

The Role of the Private Sector in Border Management Reform

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Abstract

Dr Andrew Grainger's presentation is based on a recent contribution to the forthcoming World Bank's "Border Management Reform Handbook" (to be published in December 2009), in which he examines the role of the private sector. Trade facilitation and the operational practices at ports and borders are now central themes in international trade policy, including organisations like the WTO, WCO and IMO. Private sector reform interests, derived from operational frustrations and costs at ports and borders, lie at the heart of any border reform initiative. Private sector stakeholders can also be encouraged to take on a significant proportion of the control burden where appropriate incentives have been made available, such as in the form of preferential treatment. The benefits of such collaborative arrangements are not to be underestimated, especially in a world with increasing dependencies on international trade activities, and ongoing requirements to ensure that regulatory objectives are met. New supply chain security requirements further add to the border management challenge. As such, the private sector also plays an important role as a supplier of services; significantly complementing the border agencies' resources and capabilities. In his presentation Andrew will first set out the wider context providing the stimulus for reform in port and border management. He will then be discussing the various roles played by the private sector in port and border reform initiatives.

Biography

Dr Andrew Grainger is a Lecturer in Logistics and Supply Chain Management at Nottingham University Business School. His research interests focus on the wider area of trade facilitation, trade logistics, supply chain security and cross-border operations. Andrew is also the founding Director of Trade Facilitation Consulting Ltd and has been a consultant to a wide range of private and public sector companies across the world. Organisations served include the World Bank, the European Commission, the European Parliament, UK Customs, amongst many others. Prior to becoming an academic Andrew was a Deputy Director at SITPRO, the UK trade facilitation agency. Andrew's PhD thesis on trade facilitation and supply chain management was awarded the Palgrave MacMillan Prize for best PhD Thesis in Maritime Economics and Logistics 2005-8. He has recently been appointed to the World Customs Journal's editorial board.