

Review
of the thesis of Moldabekova Aisulu Tursynbayevna
“Improving quality of logistics services of dry ports within Eurasian transport corridors (based on the case study Khorgos Gateway)”
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
“6D090900 – Logistics”

Thesis Relevance

Today, special attention is paid to the development of dry ports within the trans-Eurasian land transport corridors between Europe and China. On the one hand, the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) poses new challenges for countries to transform their logistics infrastructure using digital technologies comprehensively. Improving the quality of logistics services within international transport corridors is necessary to serve existing trade flows. It is crucial for landlocked transit countries such as Kazakhstan.

In the Strategy “Kazakhstan-2050: a new political course of the established state,” it was noted that an important direction is the development of transit potential, and it is expected to increase transit traffic through Kazakhstan. To fully use Kazakhstan's transit potential, it is essential to develop a “soft” logistics infrastructure. Therefore, research dry ports within land-based corridors on the “New Silk Road” will remain relevant and highly significant.

Thesis Novelty

The scientific novelty of the dissertation research lies in developing theoretical and methodological approaches to assessing the quality of logistics services of dry ports and identifying ways to improve the quality of logistics services of dry ports in digitalization in the Eurasian transport corridors.

Thesis Structure

The dissertation meets all the requirements for dissertations, consists of a theoretical and methodological part. The analytical part includes the analysis of primary and secondary data. The last part covers practical recommendations for improving the quality of logistics services of dry ports in the Eurasian corridors in digitalization.

The first chapter of the dissertation focuses on studying the theoretical foundations of dry port concept in the formation of land-based transport corridors, exploring methodological approaches for ensuring the quality of logistics services and developing indicators and sub-indicators assessing the quality of logistics services of dry ports.

In the second chapter, the author analyzed the impact of technological and innovative development on the quality of logistics services, the transit and logistics potential of Kazakhstan in the Eurasian transport corridors, evaluated the quality of logistics service the dry port Khorgos Gateway.

In the third chapter, the author developed the main directions for improving the quality of logistics services of dry ports based on digital transformation and

proposed recommendations for the inclusion of dry ports in Kazakhstan in international transport networks alongside improving the logistics services quality.

Thesis Key Findings

The scientific findings include but not limited by: the author's definition of the term “dry port of continental transport corridors”, methodological approaches of assessing the quality of service have been adapted to evaluate the quality of logistics services of dry ports based on the study of quality assurance standards, ICT technologies are classified according to their application in dry port services based on bibliometric network analysis and the study of foreign experience, impact of technological and innovative development on the quality of logistics services is evaluated, the role of dry ports in increasing the transit potential of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the formation and development of Eurasian transport corridors is justified, recommendations for the development of dry ports are developed, and the main ways of improving the quality of logistics services are highlighted based on the assessment of the quality of the logistics service of the dry port “Khorgos Gateway”.

In general, Aisulu Moldabekova conducted comprehensive research and presented a high-quality dissertation work. The dissertation's recommendations can be used in the development of the logistics infrastructure of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the main areas identified according to the results of the research.

Dissertation of Moldabekova A.T. with the title “Improving quality of logistics services of dry ports within Eurasian transport corridors (based on the case study Khorgos Gateway)” can be recommended for public defense for the degree of “Doctor of Philosophy” (PhD) in the specialty “6D090900 – Logistics”.

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