89

Equity and a Global Transport System

<i>Costa R. Mahalu</i>	91
I. The International Economic Order and Equity	91
II. Developing Countries and the Global Transport System	92
III. Equity and Shipping	95
IV. Conclusions	100

Ports and Hinterland Connections

<i>Jacques J. Charlier</i>	105
I. The Port Triptych Concept	105
II. The Hinterland-foreland Continuum Concept	106
III. Ports in the Transport Chain	108
IV. Load Centres and Feeding	110
V. Long-haul Inland Transport	113
VI. Inland Terminals	115
VII. Bypassing Ports	117
VIII. Conclusions	120

Transocean and Transcontinental Bridges: Integral Parts of the Global Transport System

<i>Igor M. Averin</i>	123
I. Introduction	123
II. The Transsiberian Railroad	126
III. Conclusions	128

The Port of Rotterdam: An Introduction

<i>J.W. Koeman</i>	131
I. Geographic Position	131
II. Market Position	131
III. Technical Infrastructure	133
IV. Administration and Organization	135
V. Hinterland Connections	136
VI. Telematics	137

CONTENTS

The Potential Role of INMARSAT Supporting Ports as Nodal Points in a Global Transport System

<i>James L. Fear</i>	139
I. Introduction	139
II. Port Communications Requirements	140
III. Ship Communications Requirements	140
IV. Safety Communications Requirements	143
V. The INMARSAT System	145
VI. INMARSAT Services	148
VII. Ports Lacking Modern Communications	149
VIII. Conclusion	149

**PART III THEME: TECHNOLOGY AND
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

**Developments in Technology:
Vessels and Navigation**

<i>Bernhard J. Abrahamsson</i>	153
I. Introduction	153
II. Vessels	154
III. Navigation	159
IV. Summary and Conclusions	163

**Developments in Technology:
The Transport of Goods**

<i>H.C. Paelinck</i>	167
I. Types of Goods to be Transported	167
II. Ports as Physical Distribution Centres	171
III. The Total Logistical Chain	172
IV. Coordination in Transport	173
V. Communications	174
VI. Conclusions	175

Legal Effects of Developments in Technology

<i>William Tetley</i>	177
I. Introduction	177
II. Five Major Changes	177
III. Legal Consequences	178
IV. Conclusions	186

Ports and the Development of Human Resources

<i>A.D. Couper</i>	187
I. Introduction	187
II. The Impacts of Technological Change on Human Resource Management	188
III. The Sharing of Benefits	190
IV. The British Example	191
V. The Example of The Netherlands	193
VI. Other Examples	194
VII. Conclusions	196

**Social Aspects of Developments in Technology:
The Case of Rotterdam**

<i>Jos M. Dekkers</i>	199
I. Introduction	199
II. Social Aspects of New Technologies: The Past	202
III. Social Aspects of New Technologies: The Future	205

CONTENTS

PART IV THEME: THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Ports and Environmental Developments

<i>J.H. Vandermeulen</i>	215
I. Introduction	215
II. Geographical/Ecological Settings	216
III. The Changing Scale of Human Environmental Impact	218
IV. The Modern Port and the Environment	221
V. Future Concerns And Directions	226

The Role of Emerging Coastal Management Practices in Port and Harbour Management

<i>Robert E. Bowen</i>	229
I. Introduction	229
II. Management Principles	230
III. Emerging Issues in Resource and Environmental Management	233
IV. Conclusions	237

Toward Sustainability Through Prevention: Can Maritime Transport and the Marine Environment Co-exist

<i>Edgar Gold</i>	239
I. Introduction: Environmental Problems and Perceptions	239
II. The Role of Ports	242
III. The Role of International Cooperation	245
IV. Liability and Compensation	247
V. Conclusions	250

The Sustainability of Maritime Transport

<i>D. Mitsatsos</i>	251
I. Introduction	251
II. The Challenge of Marine Pollution	252
III. The Case of HELMEPA	254
IV. Conclusion	257

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

<i>P. Bergmeijer</i>	259
I. Introduction to MARPOL 73/78	259
II. The 1973 MARPOL Convention	260
III. The 1978 MARPOL Protocol	265
IV. The Impact of MARPOL 73/78	269

Sea Spills, Jurisdiction and Liability

<i>D. Tromp</i>	271
I. Introduction	271
II. Operational Discharges from Ships	272
III. Accidental Pollution from Ships	277
IV. International Cooperation	282
V. Conclusions	283

Shipowner's Liability for Pollution Damage

<i>T. Schulze</i>	285
I. Preservation of the Marine Environment	
A Global Task of the International Community	285
II. The Legal Framework for the Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment	286
III. Main Principles of the Compensation System for Oil Pollution Damage	288
IV. The 1984 Protocols	291
V. The Reply of Private Industry	294
VI. The Interaction of International Law and Private Agreements	296
ANNEX	299

CONTENTS

Facilities in Port for the Reception, Treatment and Spill Control of Harmful Waste from Ships

C.H. van der Giessen 301

I. Introduction 301

III. Adequacy of Reception Facilities 302

IV. Spills and the Marine Environment in Port 304

V. Disposal of Ship's Waste 306

VI. Waste Disposal Strategy 308

VII. Treatment of Liquified Harmful Substances 309

IX. Tariffs Charged to Ships 310

X. Data on Harmful Substances from Ships 310

**Silt Pollution and Sludge Storage:
The Case of the Port of Rotterdam**

C.A.H.M. Huberts 313

I. Introduction 313

II. Present Situation 314

III. The Approach of Rotterdam 315

IV. Present Activities 316

V. The Need for Cooperation 318

PART V THEME: PORTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

**Institutional Considerations and Port Investments:
Recent Experience in Latin America and the Caribbean**

L.A. Burkhalter 321

I. Introduction: A Composite Latin American and Caribbean
Port 321

II. Infrastructural Considerations 325

III. Institutional Considerations 336

IV. Establishment of a Commercial Port Institutional Structure:
The Experience of Chile 344

V. Conclusions 348

**Public and Private Partnership in Port Development:
The Case of Port Klang, Malaysia**

<i>Hashir H. Abdullah</i>	349
I. Introduction	349
II. Ports in Malaysia	350
III. KPA's Approach to Privatization and the Privatization of its Container Terminal	352
IV. Privatization of the Remaining Activities of KPA and the Changing Role and Status of KPA	360
V. Conclusions	364

Malta Freeport: A Mediterranean Nodal Point

<i>M. Hili</i>	365
I. Introduction	365
II. Rationale for Malta Freeport	365
III. Malta Freeport Development	367

**Ports in Developing Countries:
Point Lisas, Trinidad and Tobago**

<i>Kenneth B. Snaggs</i>	369
I. Introduction	369
II. Background	369
III. Port Point Lisas	370
IV. Role of Point Lisas	375
V. Institutional Arrangements	377
VI. Conclusion	377

CONTENTS

Transport in Land-locked Countries

<i>J.M.D. Saungweme</i>	379
I. The Distribution of Land-locked Countries	379
II. The African Context	381
III. West Africa	382
IV. East Africa	383
V. Southern Africa	385
VI. Conclusions	388

PART VI THEME: ASSISTANCE TO PORTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Helping Ports in Developing Countries to Adjust: The Role of International Development Banks

<i>Hans J. Peters</i>	393
I. Introduction	393
II. The Role of International Finance Institutions	394
III. Port Sector Support Programmes	396
IV. Port Finance	399
V. Concluding Note	400

Transport and Port Development in Developing Countries: The Role of the United Nations Regional Commissions

<i>Mpekesa Bongoy</i>	401
I. Introduction	401
II. The Case of ECA	403
III. Constraints on Regional Commissions	409
IV. Conclusion	410

Regional Cooperation for Port Development in Africa

<i>J. Moulod</i>	411
I. The Character of Port Development in Africa	411
II. The Structures and State of Inter-port Cooperation In Africa: The Example of PMAWCA	412
III. The Status of Regional Cooperation: The Case of PMAWCA	413
IV. Prospects for Regional Inter-port Cooperation	418
V. Conclusion	419

**Sub-regional Cooperation in Africa:
The Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS)**

<i>C. Hunter</i>	421
I. General Introduction	421
II. Introduction to ACIS	423
III. The African Transport Context	425
IV. The Functioning of ACIS	430
V. Establishing ACIS	438

The Education and Training Programmes of WMU

<i>P.M. Alderton</i>	441
I. Introduction	441
II. World Maritime University (WMU)	442
III. The Ports and Shipping Administration Course	443
IV. The Future	445

Assistance by Ports in Industrialized Countries

<i>C. Bert Kruk</i>	447
I. Introduction	447
II. Problem Areas in Developing Country Ports	448
III. IAPH/CIPD	449
IV. The Case of Tempo	451
V. Conclusions and Recommendations	454

CONTENTS

Assistance by International Non-Governmental Organizations

Aldo Chircop 455

I. Introduction 455

II. What is a NGO? 455

III. Functions and Roles of NGOs in Marine Affairs 458

IV. NGOs in Port Development, Management and
Inter-port Cooperation 459

V. NGO Roles: Current and Potential 462

Annex 1: NGOs in Port and Related Matters 464

Index 465

Editors' Introduction

I. Introduction to the Volume

This volume is the report on the Pacem in Maribus Conference on *Ports as 'Nodal Points' in the Global Transport System*, held in Rotterdam in the period 27-31 August 1990.

Pacem in Maribus (PIM), an initiative of the International Ocean Institute (IOI), is the name given to a series of international conferences dealing with the use and management of the world's oceans and their resources. The first PIM Conference was held in Malta, 'home' of IOI, in 1970, since when it has been followed by 17 conferences held at various locations, including vessels, around the world. IOI's conviction that the world's oceans should be viewed as the 'common heritage of mankind' and used and managed in the interests of all has meant that the special needs, problems and opportunities of the developing countries have always received special attention in annual PIM convocations. Conferences are frequently held in developing countries and are characteristically attended by participants from both the 'North' and 'South'.

While PIM has addressed many issues in ocean development over the past two decades, none of its conferences had focused on ports and, more specifically, on the role and position of ports in the global transport system. This apparent omission can in part be explained by the limited attention given to ports in the lengthy negotiation process that culminated in the adoption by most of the world's nations of the new Convention on the Law of the Sea, which IOI continuously sought to influence through its annual PIM convocations as well as its training, research and advisory work. The omission can nevertheless be considered surprising since ports are one of the principal interfaces between land and sea and the main entry and exit points in the global transport system that links the world's nations with more than 70 per cent of the earth's surface.

PIM XVIII had ports as 'nodal points' as its central theme. It was appropriately held in Rotterdam - the world's largest port - to coincide with the City's 650th anniversary celebrations. Erasmus University of Rotterdam cooperated with IOI in all aspects of the conference's design and organization. The conference's Preparatory Committee, which included representatives of not only IOI and Erasmus University but also the Netherlands Ministry of Transport and Public Works, the Port of Rotterdam, IMO, UNCTAD, UNIDO and the Netherlands

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

Institute for the Law of the Sea (NILOS), was specifically entrusted with defining the substance of the conference and it met on seven occasions over a 19-month period.

PIM XVIII was as much an 'event' as it was a conference. It included an Art Exhibition and a Trade Show, in which 37 enterprises and organizations involved in various aspects of port planning and development were represented, with a Trade Directory which has been distributed world-wide. Most notably, PIM XVIII was the occasion for the world's first performance of the 'Ocean Symphony' (*Sinfonia n.8 'degli Oceani'* op. 322), composed and conducted by Franco Mannini and dedicated to Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Chairperson of the IOI Planning Council and driving force behind *Pacem in Maribus*.

The Conference itself was large - larger than most previous PIMs. It was attended by more than 200 participants from 60 countries, including 80 participants from 46 developing countries.

PIM XVIII was made possible by financial support received from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands Ministry of Transport and Public Works and the City of Rotterdam and by the revenues received from exhibitors at the Trade Show. KLM and UNCTAD also provided supplementary financial support. PIM XVIII would have been impossible without the generous support of its main sponsors and their contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

II. Report on the Conference

Discussions at PIM XVIII were structured around eight main themes, each of which was addressed during panel discussions. These themes and panels were:

- Changes in the world economy;
- Developments in technology;
- Ports and the environment;
- Ports as 'nodal points';
- The global transport system;
- Developing countries: cases of ports;
- Developing countries: role and needs; and
- The Port of Rotterdam.