

**EU-OECD PROJECT ON SUPPORTING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUEZ CANAL
ECONOMIC ZONE**

WORKSHOP N°2



**GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY
AND MARITIME
CLUSTERS**

8 May 2017 ♦ 09:00 – 16:45

Fairmont Nile City - Nile City Towers, 2005 B
Corniche El Nil, Ramlet Beaulac
Cairo, Egypt

For more information, please contact:

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Context

Inter-oceanic canals and straits are geographic concentrations of maritime trade flows that provide unique opportunities for economic development. Many of these places, such as Dubai and Panama Canal, have developed into global maritime clusters that generate positive economic impacts.

How can such economic impacts be maximized? What is the role of public policies and what are the necessary pre-conditions in terms of planning, coordination and design? This workshop aims to answer these questions. It will bring together local stakeholders with some of their international peers to facilitate an exchange of good practices and perspectives. Local stakeholders could include the Suez Canal Authority, Maritime Transport Sector, Ministry of Transport, port authorities and terminal operators. International peers that will be invited include logistics experts on the Panama Canal Authority, Dubai and Morocco ports.

Each session will consist of a short introduction by the session's moderator, an overview of the state of play by the SCZone Authority and a lead presentation. Formal presentations will be followed by round table discussion and open debate.

Project Team

- **Iza Lejárraga**, Head of Unit, Investment Policy Linkages, OECD
- **Olaf Merk**, Project Manager, Ports & Shipping, International Transport Forum, OECD
- **Alin Horj**, Policy Analyst, Investment Policy Linkages, OECD
- **Rodolfo Sabonge**, Deputy Director, Canal Studies Institute, University of Panama
- **Jean-Paul Rodrigue**, Transport Geography Professor, Hofstra University (New York)
- **Sabri Draia**, Project Coordinator, Middle East & Africa, OECD

Participants

- General Authority for the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone)
- Central Government Line Ministries
- EU Delegation, EU/OECD Member States and multilateral donors/lenders
- Private sector port operators and development companies

Background materials

- OECD Policy Framework for Investment (updated, 2015)
- OECD, The Competitiveness of Global Port-Cities – International Transport Forum (2014)

Practical information

Arabic/English interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

09:00 **Registration**

09:15 - 09:45 **Opening**

- Welcoming remarks by **OECD Secretariat** and **SCZone Authority**
- Opening remarks by **Ahmed El-Beltagui**, Head of Transport and Energy Sector, European Union Delegation to Egypt
- Introduction by **Iza Lejárraga**, Head of Investment Policy Linkages Unit, Investment Division, OECD and **Olaf Merk**, Project Manager, Ports & Shipping at the International Transport Forum, OECD
- **Tour de table**

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 1: Global connectivity: framing the issues and good practices**

Introduction by moderator: OECD Secretariat

Lead presentation

- **Iza Lejárraga**, Head of Unit, and **Alin Horj**, Policy Analyst, Investment Policy Linkages, OECD
- **Olaf Merk**, Project Manager, International Transport Forum, OECD

Roundtable discussion

11:00 - 11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30 - 12:30 **Session 2: The experience of the Suez Canal**

Introduction by moderator: OECD Secretariat

The state of play

- Representative from the **SCZone Authority**

Lead presentation

- **Dr. Hisham Fouad**, Senior Logistics Expert, Logismed Project

Roundtable discussion

- **Dr. Khalid Bichou**, Ports and Logistics Consultant for the EIB

12:30-14:00 *Lunch offered by the OECD*

14:00 - 15:00 Session 3: Panama as global logistics node

Introduction by moderator: OECD Secretariat

Lead presentation

- **Rodolfo Sabonge**, Deputy Director, Canal Studies Institute, University of Panama, Panama

Roundtable discussion

15:00 - 15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30 - 16:30 Session 4: Experiences of maritime clusters: Dubai and Morocco

Introduction by moderator: OECD Secretariat

Lead presentation

- **Jean-Paul Rodrigue**, Transport Geography Professor, Hofstra University (New York), United States

Roundtable discussion

16:30 Closing Remarks



Who's who?



Iza Lejárraga heads the Investment Policy Linkages Division of the OECD, where she has been responsible for leading analytical work on regional trade agreements, services trade and investment, and SMEs. Prior to joining the OECD, she worked as a Research Economist with the African Development Bank, in the Regional Integration and Trade Department as well as under the Office of the Chief Economist. Previously she also worked for the International Trade Department of the World Bank and for the Trade Unit of the Organization of American States. She holds a Master's degree in Economics and International Development from Harvard University, where she has also been a Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Development.

Olaf Merk is ports and shipping expert of the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD. As such, he directed studies on ports and maritime transport. Olaf Merk is the author of various OECD books including "The Impact of Mega-Ships" (2015) and "The Competitiveness of Global Port Cities" (2014). While managing the OECD Port-Cities Programme, he directed more than a dozen studies on port cities, including on Hamburg, Hong Kong and Shanghai. He has authored various port-related articles in academic and professional journals. He also is an Associate Professor at the Urban School of Sciences Po Paris, France. Prior to the OECD he worked for the Dutch Ministry of Finance. He holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Amsterdam.



Rodolfo Sabonge, former Executive Vice President for Planning and Business Development of the Panama Canal Authority, has been with the Panama Canal since 1986. Until 1993, he held several positions in Canal operations and later he was transferred to the Office of Executive Planning where he led the Office of Transition Planning, responsible for coordinating all actions necessary to ensure the orderly and successful transfer of the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama. As Executive Vice President of Planning and Business Development, he is responsible for competitive intelligence, Canal pricing, customer relations, and the maximization of the Canal's profitability through a diversification strategy. He is currently the Latin America delegation vice-chairman for the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA).

Jean-Paul Rodrigue, received a Ph.D. in Transport Geography from the Université de Montréal (1994) and has been a professor at Hofstra University since 1999. His research interests mainly cover the fields transportation and economics as they relate to logistics and global freight distribution. His research about port regionalization and the development of port / hinterland supply chains is among the world's most cited in the domain. Dr. Rodrigue developed a widely used online reference source about transportation which became a textbook, *The Geography of Transport Systems*, now in its fourth edition. He is a lead member of the PortEconomics.eu initiative regrouping the world's leading maritime transport academics and performs advisory and consulting assignments for international organizations and corporations. Between 2011 and 2016, Dr. Rodrigue sat on the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council on the Future of Manufacturing. In 2013, the US Secretary of Transportation appointed Dr. Rodrigue to sit on the Advisory Board of the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point.

