# Trade in Transport Services in South Asia

Prabir De RIS, New Delhi 18 April 2013

### Outline

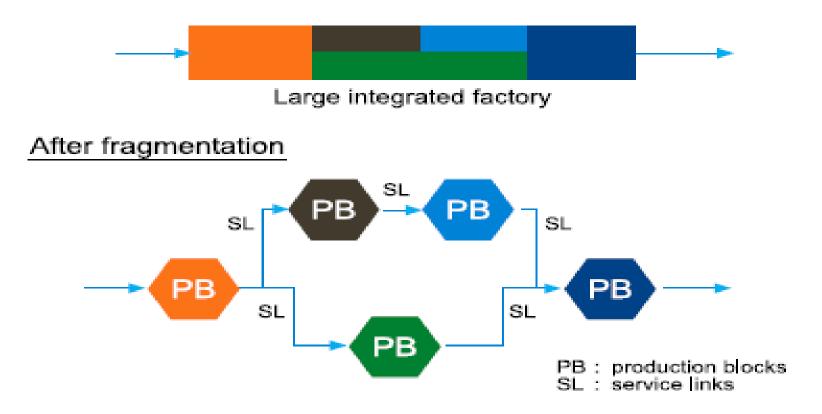
- Importance of transport services
- GATS and transport services
- Transport services in South Asia
- Major barriers to trade and transport servcies
- Challenges
- Recommendations

## Why so important?

- Essential for the physical movement of goods and services
  - Produces tradable services
- Generates large scale employment (labour-intensive)
  - Helps reduce poverty
- Transportation services is very unique in terms of generation of capital as well as labour.
  - In some transportation services sectors such as air transportation, difficult to substitute capital for labour

# Service links drive production network and integration

Before fragmentation



# **Drivers of growth and rationale**

- Trade in transportation services has grown rapidly, primarily driven by its import.
- <u>In a static sense</u>, benefits coming out of transport services have become negative or negligible for developing countries
  - while import of transportation services has been helping India's trade to reach global market, surplus generated in services trade sector is being wiped out by the rise in import of transportation services.
- In a dynamic sense, benefits are large, having strong spill over effects. The expansion of transportation services and the emergence of new type of transportation services have been driven by <u>income-related demand shifts, technological</u> <u>developments, falling costs of communications and the increased</u> presence of MNEs.
- Transportation services trade liberalization is a necessity for the integration of the world economy.

#### **Transport services in GATS**

- Air transport
- Land transport
- Maritime transport
- Services auxiliary to all modes of transport Logistics services

#### Air transport services

- Air transport services are governed by a specific annex of the GATS.
- A first review took place in 2000-2003. The second review is on-going.
- In preparation for the second review, WTO developed the **Quantitative Air Services Agreements Review (QUASAR)** database and methodology to assess, on a universal scale, the degree of liberalization achieved by the air transport sector.
- WTO also produced the **Air Service Agreements Projector (ASAP)**, an analytical tool that allows for the visualisation of elements of the QUASAR database:
  - information on an economy's network of bilateral Air Services Agreements and correlated traffic flows.
- On 16 January 2013, the WTO released an update to its ASAP tool, based on 2011 regulatory and traffic data.

#### Land transport

- Land transport sector covers a wide range of activities which often have little in common.
- Some types of transport are highly capitalintensive (rail transport, pipelines), whereas others require relatively little investment (taxis, trucks, even coaches).
- Some types of transport employ large numbers of neonle (rail transport, for example, taxis, HGVs).



