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

THANK YOU