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Topic: Has China's Free Trade Zone Policy Expedited Port Production and Development?

Abstract

China's free trade zone (FTZ) policy satisfies China's objective demand to get geared to the economic globalization trend and forms an essential part of China's opening-up strategy, creating new opportunities for Chinese seaports. Seaport development is subject to its throughput and the import and export trade scale of the city where it's located, but the growth rates of the two are not synchronized. To identify the impacts of FTZ policies on China's free trade seaports, with port throughput and import and export trade scale of the city taken into consideration, this article selects four Chinese seaports, namely Shanghai Port, Tianjin Port, Guangzhou Port, and Fuzhou Port, which are located in the FTZ establishment earlier, and bases the study on the port throughputs and import and export trade volumes of their cities from 2000 to 2020 for empirical testing with the allometric growth model and linear scale factors. The results show that the impacts of FTZ policies exhibit differences from region to region. Specifically, the FTZ promotion policies have lagging impacts on Shanghai Port and Tianjin Port. (The effect of Shanghai Port and Tianjin Port promoted by the FTZ policy shows a lagging effect) The Guangdong Free Trade Zone's policies have a short-term continuous promoting impact on Guangzhou Port's production. In contrast, Fujian Free Trade Zone's policies are a strong stimulus to the development of Fuzhou Port. The empirical test about the FTZ policies' impacts on seaport

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development will provide a theoretical basis for figuring out the critical role of FTZ in promoting the high-quality development of seaports and boost the coordinated development of ports and urban economies.

Biography

Prof. Jihong Chen is Distinguished Professor at College of Management, Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China. He worked in Shanghai Maritime University for more than ten years in Shanghai, China, as a Professor and Chair of the Department of Management. His research expertise includes maritime supply chain and logistics management, port and shipping management, maritime management and policy. He has published more than 180 academic papers, including publications on *Nature*, *Ocean & Coastal Management*, *Ocean Engineering*, *Annals of Operations Research*, *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*, *Transport Policy*, *Computers & Industrial Engineering*, *Journal of Navigation*, *Marine Policy*, *Journal of Environmental Management*, *Environmental Pollution* and *Marine Pollution Bulletin*. He has conducted more than 80 international, national, provincial and other marine projects, and has won more than 20 awards from the government, industry associations, maritime departments, etc. He serves as an editor of *Ocean and Coastal Management* (OCMA), associate editor of *Regional Studies in Marine Science* (RSMA), and editorial board member for several other journals. He is an expert member or scholar of many marine academic institutions and maritime enterprises.

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