Transport, Trade and Tourism: Mobility for a connected world

Hall 1, Level +1

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 14:00 - 16:00

Trade and tourism are central to globalised economies; they are important engines of economic growth and underpin international economic and political cooperation. Globalisation can be an important factor in poverty alleviation. To deliver these benefits, trade and tourism are dependent on efficient and reliable transport systems. The efficient operation of these transport systems directly reduces trade costs and opens up new opportunities for tourism. Reduced transport costs, in turn, also have important knock-on impacts on the allocative efficiency of the global economy.

While these second-hand impacts are certain and can be measured, it is another thing altogether to accurately predict over the long term where and how these changes will lead to shifts in global trade patterns and changes in tourism flows. Currently, the world is witnessing a shift in the centre of economic gravity towards emerging economies in Asia and Africa. This shift accompanies changes in demographics, changes in comparative advantages amongst countries and reduced transport costs. In the future, new players may emerge and changes in both production and consumption patterns will follow. Governments must both anticipate and future-proof infrastructure investments that may otherwise be vulnerable to these changes.

One key challenge discussed was how authorities and the private sector can enable infrastructure to flexibly adapt to changes in demand. One key answer lies in the digitalization surrounding transport services and activity. Digitalisation provides enormous opportunities for enhancing the capacity, safety and efficiency of existing transport infrastructure, and for providing better transport services for tourists, traders, and users of urban networks.

Another important issue that arose is to address the mismatch between a move to negotiate a global trade framework under the World Trade Organisation and the continued persistence of bi-lateral agreements for air access rights. Increasingly goods can flow freely across borders but some air services continue to be blocked by quantitative slot and market access restrictions. This situation impedes trade just as it stunts the potential for tourism growth.

Panelists also pointed out the difficult but necessary balance between environmental protection and requirements for economic development and trade facilitation. Here, there is a need for international principles that ensure that increased trade leads not to a race to the bottom, but rather to a healthy competition amongst sustainable outcomes.
On the matter of innovation, the role of government procurement policy was stressed as a necessary catalyst for the development of emerging technologies and services. This strategy could equally be extended to the way in which governments organise their own logistics requirements as this is a sector that holds much promise as innovative services scale up.

Transport authorities will face different challenges in different contexts and there will be a need to develop and maintain skills to manage large-scale projects, cope with future uncertainty and build trust in government action. Whether seeking to develop transcontinental transport corridors between China and Europe, rapidly scale up road construction in India or develop major transport projects like the new Mexico City International airport, transparency in project design, financing and management will be essential to ensure the buy-in of citizens.

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**Keynote**

**Pravin Krishna**  
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Pravin Krishna is Chung Ju Yung Distinguished Professor of International Economics and Business at Johns Hopkins University, USA (School of Advanced International Studies and Department of Economics), Visiting Senior Research Scholar and Deputy Director of the Raj Center for Indian Economic Policy at Columbia University, USA, and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Krishna’s fields of research interest are international economics, political economy and development. He has published articles in a number of scholarly journals including the American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, the Journal of International Economics and the Journal of Development Economics. He is the author of Trade Blocs: Economics and Politics (Cambridge University Press, 2005).
Simon Bridges is New Zealand's Minister of Transport and Minister of Energy and Resources. He is Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues and Associate Minister of Justice. Bridges represents the electorate of Tauranga and is Deputy Leader of the House in the current government. Prior to standing for Parliament and election in 2008, Bridges worked as a Senior Crown Prosecutor. Since election, he has been a member of the Law and Order Select Committee, the Auckland Governance Select Committee, and the Maori Affairs Select Committee.

Alexander Dobrindt has been the Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure since December 2013. Previously, he was the Executive Secretary of the Christian Social Union (CSU) of Bavaria from 2009. He has been a Member of the German National Parliament (Bundestag) since 2002 where he was Deputy Chairman of the Bundestag Committee on Economic and Labour Affairs from 2005 to 2005. From 2005 to 2008 he was Economic Policy Spokesman of the CSU Parliamentary Group and from November 2008 to February 2009 Chairman of the Education and Research Working Group of the CDU/CSU Parliamentary Group.

Anna Johansson has been Minister for Infrastructure in the Swedish Government since 2014. She is chairman of the Social Democrats in Gothenburg Municipality, deputy member of the executive board of the Social Democrats and was deputy municipal commissioner in Gothenburg Municipality from 2009 to 2014. Johansson was elected to the Swedish Riksdag (parliament) in the 2014 general election.
Maksim Sokolov was appointed Russia’s Minister of Transport in May 2012, having been Director of the Government Department of Industry and Infrastructure since 2009. Prior to this, he was a Member of the Saint Petersburg Government and Chairman of the Committee for Economic Development, Industrial Policy and Trade. From 2004 to 2009, Sokolov was Chairman of the Committee for Investment and Strategic Projects for the city of Saint Petersburg. From 1999 to 2004 he was Director-General of Corporation S., and from 1992 to 1999, Director-General of Rossiya. Previously, Sokolov was a Lecturer at the Economics Department of Saint Petersburg State University.

Warren Truss has been Australia’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development since 2013. From 2006 to 2007, Truss served as Minister for Trade, having been Minister for Transport and Regional Services from 2005 to 2006. He has repeatedly been the elected representative for Wide Bay, Queensland since 1990.

Yuriria Mascott Pérez has been Mexico’s Undersecretary of Transportation since 2014. Prior to this appointment, Mascott Pérez has been General Director of the Mexican Postal Service, Sepomex, since December 2012. She has extensive experience in the transport and communications sector, having held various positions since 1995, including at the Federal Commission of Electricity.
Dai Dongchang is a Communist Party of China (CPC) Leadership Member of the Ministry of Transport with responsibility for transport planning. Between 2009 and 2014, Dongchang was Chief Planner of the Ministry of Transport, having been Director-General of the Department of Highway of the Ministry from 2007 to 2009. Prior to this, he was President and Deputy Party Secretary of the Research Institute of Highway. Dai Dongchang has over 23 years of professional experience with various institutes, including the Ministry of Communications and the World Bank Resident Mission in China.

Angel Gurría is the Secretary-General of the OECD since June 2006. He was re-appointed to a second mandate in September 2010. As OECD Secretary-General, he has reinforced the OECD’s role as a “hub” for global dialogue and debate on economic policy issues while pursuing internal modernisation and reform. Gurría is a Mexican national and came to the OECD following a distinguished career in public service in his country, including positions as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance and Public Credit in the 1990s. Gurría holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from UNAM (Mexico) and a Master of Arts Degree in Economics from Leeds University (United Kingdom).

José Viegas has been Secretary-General of the International Transport Forum at the OECD since August 2012. A Portuguese national, Mr. Viegas has had a distinguished career in academia and in the private sector before joining the Forum as its chief executive. A full Professor of Transport at the Technical University of Lisbon, he served as Director of MIT-Portugal’s Transport Systems focus area and founded TRANSPORTNET, a group of eight European University Research Groups in Transport Systems. As chairman of TIS.pt consultants he successfully advised governments and international institutions including the World Bank and the European Commission on a number of high-profile policy initiatives and transport projects.
Yi Xiaozhun has extensive experience in world trade and economics, both as a senior government official and subsequently as China's ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO). He represented China as a key negotiator in China’s WTO accession process, making an important contribution to the negotiations. Prior to becoming China's ambassador to the WTO in 2011, Yi was Assistant Minister and subsequently China's Vice Minister of Commerce in charge of multilateral and regional trade negotiations and co-operation. He played a leading role in negotiating numerous free trade agreements (FTAs), including the China-ASEAN agreement, China's first FTA. He also worked as a diplomat at the Chinese Embassy in the United States for more than four years from the late 1980s to the early 1990s.

Dr. Melinda Crane is Chief Political Correspondent at Deutsche Welle-TV and hosts the talk shows "Quadriga" and "People and Politics". She was Senior Producer of "Global Players" on CNBC. She has moderated a wide variety of podium discussions and conferences for public organisations and private sector clients. Among her areas of expertise are transatlantic politics; women, family education issues; climate and environment; business and economics; new media and the internet. Dr. Crane holds a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and a PhD in political economy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.