
Foreword

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The blueprint of the Belt & Road initiative is to connect the vibrant East Asian economic circle and the developed European economic circle and encompass all the countries that have significant potential for economic development. One of the key objectives of this initiative is to increase connectivity and economic development along both the land-based and oceangoing routes through the movement of goods, services, information, and people.

This special issue is a product of a conference organised by the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies on the campus of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University 10–11 May 2016 in Hong Kong. It provides a forum to address various issues associated with the Belt & Road initiative from the perspective of logistics and maritime studies. It also serves as a platform to facilitate international research and industrial collaboration to examine multifaceted issues. This special issue covers topics related to dry bulk cargo

ships, strait canal security assessment, river terminals, manufacturing relocation, energy imports and airports. All these topics have in common that they cover important elements of the Belt & Road initiative.

We hope that this special issue will find its readership from academics but also professionals and policy makers and that it can serve as a contribution to the future development of the Belt & Road initiative.