International trade represents 50% of global GDP and is expected to increase 350% by 2050. Trade patterns will shift geographically, driven by changes in income distribution, consumption structure and relative productivity. As a result, global freight transport volumes will more than quadruple by 2050 while international tourist arrivals are expected to grow from 1.1 billion in 2013 to 2.6 billion in 2050.

The expected growth will create unprecedented challenges for the transport system and lead to increasing capacity constraints. This interactive session will present scenarios for the development of global freight transport volumes through 2050 based on forecasts and analysis from the ITF Transport Outlook 2015. It will consider different trade liberalisation scenarios and the potential impacts on trade patterns and the resulting movements of freight and CO2 emissions. Insights from new work developed in relation to forecasts for air passenger transport to 2050 will also be presented.

Key questions for discussion in this session include:

• What are the trade and specialisation patterns over the next 50 years?
• How does trade liberalisation affect trade patterns and related movements of freight?
• What are the policy implications for future transport capacity and CO2 emissions?
• How might network configuration and air liberalisation influence air traffic growth and patterns in the future?

Related information:
ITF Transport Outlook 2015

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