



## PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

The *Review of Maritime Transport* is an UNCTAD flagship publication, published annually since 1968. It reports on the worldwide evolution of shipping, ports and multimodal transport related to liquid bulk, dry bulk and container traffic.

About 80 per cent of international trade in goods is carried by sea, and the percentage is even higher for most developing countries. The *Review of Maritime Transport* provides an analysis of structural and cyclical changes affecting seaborne trade, ports and shipping, as well as an extensive collection of statistical information on the following topics:

- Seaborne trade
- Fleet ownership and registration
- Liner shipping connectivity
- Shipbuilding and demolitions
- Freight rates
- Port traffic

The *Review of Maritime Transport 2013* covers developments in maritime and other modes of transport from January 2012 to mid 2013 and provides updates on existing statistical data.

### The contents of the *Review of Maritime Transport 2013* are as follows:

1. Developments in international seaborne trade
2. Structure, ownership and registration of the world fleet
3. Freight rates and maritime transport costs
4. Port developments
5. Legal issues and regulatory developments
6. Securing reliable access to maritime transport for landlocked countries

# THE REVIEW OF MARITIME TRANSPORT 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS

The 2013 edition of the *Review of Maritime Transport* estimates global seaborne trade to have increased by 4.3 per cent, with the total reaching over 9 billion tons in 2012 for the first time ever. Driven in particular by growing domestic demand in China and increased intra-Asian and South–South trade, seaborne trade nevertheless remains subject to persistent downside risks facing the world economy and trade. Freight rates have remained low and volatile in the various market segments (container, liquid and dry bulk).

Maritime transport is facing a new and complex environment that involves both challenges and opportunities. Of all the prevailing challenges, however, the interconnected issues of energy security and costs, climate change, and environmental sustainability are perhaps the most unsettling. Climate change in particular continues to rank high on the international policy agenda, including that of shipping and port businesses. Turning to the opportunities, these include – to name but a few – deeper regional integration and South–South cooperation; growing diversification of sources of supply; and access to new markets, facilitated by cooperation agreements and by improved transport networks (e.g. the Panama Canal expansion).

In view of recent research that suggests that containerization has been a stronger driver of globalization than trade liberalization has, the *Review* discusses global developments in container trade flows and containership deployment. It also presents trends over 10 years in liner shipping connectivity in developing regions, building upon UNCTAD's Liner Shipping Connectivity Index which was published in 2013 for the tenth year.

The special chapter on “Landlocked countries and maritime transport” provides an overview of recent progress made in understanding impediments to accessing sea-shipping services, for the trade of goods between landlocked territories and overseas markets. The *Review* proposes a new paradigm for transit based on a conveyor-belt concept, which aims at achieving a continuous supply of transit transport services, supported by institutional frameworks and infrastructure. The argument proposed here is that a regular, reliable and secure transit system is the simple, straightforward goal to pursue in order to guarantee access for landlocked developing countries to global shipping networks on the basis of non-penalizing conditions. Given the review of the Almaty Programme of Action that is to take place in 2014, this proposal could be part of the actions within a new agenda for landlocked and transit developing countries.





# TRANSPORT

## NEWSLETTER



Every three months, UNCTAD's *Transport Newsletter* briefs you on recent and upcoming transport and trade facilitation events and publications. Each issue also features selected topical articles. Recent newsletters, for example, have dealt with the following topics:

- Trends in liner shipping connectivity
- International transport and climate change
- Public-private partnerships in transportation and trade
- Trade facilitation negotiations at the World Trade Organization
- Regional initiatives in trade facilitation
- Port reforms
- Transit transport
- Challenges facing least developed countries
- Maritime cargo container scanning
- UNCTAD Port Training Programme
- Port capacity
- Trade facilitation implementation plans
- New contracting parties to international maritime conventions adopted under the auspices of UNCTAD



The *Transport Newsletter* is sent out electronically to a large and growing number of subscribers.  
**Subscription is free via <http://unctad.org/transportnews>**