

# **City ports' 21<sup>st</sup> Century call to action: understanding and dealing with heightened threats from an increasingly globalised economy ©**

**AAPA XIII Latin American Congress of Ports  
Iguassu, Argentina  
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# Summary

- Review of Key issues impacting port authorities
- Brief evolution of city-ports
- Review of current environment for city-ports
- Where is the common ground between cities and ports
- Strategies and solutions





Port Authorities under siege

# **REVIEW OF KEY ISSUES IMPACTING PORT AUTHORITIES**



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# 21<sup>st</sup> century market dynamics

## Dynamic

- Global trade growth
- Global Carriers
- Changing role of ports
- Political & social constraints
- Larger ship size

## Impact

- expansion of port infrastructure
- Logistics chain vertical integration at cost of cities/ports; control from local/regional to global
- operators to asset managers
- congestion/contamination = truck to rail; transfer non throughput activities off port
- deeper hinterland reach; integration of logistic chain; higher demand for specialised facilities



# Ramifications of ship size on ports

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## Follow the leader...

Herd mentality – once one carrier upsizes, all others have to follow



Regina Maersk 7,400 teu  
Mid 1990s  
**Other carriers followed...**



Emma Maersk 15,500 teu  
Mid 2000s  
**Other carriers followed...**



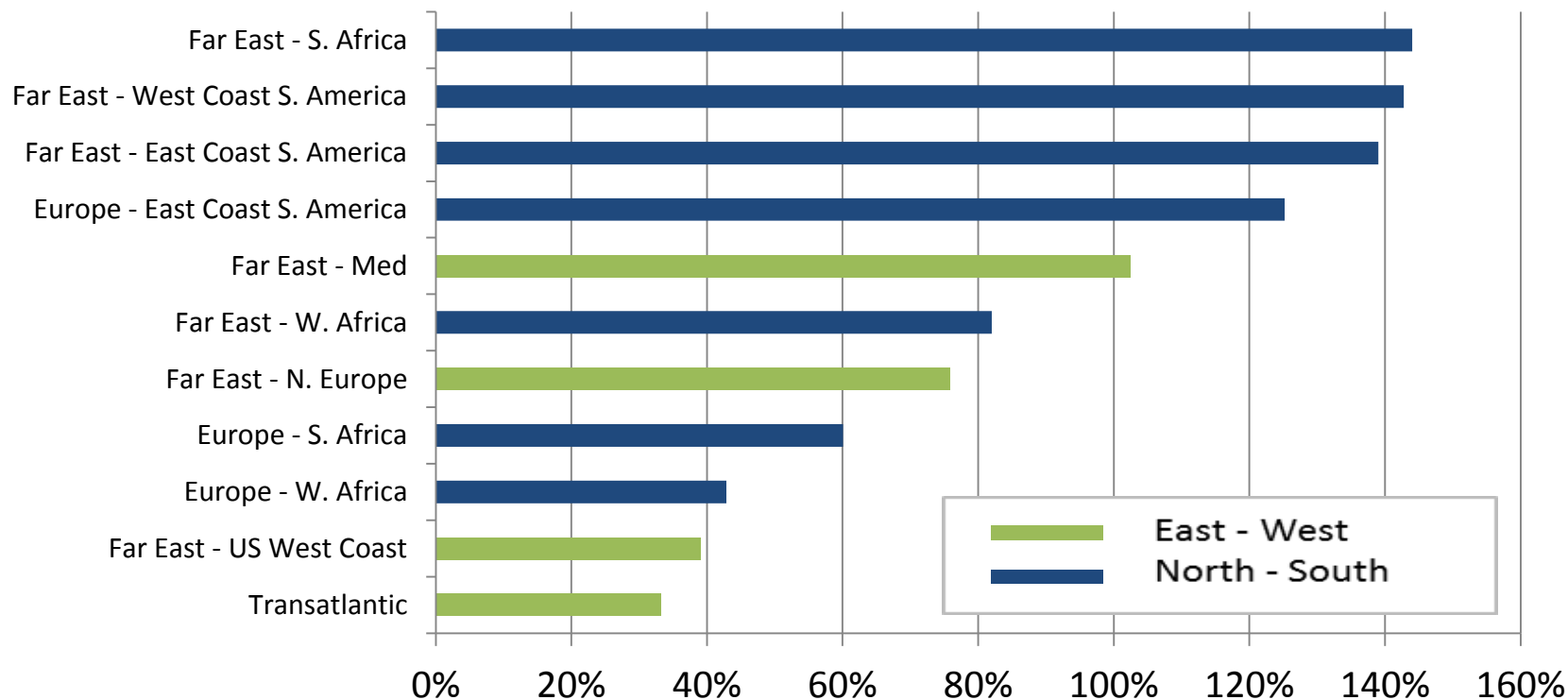
Maersk Triple E 18,000 teu  
2013  
**Other carriers following...**



22,000+ teu vessels?  
2018?  
**Carriers will follow...**

## Increase in average container ship size by trade route, 2006-2013

Massive increases in ship sizes, especially in north-south trades

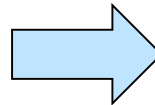
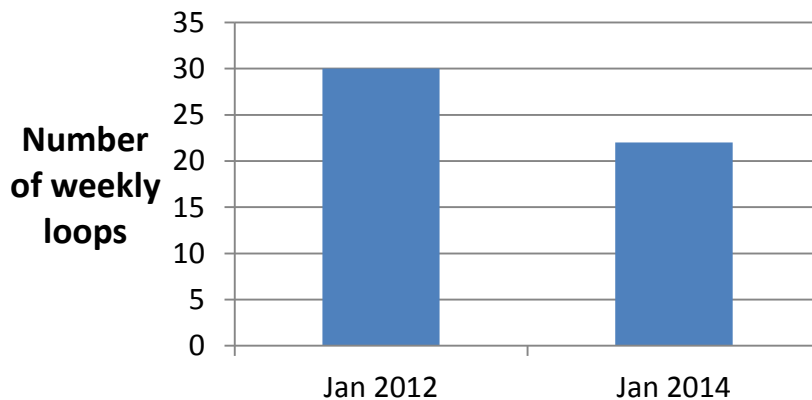


# Bigger ships and bigger alliances

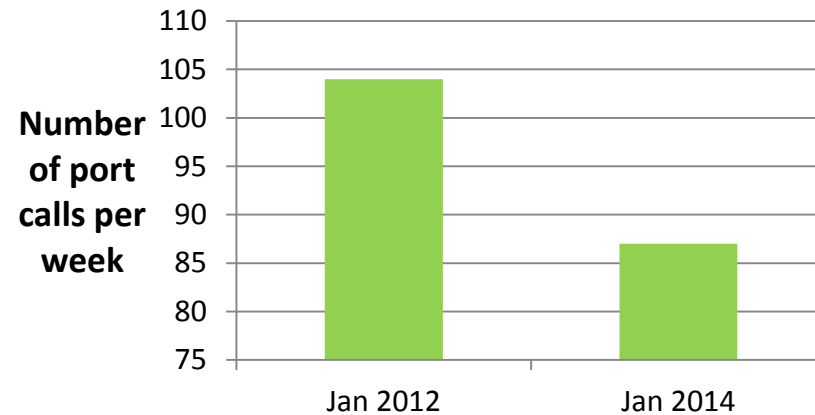
No reduction in the list of ports called at, but greater peaks

- ▶ Typically the same number of ports called at per loop, but less frequently
- ▶ Fewer port calls by bigger ships = greater peaks and troughs at terminals (shipside and landside)

**Asia - North Europe trade route**



**Asia - North Europe trade route**



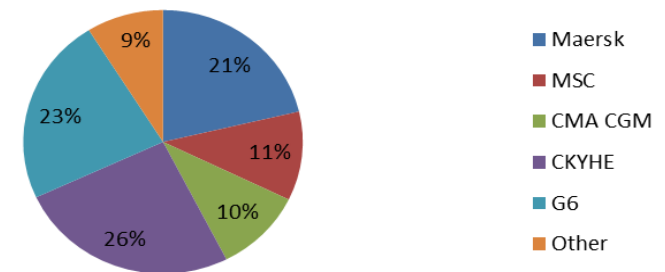
*Same list of ~10 North European ports called at*



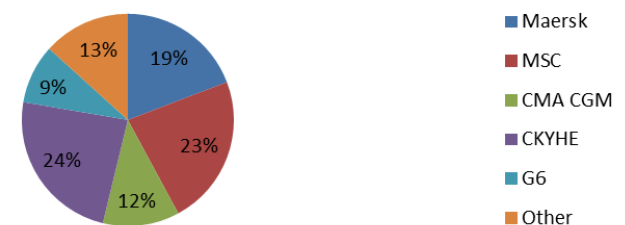
# Further industry consolidation

- Maersk/MSC announce '2M' after failed 3P
- Objective: reduce costs by optimising assets between: Asia/Europe, Asia/US and Europe/US
- Drewry analysis: 2M – 32% share of all Westbound vessel capacity, > than EU consortium regulations allow
- Prediction: 2M to become largest alliance in Europe/Asia route; will be approved because will reduce costs

**Fig 1: Carrier shares of effective vessel capacity from Asia to N Europe in June 14**



**Fig 2: Carriers shares of effective vessel capacity from Asia to Mediterranean in June 14**



# Bigger ships and bigger alliances

## Demand for bigger terminals due to consolidated volumes

- ▶ Annual volumes per “customer” are increasing - need for bigger terminals in each port and/or bigger ports
- ▶ Fragmented terminal capacity – **both physically and in terms of ownership** - is a challenge for many ports e.g. US west coast

Port	Seattle	Tacoma
2013 throughput	1.6m teu	1.9m teu
No. of container terminals in the port	4	5
No. of container terminals with carrier stakes	4	4

# Growth of container ship capacity net results

- Fewer vessels on the seas
- First half of 2014 saw decline in number of vessels – first time in two decades
- Global fleet teu capacity increases 6% per annum solely from average ship size
- Impact for ports: volume to be concentrated in fewer ports, less frequent joint services
- There will be winners and losers



# Big Ships' impact on port and property?

- Most large ports are land constrained yet...
- 8,000 TEU ship requires 40 hectares for smooth inbound container flow; 12,500 TEU ship?  $\approx$  65 hectares
- Processing thousands of TEU's requires major port and logistics infrastructure, distribution centres, land
- Throughput per acre - key for customer profitability and satisfaction

*'The big ships are putting pressure on civil infrastructure and yard sizes. If you can't get the boxes out quickly, you run out of space and it becomes a matter of where you put them.'*

Jeff de Best, COO, APM Terminals (Port Technology International 19 August 2014 interview)



Married, divorced and now reconciliation?

# BRIEF EVOLUTION OF CITY-PORTS



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# City port evolution

- Land – sea interface > cultural crossroads  
> hubs of trade and commerce > city
- Europe: sea links to major inland population centres
- New World: gateways to interior exploration
- Asia: centres of population





# City – port partnership

- Strictly co-dependent until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century: nexus for all transport routes out and in of cities; first expansion of ports outside city perimeters
- 1960's: advent of containers; first split in city – port partnership; beginning of revolution



# Port functional obsolescence

- Containerisation leads to larger ships
- Deeper navigation channels and terminals, more land to process cargo required
- Terminals move downstream to deeper water; leave behind blighted, industrial waterfront
- Technology changes employment needs, port less of an employment centre





# Port economic obsolescence

- City population expands, city growth encroaches in and around ports
- Economic 'Highest and Best Use' argument becomes factor for alternative port land use
- City argues port lands could offer needed higher density residential, commercial, retail and leisure space
- Alternative use would result in lower noise, light, air, higher tax base and revenues to city pollution



An already challenging neighbourhood getting more challenging

# REVIEW OF CURRENT ENVIRONMENT FOR CITY PORTS



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# Port authority's environment?

## It's a jungle out there!

- Cities running deficits, budgets do not support entitlements = aggressive hunt for revenues, ports easy targets
- Ports' history as corporate citizens
- Port authority structure easily allows their use as strategy for 'economic development' and its bank, rather than run as a business
- City demand for urban waterfront – next slide



# Port authority's environment? It's a jungle out there!

- Urban industrial waterfront can be turned into magnets of city development:
  - London Docklands
  - Hamburg's Hafen City
  - Rotterdam's Kop Van Zuid
  - New York's South Port
  - Baltimore's Inner Harbor
  - Buenos Aires' Puerto Maduro



Ports need to act strategically...

# WHERE IS THE COMMON GROUND BETWEEN CITIES AND PORTS?



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# Port's new competitive environment

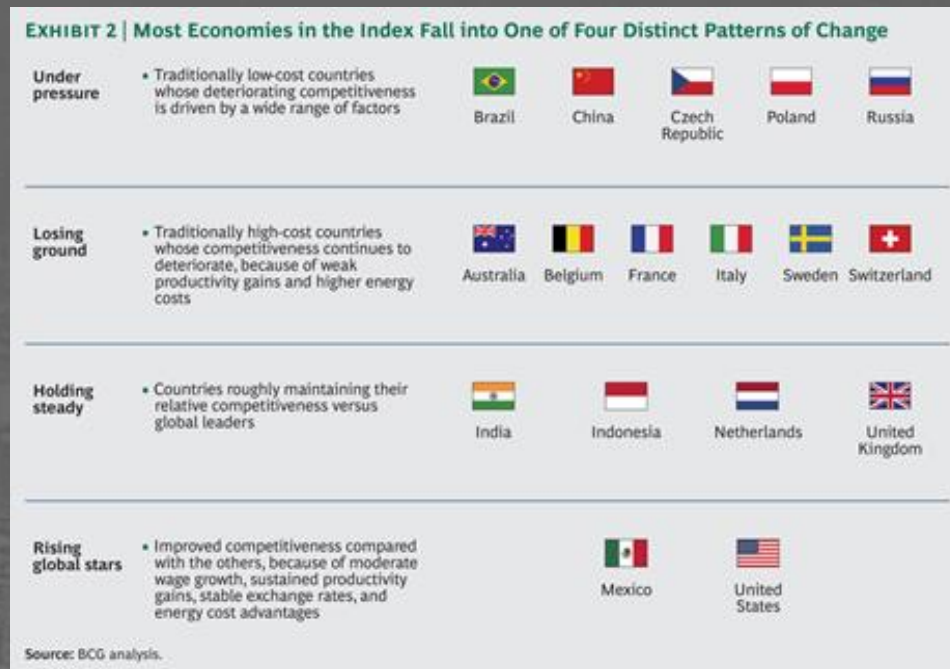
- Competition today not between countries but between regions (eg, NAFTA and ASEAN) and Global Cities
- Competition today not between ports but between supply and logistics chains
- It is all about delivering the fastest, cheapest and deepest supply route for clients – ports need to take the lead
- Cities with ports need to understand these dynamics – they don't





# Dramatic shift in cost and supply chain competitiveness = changing global production strategies\*

- Low cost manufacturing centre perceptions out of date
- BCG study: China, Brazil, Russia, Czech Rep no longer < expensive than US
- China's manufacturing cost – 6% > than Mexico
- Mexican labour 13% less expensive than China, adjusted for productivity
- Rising manufacturing Global Stars: US & Mexico



Boston Consulting Group: The Shifting Economics of Global Manufacturing: how cost competitiveness is changing worldwide (2014)



# Ports – nodes in ever expanding/integrating global supply chain

- Supply/logistics chains increasingly controlled by global shipping lines, 3PL's
- Present supply chain weak link - ports' inability to process more throughput faster
- 'Just in time' now 'integrated time', requiring diversified gateways; more specialised facilities like 'fast buildings'
- Property at, near and related to ports and through supply/logistics/growth poles key to addressing these issues





This is a marathon, not a sprint...

# STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS



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# Pending questions and issues...

- Wrongly defined core business mission makes ports less competitive, at higher risk of economic obsolescence (ie, economic development costs)
- Shippers/shipping lines will go to most efficient supply chains: will/can the port and its city deliver?
- Ports need to take on more proactive and strategic role in 'educating' the city of its challenges, potential and real value
- Example: simple economic impact studies are passive; could backfire as cities use the same strategy to present case for alternative uses
- To survive, ports must be exemplary corporate citizens but also defend its ability to operate as a business or be left behind



But this is just the beginning...

# CONCLUSION



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# Conclusions

- Ports are under attack from various sectors
- Ports need to leverage off of existing hinterland infrastructure to consolidate their positions
- Ports need to be more strategic and proactive in their relationships with cities
- The environmental constraints should be embraced, they are the highest barriers to moving port facilities elsewhere



# Thank You

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