

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies
Research Seminar

**Institutions and climate adaptation management: The experience from
ports**

by

Prof. Adolf K.Y. Ng
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Date: 7 November 2016 (Monday)

Time: 2:30pm - 3:30pm

Venue: R603, Shirley Chan Building

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

(Conducted in English)

Abstract:

The study investigates the adaptation of climate change impacts by ports from the institutional perspective, examining how institutional structure constrains and facilitates climate adaptation management, as well as how an unprecedented challenge in climate change can affect institutional development. A theoretical framework is developed by matching three major streams of institutionalism (sociological, rational choice and historical) against the major features during the climate adaptation management process. It is then applied to an in-depth case study on the port of Vancouver in Canada. The results indicate that the institutional structure and designation of responsibility for climate change adaptation remain in a state of high institutional plasticity where port stakeholders attempt to preserve self-interests without (first) committing resources. It shows how unprecedented challenges, like climate change, can erode the effectiveness of established institutional systems and seriously constrain the development of effective solutions and commitments from stakeholders through exaggerating uncertain causes and effects, as well as the lack of clear monitoring responsibilities. The study highlights the importance of further research in developing innovative institutional models that can break this impasse, such as a single neutral agency with

coordinating power, perhaps with responsibility to adopt a usage per unit cost model to fund adaptation investments.

Bio:

Adolf K.Y. Ng is Professor of Transportation and Supply Chain Management at the Asper School of Business of the University of Manitoba (Canada) and the Director of the University of Manitoba Transport Institute (UMTI) (Canada). He got DPhil from the University of Oxford (UK) and excels in port management, transport geography, climate change, transport infrastructure planning and management, port-focal logistics, and global supply chains. He has (co-)authored three scholarly books and more than 50 papers in leading scholarly journals, and other forms of publications. He has received numerous prestigious accolades around the world, such as Fulbright Scholar Program (USA), Endeavour Research Fellowship (Australia), Universités Parisiennes Fellowship (France), Rh Award for Outstanding Contributions to Scholarship and Research in Interdisciplinary Studies (Canada), Associates' Achievement Award for Outstanding Business Research (Canada), University of Manitoba Faculty Association Merit Award for Outstanding Research, Scholarly Work and Creative Activities (Canada), Eagle Prize for Outstanding Young Scholar in Maritime Research (International Association of Maritime Economists) (IAME), and several Best Paper Awards by various international transport, logistics, and supply chain conferences. With such expertise, he has provided strategic advice to major intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), European Commission (EC) and the African Development Bank (AFDB). He is an Associate Editor of Maritime Policy & Management and an editorial board member of several reputable transport and logistics journals.

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All are welcome!