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An evaluation of knowledge management competence for international ports in Taiwan

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計畫參與人員:林曉雯、傅政威、張靜怡、張慈芳、邱鈺旎

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摘要

隨著港埠間競爭日愈激烈,港埠要在競爭激烈的市場中維持生存並創造利潤,港埠單位若能培養知識管理能力,提升對市場與顧客的回應速度、設備與經營效率、決策品質與創新能力,是維持長期競爭優勢的方式之一。本研究目的在探討台灣地區國際港埠(包括高雄港、基隆港、台中港及花蓮港)的知識管理資源、知識管理能力與個人工作績效關聯性之研究,透過訪問暨問卷調查方式,藉由結構方程式模式(Structural Equation Model, SEM)的建立,來分析此三構面彼此間之關係。結果顯示,知識管理資源會對知識管理能力暨個人工作績效有顯著的正向影響關係存在;但知識管理能力對個人工作績效的關係並不顯著,表示在台灣地區國際港埠管理機構中知識基礎建設能力扮演著相當重要的角色。

關鍵字:知識管理、國際港埠、結構方程模式

Abstract

Knowledge management competency is an important dimension for international ports to retain their competitive advantages. This research used structural equation modeling (SEM) to examine the effect of knowledge management competency on performance in international ports, including Kaohsiung port, Keelung port, Taichung port and Hualien port in Taiwan. The results were supposed that knowledge management resource will positively influence knowledge management capability and work performance, Moreover, the result was not sufficiently significant to support meaningful positive relationships between knowledge management capability and work performance. The results will be helpful for the improvement of operational strategies for international port authorities.

Keywords: Knowledge management, International port, Structural equation modeling

壹、前言

經濟合作暨發展組織(OECD)在 1996 年提出了一項「以知識為基礎的經濟」(The knowledge-based economy)的概念,簡稱為「知識經濟」,即「將知識視為一種經濟資源,以知識創造、擴散、與應用為重心的經濟型態,創造知識與應用知識的能力與效率,將超越土地、資本等傳統生產要素之上,成為支持經濟不斷發展的動力來源。」我國政府亦順應時代潮流發展,於民國 89 年 7 月擬定「知識經濟發展方案」,極力推動與發展知識經濟所需的各項基礎建設。Peter Drucker(1999)亦曾在"後資本主義社會"一書中提到:我們正邁入知識型社會,主要的經濟資源已由知識取代了過去的資本、自然資源和勞力等實體資源,知識將是企業優勢的唯一來源。

知識逐漸被大家視為重要的資源,Zack(1999)認為知識是一種策略性資源,知識取得、整合、儲存、分享和應用的能力將成為企業建立競爭優勢的重要能力。亦有其他研究者認為知識管理是為組織創造持久性競爭優勢的來源之一(Lado & Wilson, 1994; Grant, 1996; Johannessen & Olsen, 2003; Chaung, 2004)。由此可見知識管理已被視為是競爭力量的主要來源,當知識逐漸變為企業重要的核心資源時,如何培養知識管理能力以有效地管理知識資源,進而提升知識管理績效,已成為相當重要的議題。

近年來,知識管理議題在當代逐漸受到各方重視,吸引許多國內外的研究者投入知識管理領域的研究,至今亦累積了不少豐碩的研究成果。回顧知識管理能力方面的相關文獻,Gold et al.(2001)從潛能的觀點探討組織基礎建設、知識流程潛能對於組織效能的影響,發現組織基礎建設與知識流程潛能,對組織效能均有正面影響。Lee and Choi(2003)試圖以整合性架構探討知識管理促動因子對知識創造流程和知識管理績效的影響。Chuang(2004)從資源基礎理論的觀點,利用迴歸分析的方法探討知識資源對於競爭優勢之影響,實證結果發現社會性資源會對競爭優勢產生正向影響,而科技資源則會產生負向影響。傅清富(民 91)探討知識管理能力對新產品績效之影響,發現知識管理能力各項指標對新產品績效均產生顯著影響。鄭安裕(民 92)對知識管理能力與知識管理能力各項指標對新產品績效均產生顯著影響。鄭安裕(民 92)對知識管理能力與知識管理績效之關連性進行研究,探討了組織基礎建設對知識流程效率的影響,以及兩者對知識效能的影響,結論發現知識管理能力對知識效能會產生正向影響。歸納上述各研究,可發現主要在探討有助於知識管理推行的要素、知識流程與組織效能等構面之間的影響關係。

就知識管理的研究對象而言,可發現不論國內外的文獻,所進行實証的對象較側重高 科技產業(e.g.. Jih, et al., 2005, Lee, and Chen, 2005)與製造業(e.g.. 譚大純,民 89),少部分則為 金融業與服務業,而以運輸業為研究對象的相關研究較為缺乏,且探討主題多著重於知識 管理對個人層面影響,對組織層面的探討則較為缺乏。然而知識管理應是目前所有產業欲 升級或轉型可採行的理想方法,不應只著重在高科技產業或製造業。

從國際港埠的觀點而言,港埠的競爭已由早期只是鄰近港口的競爭轉為各洲際間的競爭,如國內港埠早期以彼此競爭為目標,如今卻需面對大陸興新港口的競爭,然面對激烈競爭以及市場之成長,早期港埠有關單位在提昇港埠競爭力上均以擴充港埠能量、增添現代化設備等供給面為主軸;而隨著顧客導向抬頭以及航商或貨主對物流之需求,港埠經營

策略已有專向需求導向為主,因此,港埠角色已由傳統轉運角色演變為提供附加價值的物流港,甚至朝所謂自由港發展。而這一連串港埠競爭活動的基礎主要建構在服務質量與設備和經營效率上(林光與張志清,民 90),港埠業者以透過增加投資、策略聯盟、多角化等方式以降低成本進行競爭為主,但卻也造成港埠之間缺乏差異性(Midoro & Pitto, 2000),故彼此間的競爭仍然十分激烈,且以有形資產作為競爭手段易被競爭對手模仿,不易取得持久性的競爭優勢。若港埠管理單位具備培養知識管理能力應能提升對市場與顧客的回應速度、提昇設備與經營效率、決策品質與創新能力,與市場價值(Huang, et al., 2006)等,尤其知識資源不容易被其他企業模仿,因此以知識管理能力所建立的競爭優勢是較能夠長期維持的(Chuang, 2004),故探討我國國際港埠的知識管理能力有其必要性存在。

從亞太區域國際港埠的角度來看,高雄港在亞太其他五大港埠(新加坡、香港、東京、上海、馬尼拉)間的航行平均時間最短,約53小時;世界貨櫃裝卸量的排名雖有下滑的趨勢,但現仍為世界第六大貨櫃裝卸港口,在世界港口中,依然扮演著重要的角色。特別在今天高雄港還需面對上海洋山港啟用的潛在威脅及台北港貨櫃儲運中心貨櫃碼頭完工使用。近來為了提升高雄港埠的競爭力,已有許多學者針對高雄港埠效率來做研究(如葉立婷,民 94);包括申請人也在 貴會的支助下針對高雄港貨櫃碼頭間的策略聯盟來研究,採用AHP的方法,結果證明碼頭間的策略聯盟能提高效率(桑國忠與呂錦山,2004)。但或許如資源基礎的觀點的主要論述(Barney, 1991; Barney et al., 2001; Wernerfelt, 1984),認為公司異質的資源與能力是有價值的、稀少的、不易被模仿等特點,所以是企業持久性競爭優勢的來源 (Lynch, 2000; Hoskisson et al., 1999; Oliver, 1997; Autry et al., 2005)。而知識管理能力正具有這些特質。

同樣的,我國的基隆港、台中港及花蓮港較高雄港更早面臨競爭的壓力,特別是台北港興起後,對基隆港的營運更是雪上加霜,如何利用知識管理的能力來提升其競爭力,更為重要。

為了填補在學術上與實務上之缺口,因此引發了本研究之動機。本研究擬從資源基礎理論之觀點,探討知識管理資源之內容為何?其如何影響組織的知識管理能力?以及知識管理資源、知識管理潛能與知識管理績效之間的關連性,以提供有關當局作為改善績效的參考。

貳、 文獻回顧與假設

2.1 知識管理的相關探討

對企業組織而言,知識管理用最簡單的陳述就是管理組織的知識,故先針對管理的主體—知識進行了解是必要的,本研究回顧過去知識管理領域的文獻,以對組織中的知識建立初步的了解,然而各領域對於知識的定義也許不盡相同,以層級的觀點來看,知識管理涵蓋的範圍包括資料、資訊和知識等實體,而許多研究指出知識與資訊、資料是不同的

(Davenport and Prusak, 1998; Nonaka and Takeuchi, 1994)。根據 Davenport and Prusak(1998) 對這三者的分類,資料是指對事件審慎、客觀的記錄,為組織知識最原始的材料;資訊是 將所得的資料,透過意義化、分類、計算、修正、濃縮等方式賦予資料價值,進而轉變成 資訊;知識則是透過人透過比較、找尋關聯性或交談的方式將資訊轉化成知識。

知識的分類方式至目前仍沒有一致的看法,各研究因領域的不同也從不同的角度對知識進行,最常見的分類方式是將知識分為外顯知識和內隱知識 Polanyi(1967),Nonaka et al.(1995)將其概念運用到知識創造。此種分類方式將知識分成兩種:內隱知識與外顯知識,內隱知識是指內含於個人與特定情境有關的主觀經驗、思考模式、信仰、認知等,無法用文字或語言傳達給其他人,必須經由觀察等方式間接學習,為一種高度個人化與難以正式化的知識,因此較不容易進行知識的傳遞與分享;外顯知識則是可以用制度、文件或其他方式紀錄與表達的知識,如工作手冊、書籍、電腦資料庫,只要其他人取得紀錄知識的媒介,便可藉由此學習到該知識,因此,外顯知識較有助於知識的分享與應用。Zack(1999)進一步指出鑲崁在組織日常規範和由經驗而得的隱性知識是最具獨特性,也是最難以被競爭對手模仿。

Badaracco(1991)將知識的型態依照是否可以移動區分為兩種知識型態:嵌入組織的知識與可移動的知識。前者包括存在設計中的知識、存在機器中的知識與存在腦海中的知識;後者包括了專家技能、工作團隊知識、廠商知識、外部機構知識、企業集團知識、以及因為地緣關係所產生的相關知識等。

Leonard-Barton(1995)提出的分類方式與 Badaracco(1991)頗為類似,其依照知識的擁有者,將知識分成兩類:

- 員工的個人知識(employee knowledge): 意指員工自己的知識,包含技能、經驗、習慣、直覺、價值觀等員工可以帶走的知識。
- 內含於組織實體系統的知識 (knowledge embedded in physical system):組織實體系統的知識是內含於企業的作業流程、資訊系統、組織文化、與團隊協調合作,是屬於員工帶不走的知識。

Quinn et al. (1996) 認為依照組織中的專業工作者之智力可以將知識分為下面四個等級:

- 認知的知識:指對於某專業領域的基本概念,可透過密集的訓練獲得。
- 進階的技術:指將某專業領域的知識有效地轉化為實際運用,也就是將概念運用到複雜的現實世界的能力。
- 系統性理解:了解某專業領域的因果關係網絡的深入知識,可協助專業工作者執行更大且更複雜的問題解決。
- 自發性創造力:這是由對於成功的意志、動機與適應性所組成,缺乏自發性創造力會對自己的狀態自滿而失去他們的知識優勢。

前三個層次存在於組織的系統、資料庫或技術之中,而第四個層次則較常出現在文化 之中。大部分的企業將訓練的焦點放在發展前三個層次的基礎技巧,只有極少數是將焦點 放在創造的技巧。

2.2 知識管理資源與能力之探討

實行知識管理的成功及失敗因素的關鍵,在於是否了解和衡量讓組織對於知識管理的努力能夠付諸實現的先決條件(Gold et al., 2001)。這些先決條件在組織行為的文獻中可廣義地描述為資源(resource)和潛能(capability)(Leonard, 1995; Law et al.,1998),本研究將知識管理視為是一種能力(competence),而根據資源基礎理論,能力正是由資源與潛能不斷相互影響而得,故本節旨在探討知識管理能力是由哪些資源與潛能所構成。

回顧知識管理能力方面的相關文獻,Gold et al.(2001)從潛能的觀點探討組織基礎建設、知識流程潛能對於組織效能的影響,其研究認為組織基礎建設係由資訊技術、組織結構與文化所構成;知識流程潛能包括知識獲取、知識轉化、知識應用、知識保護等活動。 Lee et al.(2003)試圖以整合性架構探討知識管理促動因子對知識創造流程和知識管理績效的影響,其認為知識管理促動因子包括資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化與人員所構成。 Chuang(2004)從資源基礎理論的觀點,利用迴歸分析的方法探討知識管理能力對於競爭優勢之影響,實證結果發現社會性資源會對競爭優勢產生正向影響,而技術資源則會產生負向影響,其所指的社會性資源包括組織結構、文化、人員,技術資源即資訊科技的實體設施與潛能。

劉常勇(民 89)探討知識管理能力對新產品績效之影響,發現知識管理能力各項指標對新產品績效均產生顯著影響。其研究將知識管理能力定義為組織的知識管理流程在組織環境中所表現出來的效能和效率,組織的知識管理能力會受到組織本身的知識流程的效率以及與組織環境的互動的影響,故知識管理能力包括知識管理流程的效率,以及組織環境對知識管理的支援能力,前者包括合適的激勵機制、組織溝通與團隊運作的效率、對知識友善且利於創新的組織文化、IT 技術的有效應用、人力資本的維持;後者則包括知識獲取能力的水準、知識流通機制的效率、知識創新能力的水準、知識存量的質與量水準、對知識保護的重視程度、應用知識的能力。

鄭安裕(民92)對知識管理能力與知識管理績效之關連性進行研究,探討了組織基礎建設 對知識管理程序的影響,以及兩者對知識效能的影響。其研究認為組織基礎建設包括資訊 技術、文化與組織結構;知識管理程序則包括知識獲取、知識轉化、知識運用等構面。

綜合以上回顧之文獻,可發現知識管理能力深受知識管理資源與知識管理流程效率的影響。本研究採取Pan and Scarbrough(1998)所提出的社會性一技術性觀點,將這些資源區分為技術性資源與社會性資源,前者主要是指資訊科技的運用,後者則包括組織文化和組織結構;知識管理潛能則是能夠以正確而有效率的方式將資料轉化成知識,以及執行知識管理流程的活動。能否善用知識管理資源,發揮知識管理之潛能,對於知識管理能力之建立有重大的影響,接下來將進一步探討知識管理資源與知識管理程序的內涵。

一、知識管理資源

(一) 資訊科技

資訊科技係指組織所擁有的實體資訊通訊科技設備、資料庫及其潛能,是組織溝通與 行動的潛在基礎Chuang(2004)。透過資訊和通訊系統的連結,可以將組織原本散佈的資訊 流與知識流加以整合,這些連結也可以消除組織內部門之間的溝通藩籬(Teece, 1998)。由於科技是多方面的,因此組織必須針對能夠支援各種不同知識和溝通類型的基礎設施進行必要的投資,科技構面是確保有效實行知識管理的一部分,包括企業智慧、協同作業、知識發掘、知識地圖等工具(Gold et al., 2001)。

Zack (1999) 認為資訊科技在知識管理中扮演了四種角色:獲取知識、定義、儲存、分類、索引與連結知識相關的數位物件、尋求與認同相關內容、以及讓內容有彈性的針對不同使用背景而表現出來。因此,公司建構資訊科技主要運用在兩大部分:整合應用以及互動應用;在整合應用的部分主要在於資料庫的使用,透過資料庫的存取來將符碼化知識整合並再運用,互動應用則主要在於連結人與人的互動,透過資訊科技來傳遞分享符碼化知識。

Ruggles (1998) 發現大部分的公司進行知識管理之初,主要施行重點在於四類資訊科技的建構: 建構企業內部網路 (intranet)、儲存數據 (data warehousing) /建構知識資料庫 (knowledge repositories)、提供決策支援工具 (decision-support tools)、以及提供群體軟體來支援共同運作。而Ruggles 認為公司應該再做到建立內部專家來源地圖、建構知識工作者網絡。

Hendriks (1999) 認為資訊通訊科技對知識管理分享動機有直接與間接的影響,由於資訊通訊科技可以發揮除去障礙、提供資訊取得管道、改進流程、確認知識擁有者與尋找者的位置等四項功能,因此,資訊通訊科技可以是唯一像保健因子,沒有資訊通訊科技將會阻礙知識的分享。但是,資訊通訊科技設備並非直接激勵知識分享的因素,因為資訊通訊科技與知識分享的作用還受到另三種因素的影響:

- 個人對資訊通訊科技的評價與影響的動機不同,因此,資訊通訊科技設施對個人知識 分享行為的影響亦不相同。
- 與知識分享有關的變數非常廣泛,包括組織內部知識分享的文化、對錯誤的容忍度以及人際間的信任等。
- 資訊分享不是一個獨立的過程,根據知識分享的理由,知識分享的過程可以有不同的 形式。

Duffy(2000)認為知識管理的IT 基礎架構必須具備以下功能:(1) 知識的取得、(2) 定義、儲存、分類、索引、以及不同知識的連結、(3) 相關內容的搜尋、(4) 具備足夠的彈性,如此才能使得組織現有知識可以在不同的情境背景下得到充分應用。

資訊技術包括實體的資訊科技設備、資料庫和能夠有效發揮這些設備效能的潛能。資訊技術能夠讓員工更有效率地使用編碼後的顯性知識,並有助於彼此的溝通提升創造新知識的機會,協助組織創造、分享、儲存、使用知識(Chuang, 2004)。因此,資訊技術的建置有助於提升知識管理流程的效率,故要推行知識管理,公司必須要充分應用現行的IT 技術,建立一個能有效增加知識管理效率的科技基礎架構。這個架構必須要有一個對所有員工來說都是易於使用的操作介面,而且在功能上必須要能充分支援公司的工作流程。

雖然資訊科技能夠讓知識管理流程的運作變的更有效率,但資訊科技並不是培養知識 管理能力的主要目的,而且資訊科技的建置需花費鉅額的資金,又較容易被競爭對手模仿, 因此,必須了解資訊科技扮演的角色,避免陷入盲目投資的陷阱,策略性地選用適合的資 訊科技技術。

(二) 組織文化

影響組織是否能順利推行知識管理最大的因素就是組織文化了,塑造文化是組織是否能夠有效地管理知識的重要能力之一(Davenport et al., 1998; Gold et al., 2001; Holsapple and Joshi, 2001)。個人之間的互動是創新的基礎,透過對話常常能夠激發出新的想法,所以可以視為創造新知識的潛在來源之一,而這種方式對於轉換隱性知識,或將隱性知識轉換成顯性知識特別有用。然而,推行知識管理最常碰到的問題就是員工不願意和他人分享知識,不願採用他人想法甚至拒絕與別人合作,因此組織若缺少一個願意分享和嘗試創新的文化,知識管理是不可能成功地推行。

Greengard (1998)認為要重新塑造一個對知識友善的文化,公司必須先讓員工充分瞭解知識管理價值的所在,並建立合適的績效評核制度提供誘因,讓員工樂於和他人分享及創造知識。Ellis(2001) 也提出四個塑造利於知識分享的組織文化的原則:(1) 讓員工認為知識分享是有價值的、(2)建構一個利於互動的環境、增進員工彼此間的互動機會、(3) 利用隱喻及說故事的方式有效傳遞訊息、(4)讓知識分享的觀念根植於組織之中,而不用再刻意推行。

文化中有個重要的組成要素就是公司的願景,透過明確的公司願景可以讓組織的所有成員能夠了解未來的方向,也將組織價值的系統具體化,讓組織的成員產生參與感與貢獻。在願景中明確地陳述公司對於知識管理的重視,宣揚知識與信任對於公司的重要性,並持續地向所有組織成員溝通,有助於推廣知識管理,Davenport et al.(1998)認為高階主管的支持在宣揚願景的部分扮演重要的角色。

(三) 組織結構

組織結構包括組織內部針對工作建立的規章、政策、流程、層級報告關係、獎酬系統與部門疆界(Gold et al., 2001)。過去有許多文獻指出組織結構能幫助亦能阻礙知識管理流程的效率(Hedlund, 1994; Leonard-Barton, 1995; Nonaka et al., 1995; Lee and Choi, 2003)。組織結構對於是否能夠讓科技更順利地發揮應有的功能亦有相當的重要性。有時候組織結構的目的是想要每個部門發揮最大的效益,但有時候反而會出現反效果,使知識要跨越部門進行分享或交流產生障礙,僵化正式的結構將造成部門間或個體間不會主動傳遞高價值的知識而遲滯知識流通速度。因此在組織的設計上應盡量縮減組織層級並破除部門的藩籬,以促進組織成員之間個溝通與協同合作。

組織的獎酬系統與誘因對於知識的分享與創造也會產生影響,組織應提供誘因讓員工願意將時間用於獲得新知識(例如:學習進修等)、分享知識。組織的獎勵制度能夠決定知識「獲得途徑」及「如何流動」,並建構了鼓勵員工追求、創造與分享知識的合作環境(Leonard-Barton,1995)。所以,就組織的角度而言,應該建構激勵機制彌補正式結構的不足

處,以激發知識工作者,願意創造新知識、學習、分享他們的知識與協助其它部門的成員 (O'Dell and Grayson,1998)。

本研究認為有助於知識管理流程發揮潛能的組織結構應能夠幫助組織成員進行溝通、協同合作、容易取得必要的知識,並提供適切的獎勵制度與績效評估準則,鼓勵員工進行知識創造與分享的行為。

二、知識管理流程

現行管理典範係針對有形資源管理,而對具無形本質的知識尚難以規範管理,促成各領域投入新興的研究議題,理論與實務現仍持續發展中,許多研究從程序觀點提出關鍵性構面 (Leonard-Barton, 1995; Nonaka and Takeuchi, 1995; Teece, 1998; Zack, 1999, Henley, 2000; Gold et al, 2001; Arthur 2000)。然而,本研究認為Gold et al.(2001)所提出的知識管理流程能夠涵蓋大部分學者所提出的知識管理活動,而且較為簡潔扼要,故根據其所提出的知識管理流程,作為本研究知識管理流程的分類方式,分別為:知識獲取活動(外部知識的選擇、取得、學習,與內部的知識創造)、知識轉換活動(精鍊、建構、整合、組織、儲存)、知識應用活動(分享、使用、試驗)與知識保護活動。各知識管理活動的內容說明如下:

(一) 知識獲取

組織的知識本身並不會憑空出現,知識獲取的主要目的即在於取得知識,累積組織的知識存量。知識獲取流程主要有兩個觀點:創新與改善,前者是利用現有的知識用以創造新知識;後者則是改善現有知識的運用與更有效地取得新知識,例如:標竿管理與協同作業(Gold et al., 2001)。

關於外部知識取得的文獻部份, Leoarned-Barton(1995)將外部知識之來源分為七種:(1)顧問公司、(2)顧客、(3)國家實驗室、(4)供應商、(5)大學、(6)其它競爭性公司和(7)其它非競爭性公司。Teece(1997)認為知識吸收對公司創新能耐的培養是很重要的,能否有效地利用外界的知識與公司原有的技術基礎有關,組織先前累積知識的基礎會影響新知識所能發揮的效用。

內部的知識創造部份, Nonaka and Takeuchi(1995)將知識創造區分為四個轉換模式:

- 從內隱到內隱(共同化):組織成員間內隱知識的移轉,但為轉化成組織中有系統的 外顯知識,而對組織的貢獻較小。
- 從外顯到外顯(連結化):組織中的成員可以藉由結合不同來源的外顯知識而成一種新的外顯知識。
- 從外顯到內隱(內化):當外顯知識組織內廣為流傳之後,個別的成員可能將知識消化吸收,使之成為內隱知識。
- 從內隱到外顯(外化):將員工的內隱知識轉換成對組織有用的外顯知識。組織知識的創造稱為知識的螺旋,如圖所示,由個人層次開始,逐漸上升,並擴大互動範圍, 從個人到團體、組織、最後至組織外。

以上四種知識轉換方式將不斷互動,共同化與企業文化有關、連結化 與資訊處理有關、內化與組織學習有關。而外化則需透過三個過程:隱喻(Metaphors)、類推(Analogy)、原型(Prototype)來完成。

本研究認為知識獲得,係指企業依據需求、搜尋與選擇適當知識來源,加以學習、吸收,或由組織內部自行創造新知獲得外部、內部知識的過程。就實務上而言: (1)外部獲得:可利用標竿管理或協同合作的方式向外搜尋有用的知識,透過本身學習與吸收能力取得新知識。(2)內部創造:應塑造有利於員工溝通互動的環境,促使員工將其內隱知識轉化為對組織有用的外顯知識。

(二) 知識轉化

知識轉換流程主要目的在於讓現有的知識變得有用,知識轉換的能力是指公司能夠組織、整合、結合、結構化、協調與分配的能力(Gold et al., 2001)。

組織必須發展能夠將知識組織化或結構化的架構,否則缺乏共同的表現方式,就無法進行知識的交流,將會阻礙知識資產的有效管理(Davenport and Klahr, 1998; O'Dell and Grayson,1998)。建構知識時,應先依知識之特性予以妥適分類,以方便後續之知識儲存。而知識的分類方法有多種,可依據內隱-外顯程度分類;可依據實體-抽象度分類;可根據知識的深度、廣度與難度來分類;可根據知識在組織中隸屬之不同層級來分類;可根據其可成文化-不可成文化之程度來區分。知識應以何種方式進行建構,應考量組織與知識本身之搭配。包括組織之經營策略,組織人員之素質、組織的作業流程,以及組織本身(目前)的技術水準。任何組織擁有之資訊在儲存成為組織記憶之前,常被成員將這些資訊以某種型態轉化成易於儲存的狀態,例如工廠將繁複之作業程序予以手冊化,或將創辦人的理念整理成文獻,這便是知識的建構。經過建構之知識,不論是可與不可文字化的內容,均能便利傳授者和被傳授者。

(三) 知識應用

知識應用流程主要是以實際使用知識為目的,這也是知識管理最主要的目的,知識應用流程的特性在文獻中的討論包括知識的儲存、更新、應用、貢獻和分享等。

企業在營運上常會遇到若干相似的問題,若每次都要重新尋求解決之知識,重複性的工作將造成組織不必要的浪費,因此,組織將知識重新組織、整合之後,必須將這些結構化的知識融入到組織中,使得組織外引或內創之知識形成「組織記憶」,以方便組織內的成員能夠參考與應用,以節省其他成員遇到相似的問題,需要同類知識時的時間與成本,並方便日後知識的修正,因此,知識的有效應用能夠幫助企業增進效率和降低成本(Davenport and Klahr, 1998)。

從實務面而言,儲存知識的方式可分為兩大類型,即(1)以資料庫來儲存知識;(2)以教育訓練的方式來深入知識於員工腦海之中。其中前者儘管多數和資訊科技,網路有關,但亦有非屬此類,而以傳統文件化為切入點者;而後者則主要討論如何以人際間流傳為主。而知識分享最有效的方法是透過資訊科技的方式來傳遞知識,然而,如何創造一個利於知識分享的環境,才是讓知識發揮最大價值的關鍵。這主要是因為外顯知識雖能透過資訊科

技共享,但在內隱知識的分享上,主要卻還是要透過人際網絡才能有效分享。因此擁有最 先進的資訊科技,並不能確保知識分享的效率提升。資訊科技並不能改變人們對知識共享 的價值觀,這也是目前的一大障礙。因此對組織來說,如何透過激勵制度、價值共享等方 式去建立員工知識分享的價值觀,將是促進組織內部知識擴散效率的最重要課題。

(四) 知識保護

以保全為導向的知識管理活動係指設計來保護為了產生與維持競爭優勢。(Gold et al., 2001)知識保護對知識型企業來說是非常重要的,因為這能保障知識創造者的權益,鼓勵他們繼續從事知識的創造,避免組織內部的知識被非法、不當使用或竊取,保護組織的知識是必要且有益的。許多公司透過專利權、商標權、著作權等法律上的方式保護公司的知識資產,但不是所有的知識都能夠被財產法與財產權的定義涵蓋在內,例如:公司內部的資訊系統,此部分在實務上多以檔名、使用者名稱以及密碼等方式保護資料庫中的知識,只有被授權的使用者才能取得或使用這些知識,許多公司還會和員工簽訂許多和機密資訊有關的契約,如一般最常見的競業禁止約定。雖然知識的保護並不容易,但有其重要性,不可以輕易忽視。

本研究將知識管理視為一種能力,係由知識管理資源和知識管理潛能所構成,稱之為知識管理能力,其定義如下:知識管理能力定義為:「能夠系統性地協調與整合組織中的知識管理資源,培養知識管理潛能,以適切而有效率的方式管理知識的能力。」

知識管理資源係指能夠創造有利於推動知識管理的重要資源與潛能,包括資訊科技、組織文化、組織結構和人員;知識管理潛能則是指能夠有效率地將資料轉化成知識,並進行知識獲取、知識轉化、知識應用與知識保護等知識管理活動。

經由對知識管理資源與知識管理流程的探討,我們可以發現要發揮知識管理潛能,必 須要有適配的知識管理資源作為輔助,而本研究認為主要的知識管理資源包括資訊技術、 組織結構、組織文化和人員。經由之前各別項目的討論,可發現適配的知識管理資源對於 知識管理潛能的發揮有很大的幫助,例如:資訊科技技術、彈性的組織結構有助於組織成 員進行溝通,輔以知識導向文化、激勵機制能夠促使員工進行知識創造、分享等活動,因 此本研究認為知識管理資源會對知識管理潛能產生影響,因此提出第一項假設:

H1: 適配的知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化)對於知識管理潛能(知識獲得、轉換、應用、保護)有正向影響。

2.3 工作績效

由於本研究是以港務局為研究對象,除了營利目標外,其中也扮演了部份非營利目標, 再加上只有四個港務局,因此一般的財務績效或組織績效並無法完全適合的本研究,故擬 從個人工作績效著手作為本研究的績效指標。

績效是指對於特定目標達成程度的一種衡量指標,而工作績效是指員工在某特定期間內,執行工作時所達成結果的紀錄。所以,工作績效乃指部屬或群體達成目標的效益項目,

如生產力、營收成長率、利率成長率、提昇服務品質、降低成本、及客戶滿意度等(Kane, 1986)。Campbell(1990)認為工作績效是個人作為一個組織成員,而完成組織所期望、規定或正式化的角色需求時所表現的行為。Borman and Motowidlo(1993)將工作績效定義為:所有與組織目標有關的行為,且此行為可依據個人對於組織目標貢獻度的高低予以測量。

Katz and Kahn(1978)將工作績效區分為角色內行為(In-Role Behavior)與角色外行為(Extra-Role Behavior)兩種類型。

- (1) 角色內行為:一般指正式的或體制內所規範的行為,組織通常會設定一部分行為或工作的標準,然後據此標準進行績效評估,因此角色內行為常直接影響到員工的工作報酬或是前程發展。
- (2) 角色外行為:所涵蓋的範圍比較寬廣,可以視為一種員工自由心證的行為或表現,不直接支持組織的技術核心,比較支持組織的社會面與心理層面的情境。角色外行為的概念較類似組織公民行為(organizational citizenship behaviors)或社會贊同行為(prosocial behaviors)。

Campbell(1990)認為工作績效是員工在工作中的表現,且將工作績效區分為效率、生產力和效用三種。

- (1)效率:為用來評估其員工工作的表現結果。
- (2) 生產力:為用來計算達到一定程度的效率所需要的成本。
- (3) 效用:為表效率及生產力的價值。

Borman and Motowidlo(1993)依據Campbell(1990)之研究架構,提出工作績效分為任務績效(task performance)及情境績效(contextual performance)二種。

- (1)任務績效:為一種個人工作上的結果,而此結果直接關係到工作者完成組織所指定任 務的程度,其判斷準則在於是否合乎正式角色的要求,因此,任務績效之概念類似角 色內行為,直接影響組織的技術核心效能。
- (2)情境績效:自願執行非正式規定的活動、堅持完成任務的熱誠、與別人合作並幫助別人、犧牲小我以遵從組織規則與程序,以及贊同、支持與防衛組織目標的相關行為,因此,情境績效並不直接支持組織的技術核心效能,相對地比較支持一般性組織的、社會的及心理的環境,而此環境則是技術核心運作的背景,有賴於員工自由心證式的表現,組織無法強制要求。

由於組織內的員工,常常被要求扮演不同的角色,而且角色之間的界線十分模糊(Katz and Kahn, 1978),若欲達到公平公正的績效衡量結果,則應以全方位的面向進行探討。任務績效為個人工作上的結果,此結果關係到是否達到組織所期望或指定的任務,因此,任務績效類似角色內行為,其可以用來評估個人對組織直接的貢獻;而情境績效所涵蓋的範圍較廣,用以支持一般性組織的、社會的與心理的環境,而此環境則是任務績效得以運作的背景,因此可視為角色外行為,其行為表現對於組織績效的加強,可能更具有影響效果

(Waldman, 1994; Moorman and Blakely, 1995) •

任務績效以及情境績效為兩個獨立的構面,可以用來評估全面性的工作績效,並已受到許多研究廣泛的支持(Moorman and Wells, 2003; Conway, 1999; McManus and Kelly, 1999)。因此,本研究採用Borman and Motowidlo(1993)的分類模式,將工作績效區分為「任務績效」與「情境績效」作為評估員工工作績效的構面

若企業採用「結合激勵機制的彈性組織結構」,並依據需求籌建資訊技術,更快、更 精確完成任務,建立知識導向文化透過價值觀、規範、慣例等三個途徑影響個人行為,進 而影響知識創造、分享與運用,使得企業能藉由掌握、運用豐沛的知識,以提昇個人工作 效能。依此提出第二項假設:

H2:知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化)對於工作績效具正向影響。

知識管理能力,意指以有正確而有效率的方式執行知識管理流程中的活動,組織若能持續獲取知識,並加以轉化為組織可用的知識資產,並有效地加以應用,深植於組織的經營活動中。若能發揮知識管理潛能,應能提升個人、組織的學習能力,以持續創造新知識,並讓員工在知識分享與應用的過程中激發創意,對公司的服務或內部的作業流程提出創新或改善性的建議。因此提出第三項假設:

H3:知識管理能力(知識獲得、轉換、應用、保護)對工作績效具正向影響。

本研究根據先前研究目的與所回顧相關文獻,來建立概念性的架構圖(如圖 1)。提出知識管理資源、能力及績效的構面,並探究其彼此間的關係。

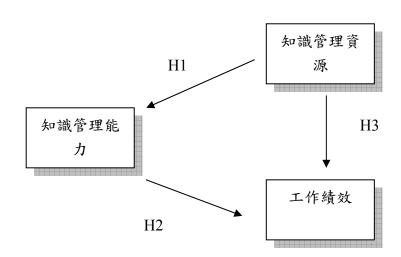


圖 1 本研究概念性架構圖

參、研究方法

3.1 分析方法與流程

本研究在方法上主要利用結構方程模式來驗證知識管理資源、知識管理能力及工作績效之影響關係,一個完整的研究模式,其理論驗證必須同時通過測量模式與結構模式分析兩個階段,因此,本研究在分析流程上(如圖 2)將其分述如下:

- (1)研究衡量變項之研擬:主要係依據資源基礎的觀點,透過相關企業能力的文獻回顧 及實務界專家訪談,對本研究問卷進行研擬發展。
- (2)驗證性分析:在進行結構方程模式分析前,一般建議先利用驗證性因素分析檢定測量模式是否合適,除須檢定整體模式之適合度外,亦針對模式之獨一性 (Unidimensionality)、收斂效度 (Convergent validity)、鑑別效度 (Discriminant validity)、及信度 (Reliability)等進行檢定,待模式合適後,再進行結構方程模式之假設驗證。其中在整體模式方面可利用卡方值、p值、 χ 2/df、CFI(Comparative Fit Index)、TLI (Tucker-Lewis Index)與RMSEA(Root Mean Square of Approximation)等指標來判斷整體模式之優劣 (Byrne 2001; Arbuckle, 1997; Garver and Mentzer, 1999; Koufteros, 1999; Hu and Bentler, 1999; Baumgartner and Homburg, 1996; Hair et al., 1998);獨一性與收斂效度則是透過因素負荷之顯著性來檢驗;鑑別效度則可利用比較限定模式(Constrained)與非限定模式(Unconstrained)之卡方差異性檢定(χ 2 different test)來檢驗 (Anderson. and Gerbing, 1988);而信度則是採用 Cronbach's alpha 係數值來檢定 (Garver and Mentzer, 1999)。
- (3)結構模式驗證:待測量模式經過驗證合適後,最後即是進行結構模式與假設驗證, 有關整體結構模式適合度之檢定,可利用卡方值、p值、χ2/df、CFI、TLI與RMSEA等指標來判斷整體模式之優劣;假設驗證則根據t值與p值來驗證路徑係數是否顯著。

3.2 問卷設計

本研究分析資料的取得,是以問卷調查方式來進行。知識管理資源指標及知識管理能力問項的來源,主要是依據過去學者的研究 (Gold et al., 2001; Lee and Choi, 2003; 譚大純, 民 89) 所發展的問卷為主,並加以修正適合港務局的實際情況而成。而問項是採用李克特七點尺度,由「非常不同意」到「非常同意」分別給予 1 分到 7 分的分數。

本研究另外的工作績效指標問項也是依據過去學者的研究 (Motowidlo and Van Scotter, 1994; Moorman and Wells, 2003; Befort and Hattrup, 2003; 余德成, 民85) 而來,並加以修正 適合港務局的實際情況而成,問項同樣採用李克特七點尺度法,由「非常不同意」到「非常同意」分別給予1分到7分。

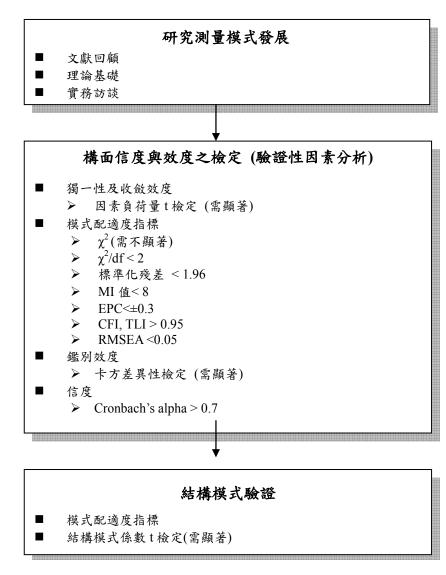


圖 2 分析流程圖

3.3 抽樣對象與樣本回收

Χ

本研究主要針對台灣四個港務局的員工,主要以聯絡人來發放,高雄港共發 120 份,基隆港 100 份,台中港 100 份,花蓮港 50 份,四大港務局共發放 370 份。二週後,請聯絡人回收,高雄港共回收 104 份、基隆港回收 67 份,台中港回收 94 份,花蓮港回收 19 份,四個港務局共回數 284 份。回收率約 76.8%

3.4 回收樣本與基本資料分析

受測者基本資料如表 1 所示,約有近六成三為男性,四成六大於 50 歲,年資二十年以上的佔五成三,表示填答者有足夠的年資以了解港務局知識管理相關問項,更增強本研究的可信度。受測者的職稱以二級主管為最多,佔三成九。職等以高員級為最多,約佔五成五。

表 1 受測者的背景資料

		化 1 文例有的对象员们	
百分比	頻率		填答者的特性
36.6	104	高雄港務局	港務局
23.6	67	基隆港務局	
33.1	94	台中港務局	
6.7	19	花蓮港務局	
35.9	102	女	性別
63.4	180	男	
0.4	1	25 歲 (含) 以下	年龄
2.5	7	26~30 歲	
3.9	11	31~35 歲	
6.3	18	36~40 歲	
19.4	55	41~45 歲	
21.5	61	46~50 歲	
45.8	130	51 歲以上	
9.9	28	5年之內	年資
5.6	16	6~10 年	
7.7	22	11~15 年	
22.9	65	15~20 年	
52.8	150	20 年以上	
0.4	1	局長/副局長	職稱
0.7	2	港務長/主任秘書/總工程師	
0.7	2	組長/處長(一級主管)	
16.5	47	課長/主任/科長(二級主管)	
37.0	105	課員	
38.7	110	其他	
3.2	9	副長級以上	職等
52.1	148	高員級	
15.5	44	員級	
8.8	25	佐級	
14.4	41	士級	
9.5	27	港務組	工作部門
8.5	24	航政組	
15.8	45	業務組	
20.8	59	棧埠管理處	
0.4	1	港埠工程處	
6.0	17	人事室	
12.0	34	秘書室	
1.4	4	資訊室	
2.8	8	研發組	
0.4	1	員工訓練組	
18.3	52	其他	

肆、研究結果

本研究以圖 3 流程圖之步驟,來完成知識管理資源、知識管理知識與工作績效關係之 驗證:

5.1 認定各別因素構面:驗證式因素分析

本研究針對知識管理資源、知識管理知識及工作績效等三個構面,以先以驗證式因素 分析法,來衡量此三個構面的信度與效度,並進行適當的修正,以符合相關的指標。最後 再針對各因素加總,以成為新的因素。

一、知識管理資源構面:

依據文獻整理知識管理資源構面包括了三個因素,分別是知識管理文化、組織結構及資訊科技的支援。本階段首先以驗證性因素分析法來檢測文獻中的三個因素所組成的測量模式之信度與效度。模式鑑定(Identification)結果滿足最小需求(Chi-square = 90.39; df = 51, p=0.001),且因為(1)三種的適合度(Goodness-of-fit indexes)檢驗指標(CFI=0.97>0.95; the Tucker-Lewis index, TLI=0.97>0.95; the root mean square error of approximation, RMSEA=0.05<0.08)均達到最小標準;(2)沒有任何一對的標準殘差值(Standardised residual values)大於 ± 1.96 ;(3)沒有任何特別大的修正指標值(Modification indices,MI)需要修正;(4)所有的期望參數的改變值(Expected parameter change,EPC)均小於 ± 0.3 ;及(5)所有變數檢定的 t 值是顯著的(t-values $>\pm 1.96$),因此可推論本測量模式滿足獨一性與收斂效度(Byrne 2001; Arbuckle,1997; Garver and Mentzer,1999; Koufteros,1999; Hu and Bentler,1999;Baumgartner and Homburg,1996; Hair et al.,1998)。

本研究採用比較限定模式與非限定模式之卡方差異性檢定,來判別鑑別效度,結果顯示所有比較模式均達到統計上的顯著(p<0.05),表示鑑別效度存在(Anderson. and Gerbing, 1988)。

信度可經由檢測 Cronbach's alpha (α) 係數值來達成,本研究所有研究構面的 Cronbach's alpha 值均大於 0.7 (參見表 2),證明本測量模式的各構面具有信度 (Garver and Mentzer, 1999)。

表 2 知識管理資源統計分析表

題號	變數與題項	平均	標準	因素負荷
		數	差	量
	T1 組織文化 (α=0.79)			
A3	我認為本局員工願意互相合作、支援以解決問題.	3.78	0.74	0.767
A4	我認為本局鼓勵員工去參加外部的進修活動以學習新知	3.95	0.78	0.662
A5	我認為本局員工都是值得信賴的	3.57	0.78	0.705
A6	我認為本局員工的行為會以本局的整體利益為優先	3.60	0.85	0.678
	T2 組織結構 (α=0.84)			
A10	我認為本局大部分的員工對於新的方法採取較開放的態	3.30	0.81	0.724
	度,會願意改變舊有的做事方法			
A14	我認為本局的組織結構有助於新知識的創造與分享	3.55	0.79	0.709
A15	我認為本局的員工可以很容易地取得他們所需要的知識,不	3.39	0.75	0.694
	會受到組織層級或部門的限制			
A17	我認為本局有將員工知識創造與分享的質與量納入績效評	3.30	0.86	0.706
	估的指標內			
A18	我認為本局的獎勵制度能夠鼓勵員工提出創新和改善方案	3.50	0.93	0.735
	T3 資訊科技的支援(α=0.82)			
A19	我認為本局所使用的資訊設備有助於組織內員工的溝通與	3.73	0.71	0.734
	協調			
A21	我認為本局所使用的資訊設備能夠提供管理者必要的知識	3.65	0.74	0.793
	與資訊以做決策之用			
	我認為本局所使用的資訊設備提供員工即時學習的功能	3.64	0.80	0.795

本構面是依據李克特七點量表,從低到高分別給與1-7分,而1表示非常不同意;7表示非常同意。

二、知識管理能力

知識管理能力則包括了四個因素,分別是知識獲取、知識轉換、知識應用及知識保護。本階段首先以驗證性因素分析法來檢測文獻中的四個因素所組成的測量模式之信度與效度。模式鑑定(Identification)結果滿足最小需求(Chi-square = 201.54; df = 84, p=0.000),且因為(1)三種的適合度(Goodness-of-fit indexes)檢驗指標(CFI=0.97>0.95; the Tucker-Lewis index, TLI=0.96>0.95; the root mean square error of approximation, RMSEA=0.07<0.08)均達到最小標準;(2)沒有任何一對的標準殘差值(Standardised residual values)大於 ± 1.96 ;(3)沒有任何特別大的修正指標值(Modification indices, MI)需要修正;(4)所有的期望參數的改變值(Expected parameter change, EPC)均小於 ± 0.3 ;及(5)所有變數檢定的 t 值是顯著的(t-values $> \pm 1.96$),因此可推論本測量模式滿足獨一性與收斂效度(Byrne 2001; Arbuckle, 1997; Garver and Mentzer, 1999; Koufteros, 1999; Hu and Bentler, 1999; Baumgartner and Homburg, 1996; Hair et al., 1998)。

本研究採用比較限定模式與非限定模式之卡方差異性檢定,來判別鑑別效度,結果顯

示所有比較模式均達到統計上的顯著(p<0.05),表示鑑別效度存在(Anderson. and Gerbing, 1988)。

信度可經由檢測 Cronbach's alpha (α) 係數值來達成,本研究所有研究構面的 Cronbach's alpha 值均大於 0.7 (參見表 3),證明本測量模式的各構面具有信度 (Garver and Mentzer, 1999)。

表 3 知識管理能力統計分析表

題號	變數與題項	平均	標準	因素負
		數	差	荷量
	T4 知識獲取(α=0.94)			
B1	我認為本局能定期蒐集與競爭港口相關的知識與訊息	3.70	0.81	0.926
B2	我認為本局能定期蒐集其他港務局的相關知識與訊息	3.72	0.76	0.906
В3	我認為本局能定期蒐集與航商相關的知識與訊息	3.76	0.76	0.901
	Τ5 知識轉換(α=0.90)			
B6	我認為本局能夠將知識傳遞給各部門與員工	3.53	0.78	0.843
B 7	我認為本局能將過去的錯誤與成功的經驗,詳加整理紀錄,	3.46	0.88	0.888
	以做為日後決策之參考			
B8	我認為本局能定期更新過時的知識	3.53	0.81	0.825
B9	我認為本局能將員工的工作心得或經驗透過文件化、教育訓	3.50	0.80	0.798
	練、軟體技術或資料庫等方法完整保存在組織中			
	Τ6 知識應用(α=0.91)			
B11	我認為本局能應用過去的錯誤或經驗學到知識去解決新問題	3.54	0.79	0.843
B12	我認為本局能夠運用知識於工作效率的改善之上	3.63	0.73	0.882
B13	我認為本局能夠運用知識,滿足顧客的需求	3.70	0.72	0.865
B14	我認為本局能夠運用知識以調整本局的策略方向	3.66	0.79	0.827
	T7 知識保護(α=0.88)			
B17	我認為本局員工都有保護公司知識資產的觀念	3.57	0.84	0.786
B18	我認為本局能夠防止外部人士不當使用或竊取公司的知識	3.66	0.79	0.801
B19	我認為本局對於知識有明確的分級與控管	3.50	0.81	0.816
B20	我認為本局能夠防止內部員工不當使用或竊取公司的知識	3.56	0.77	0.809

本構面是依據李克特七點量表,從低到高分別給與1-7分,而1表示非常不同意;7表示非常同意。

。而工作績效則包括了二個因素,分別是任務績效及情境績效。本階段首先以驗證性因素分析法來檢測文獻中的二個因素所組成的測量模式之信度與效度。模式鑑定(Identification)結果滿足最小需求(Chi-square = 74.51; df = 43, p=0.002),且因為(1)三種的適合度(Goodness-of-fit indexes)檢驗指標(CFI=0.97>0.95; the Tucker-Lewis index,TLI=0.97>0.95; the root mean square error of approximation,RMSEA=0.05<0.08)均達到最小標準;(2)沒有任何一對的標準殘差值(Standardised residual values)大於 ± 1.96 ;(3)沒有任何特別大的修正指標值(Modification indices,MI)需要修正;(4)所有的期望參數的改變值(Expected

parameter change, EPC) 均小於±0.3;及(5) 所有變數檢定的 t 值是顯著的(t-values > ±1.96), 因此可推論本測量模式滿足獨一性與收歛效度 (Byrne 2001; Arbuckle, 1997; Garver and Mentzer, 1999; Koufteros, 1999; Hu and Bentler, 1999; Baumgartner and Homburg, 1996; Hair et al., 1998) 。

本研究採用比較限定模式與非限定模式之卡方差異性檢定,來判別鑑別效度,結果顯示所有比較模式均達到統計上的顯著(p<0.05),表示鑑別效度存在(Anderson. and Gerbing, 1988)。

信度可經由檢測 Cronbach's alpha (α) 係數值來達成,本研究所有研究構面的 Cronbach's alpha 值均大於 0.7 (參見表 4),證明本測量模式的各構面具有信度 (Garver and Mentzer, 1999)。

題號 變數與題項 平均 標準 因素負 荷量 數 差 T8 情境績效(α=0.84) C1 我經常規劃與安排自己所負責的工作進度 3.98 0.56 0.598 C3 我能按照優先順序處理工作,並在截止期限內完成 0.58 0.746 4.14 C5 我總能將任務從頭到尾圓滿完成 3.99 0.63 0.772 C6 工作上任何的小細節,我都能注意到並且妥善處理 0.57 0.675 3.85 C7 整體而言,我可以做好公司所要求的任務 0.791 4.06 0.57 T9 任務績效(α=0.86) C8 我在團隊內經常跟其他同事保持合作 4.11 0.55 0.746 C9 當我遇到工作上的障礙時,仍堅持設法克服,以完成任務 4.06 0.54 0.731 C10 我在工作上經常表現出適當忍讓的態度 4.00 0.54 0.687 C14 我總是會支持主管的決定 3.98 0.68 0.670 C17 我在工作場所,會自我克制而且遵守紀律 0.55 0.775 4.20 C19 我會熱心地著手處理一個困難的工作指派 0.62 0.694 3.98

表 4 工作績效統計分析表

5.2 結構模式分析:結構方程式法

由於本研究之三個構面中之九個因素,在驗證性因素分析方法中均達到可接受的信度 與效度,因此將其題項合併。知識管理資源包括組織文化(t1)、組織結構(t2)與資訊科技的 支援(t3);知識管理能力包括知識獲取(t4)、知識轉換(t5)、知識應用(t6)與知識保護(t7);工 作績效包括情境績效(t8)與任務績效(t9)。

本階段測試整體結構模式,結果顯示,模式鑑定結果滿足最小需求(Chi-square = 44.05 df = 24, p=0.007), 本模式的三種適合度指標達到滿意的水準 (CFI=0.99; TLI=0.97; RMSEA=0.05),沒有特別大的標準殘差值(value > \pm 1.96)、修正指標值及期望參數改變值。

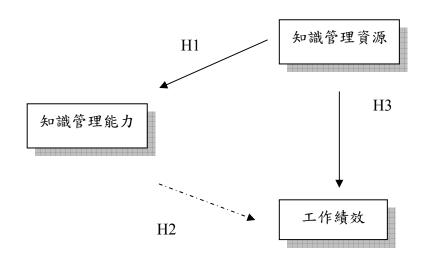
本構面是依據李克特七點量表,從低到高分別給與1-7分,而1表示非常不同意;7表示非常同意。

表 5 結構方程式分析結果

假設	標準迴歸權重	T 值	結果
H1 適配的知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、	0.923	0.000**	成立
組織文化)對於知識管理潛能(知識獲得、轉換、			
應用、保護)有正向影響			
H2:知識管理能力(知識獲得、轉換、應用、	-0.006	0.808	不成立
保護)對工作績效具正向影響。			
H3:知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、組	0.613	0.017*	成立
織文化)對於工作績效具正向影響。			

^{*}p<0.05; **p<0.01

由表 5 之最終結構模型顯示,研究結果支持假設 H1 及 H3,表示適配的知識管理資源 (資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化)對於知識管理潛能(知識獲得、轉換、應用、保護) 有顯著的正向影響關係存在。而知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化、員工) 對於工作績效有顯著的正向影響關係存在。但比較可惜的是而並沒有顯著的證據證明知識 管理能力(知識獲得、轉換、應用、保護)對工作績效具正向影響。表示 H2 假設不成立 (如圖三所示)。



註: 虚線表示假設不成立

圖 3 研究結果

陸、結論與建議

本研究主要以結構方程式來探討台灣地區國際港埠知識管理資源、知識管理能力及工作績效三者間的關係。經過問卷調查得到 284 份問卷,並經過驗證式因素分析後產生九個因素,均符合信度與效度。

知識管理資源包括組織文化、組織結構與資訊科技的支援;知識管理能力包括知識獲取)、知識轉換、知識應用與知識保護;而工作績效包括情境績效與任務績效。

再經過結構方程式分析,支持假設 H1,表示適配的知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化)對於知識管理能力(知識獲得、轉換、應用、保護)有顯著的正向影響關係存在。表示港務局的資訊技術、組織結構及組織文化,將對港務局在知識的獲得、轉換、應用及保護有相當大的助益。表示各港務局要提升內部的資訊技術、塑造良好的組織結構及文化,將有助於知識管理能力的提升。

相同的,本研究也支持假設 H3,知識管理資源(資訊技術、組織結構、組織文化、員工)對於工作績效有顯著的正向影響關係存在。表示各港務局要提升內部的資訊技術、塑造良好的組織結構及文化,將有助於港務局員工工作績效的提升。

但比較可惜的是本研究沒有明確的證據支持假設 H2 知識管理能力(知識獲得、轉換、應用、保護)對工作績效具正向影響。這個結論是與資源基礎的理論有些不合的地方,很可能表示,員工將港務局的知識管理能力提升,包括知識獲得、轉換、應用與保護,並無法與個人績效相結合,值得後續再加以研究。

本研究建議港務局應多加強投資在知識管理資訊軟硬體的投資,塑造員工願意互相合作、支援以解決問題的氣氛,培養信任彼此及以本局的整體利益為先的文化,並鼓勵員工去參加外部的進修活動以學習新知,此外,還需加強獎勵制度能夠鼓勵員工提出創新和改善方案,並將員工知識創造與分享的質與量納入績效評估的指標內。如此便能提升或塑造港務局在資訊設備、組織文化及組織結構對相關知識友善的環境,便可提升個人在工作上的表現。

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計劃成果自評

請就研究內容與原計畫相符程度、達成預期目標情況、研究成果之學術或應用價值、是否適合在學術期刊發表或申請專利、主要發現或其他有關價值等,作一綜合評估。

- 1. 本研究內容與原計劃大致相符,僅有在績效方面改為個人績效,而取代一般的公司績效 或財務績效,其原因為問卷調查對象為港務局員工,無公司績效可言。
- 2. 本研究與預期目標相符,但比較遺憾的是有其中一個假設不合,且不好以理論解釋
- 3. 未來最好能再研發個人的知識管理績效指標有助於從事類似的研究
- 4. 雖然,以結構方程式來驗證,看起來結果並不完全的成立,將可能從新調整模式或使用因素分析及集群分析,來找出各分群的不同,做為結論,或許是一個可行的方案
- 5. 再花些時間將資料從事不同的分析, 應可發表於學術期刊

出席國際學術會議心得報告(附件)

計畫編號	NSC 96-2415-H-022-002-SSS
計畫名稱	台灣地區國際港埠知識管理能力之研究
出國人員姓名 服務機關及職稱	桑國忠副教授-國立高雄海洋科技大學
會議時間地點	2008/05/25-28 (香港理工大學)
會議名稱	International Forum on Shipping, Ports, and Airports (2008)
發表論文題目	Evaluating Container Developing Strategies for the Port of Kaohsiung: An Exploratory Anaysis.

一、參加會議經過

本次會議主要討論為二大部份,一為海運,一為空運,上午均有一些重要學者的演講, 而後才分組報告。最後一天參觀 hit 碼頭。

二、與會心得

- 1. 此次研討會主辦單位邀請了許多運輸類期刊的主編來參與,有機會與這些主編面 對面的溝通,對於未來的國際期刊投稿有相當大的助益。
- 2. 了解海空運類在學術上有興趣的主題,有助於未來在研究主題的發展。
- 3. 結交到一些國際學者,可以在學術上更多的合作。
- 4. 了解自己不足之處,期能更努力。

三、發表論文

Evaluating Container Developing Strategies for the Port of Kaohsiung: An Exploratory Analysis

Chin-Shan Lu¹, Kuo-chung Shang², Min-Guei Sung³

About the authors

¹Professor, Department of Transportation and Communication Management Science, National Cheng Kung University, No. 1 University Road, Tainan City 701, Taiwan, ROC

Tel: +886-6-2757575 ext. 53243

Fax: +886-6-2753882

Email: <u>lucs@mail.ncku.edu.tw</u>

²Associate Professor, Department of Shipping and Transportation Management, National Kaohsiung Marine University, 142, Hai-Chuan Road, Nan-Tzu, Kaohsiung City, 811, Taiwan,

Tel.: +886(0) 7-361-7141 ext. 3166

Fax: +886 (0) 7-364-7046

E-mail address: kuo_chung@hotmail.com

³Postgraduate Student, Department of Transportation and Communication Management Science, National Cheng Kung University, No. 1 University Road, Tainan City 701, Taiwan, ROC

Tel: +886-930-812689 Fax: +886-6-2753882

Email: kkknockkk@hotmail.com

Evaluating Container Developing Strategies for the Port of Kaohsiung: An

Exploratory Analysis

Abstract

This paper empirically evaluates crucial container developing strategies for the Port of Kaohsiung

from the perspectives of port authorities, shipping academics and maritime firms. In terms of the

level of effectiveness, the findings suggest that approval of direct shipping between Mainland and

Taiwan is perceived as the most effective strategic attribute to increase container volume for the

Port of Kaohsiung, followed by establishing integrated port information system, long term berth

leasing agreement with carriers, simplified customs procedures, prompt response to carriers'

needs, pricing flexibility, simplified port administration procedures, etc. Based on a factor

analysis, four strategic dimensions are identified, namely, port administration and operational

efficiency, services and marketing, pricing flexibility and incentive, and logistics.

The results also indicated that the effective level of strategic attributes differed between port

authorities, shipping academics and maritime firms. Port authority rated long term berth leasing

agreement with carriers as the most important strategic attribute, whereas shipping academics and

shipping managers viewed the direct shipping between Mainland and Taiwan and pricing

flexibility as the most importance considerations, respectively. An examination of differences

between port authorities', shipping academics' and shipping managers' perceived implemented

period levels with strategic attributes revealed significant differences in respect of the follows:

the approval of direct shipping between Mainland and Taiwan, long term berth leasing agreement

with carriers, and developing empty container positioning center. Theoretical and strategic

implications of the research findings for the port authorities are discussed.

Keywords: Container, Port, Competitive strategies, Factor analysis

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Introduction

The Port of Kaohsiung is located in the prosperous trade routes - East Asian coastal, Far East/Europe and Transpacific service lines. Among the seven leading ports in the Asia Pacific region (Kaohsiung, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Tokyo), the Port of Kaohsiung is one of best placed as a marine transport hub. Its links are closer to the other ports by 53 hours of navigation time on average. Due to the advantage of geographic location, the growth of volume of cargoes handled and container throughput has significantly increased over the last decades.

Figure 1 gives the latest available figures on reported at world container port traffic for the period from 2001 to 2006. The growth rate of container port throughput (number of movements measured in TEUs) is displayed in Figure 2. Singapore regained the top position with a 6.9 per cent growth rate, while Hong Kong was displaced into second position on account of its modest 3.6 per cent growth rate increase in 2006. As can be seen in Table 1, Mainland Chinese ports continued to record particularly good results: Shanghai and Shenzhen recorded outstanding increases of 20.1 and 14.0 per cent respectively. In particular, other Chinese Ports, of the 10 remaining ports, Qingdao, Ningbo recorded advances of two places each, while Guangzhou and Tianjin ports moved upward by three and one places respectively. According to the Containerisation International Yearbook (1996-2006) report, the Port of Kaohsiung has been ranked the world's third largest container port before 1993. However, in 2007, the container throughput of the Port of Kaohsiung was 1.025 million TEU with a 4.6 per cent growth rate increase compared with previous year. Dubai and Rotterdam overtook Kaohsiung, which moved from 6th in 2006 to 8th position in 2007. From the 1990s, the gradual shift in the gravity of economic growth and trade from Japan to China led to the emergence of new transshipment and gateway hub ports, which include Shanghai and Shenzhen. The Port of Kaohsiung faces the prospect of intensifying competition from the emerging ports in East Asia. Thus, the Kaohsiung Port Authority needs to re-think their strategies to response carriers' requirements and changes of competitive environment.

Table 1. The throughput of top 20 container ports between 2005 and 2006

Unit: TEUs

Rank	2005 top ports	2005	2006 top ports	2006
1	Singapore	23,192,200	Singapore	24,792,400
2	Hong Kong	22,427,000	Hong Kong	23,230,000
3	Shanghai	18,084,000	Shanghai	21,710,000
4	Shenzhen	16,197,173	Shenzhen	18,468,900
5	Busan	11,843,151	Busan	12,030,000
6	Kaohsiung	9,471,056	Kaohsiung	9,774,670
7	Rotterdam	9,300,000	Rotterdam	9,600,482
8	Hamburg	8,087,545	Dubai	8,923,465
9	Duba	7,619,222	Hamburg	8,861,545
10	Los Angeles	7,484,624	Los Angeles	8,469,853
11	Long Beach	6,709,818	Qingdao	7,702,000
12	Antwerp	6,482,061	Long Beach	7,290,365
13	Qingdao	6,307,000	Ningbo	7,068,000
14	Port Klang	5,543,527	Antwerp	7,018,799
15	Ningbo	5,208,000	Guangzhou	6,600,000
16	Tianjin	4,801,000	Port Klang	6,320,000
17	New York	4,792,922	Tianjin	5,900,000
18	Guangzhou	4,685,000	New York	5,128,430
19	Tanjung Pelepas	4,177,121	Tanjung Pelepas	4,770,000
20	Laem Chabang	3,765,967	Bremerhaven	4,450,000

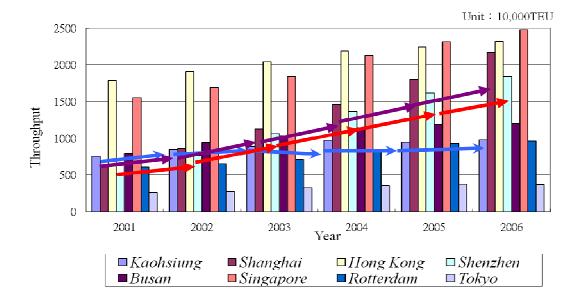


Fig. 1. Container throughput at main ports, 2001-2006

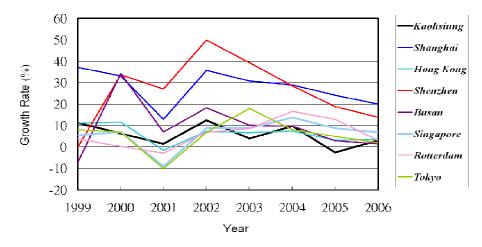


Fig. 2 Growth rate of container throughput at main ports, 1999-2006

A number of previous studies have addressed the issue of the importance port selection (Slack, 1985; Tongzon, 2002; Tiwari et al, 2003; Ha, 2003; Malchow and Kanafani, 2004; Lirn, 2004; Delangen, 2007) and port competitiveness (Monie, 1987; Carbone and Martino, 2003; Barros and Athanassiou, 2004; Bichou and Gray, 2004; Lam, 2005; Brooks and Pallis, 2007; Karatas and Cerit, 2008). Notteboom and Winkelmans (2001) reflected efficiency oriented ports can achieve competitive advantage by either cost leadership or differentiation. Key factors in obtaining a competitive advantage were (1) flexibility to adapt quickly to changing opportunities, and (2) an integral approach to logistics issues in transport chains. However, there is a lack of empirical studies investigating the competitive strategies in the context of container ports. Although there are many studies exploring the different aspects of competitive strategies, there is no consistent focus on the identification of competitive strategic dimensions. Hence, this paper aims to use an exploratory analysis to evaluate container developing strategies in the Port of Kaohsiung.

There are four sections in this study. Following this introduction the next section discusses the research methodology, including measures of the surrey, sampling technique, and research methods. Section 3 presents the analytical results of descriptive analysis and exploratory factor analysis from the perspectives of port authorities, shipping academics, and government. Conclusions drawn from the research findings and their implications are discussed in the final section.

Methodology

Sampling technique

The samples for this study focus on shipping academics, employees of port authorities, and container shipping managers and executives. The questionnaire survey was sent to 62 shipping academics, 66 employees of port authorities and 106 executives at the mid of October 2007. The container shipping managers' samples were selected from the Directory of the National Association of Shipping Agencies and Companies, whereas the shipping academics were selected based on those who had taught in shipping departments at the university in Taiwan. The total

useable responses were 89 out of 234, of which 33 were from shipping academics, 33 were from employees of port authorities, and 23 were from shipping managers and executives. The overall response rate for this study was 38.0 percent.

Profile of Respondents

Results indicted that nearly 79% of shipping academics survey participants had worked in their universities for more than 5 years, whereas only 21.2 percent of them had worked for less than 5 years. Over 90 percent of the shipping academics respondents had Ph.D. degree. Twenty one percent of shipping academic respondents had job title professor, whereas 33.3 percent and 45.5 were associate professor and assistant professor, respectively. For the port authority respondents, 15.2 percent of respondents are director or deputy director and 18.2 percent of respondents are harbor master/ chief secretary/ chief engineer. The remaining respondents are team leader/director (21.2%), supervisor (18.2%), and general employee (27.2%) respectively. On the other hand, for the shipping manager respondents, nearly 87 percent of participants in the survey were 'president or above' and 'manager/assistant manager'. This finding is important since managers are involved in and anchor strategy development in their businesses. Thus, the high percentage of responses from managers or above confirmed the reliability of the survey's findings. Results also indicated that nearly 78 per cent of respondents had worked in the container shipping industry for more than 10 years, suggesting that respondents had abundant practical experience to answer questions. Over half of shipping manager respondents (52.2%) was from shipping agencies. Remaining respondents were from container shipping companies (43.5%) and others (4.3%). The results also shows 43.4 percent of shipping responding firms had employees between 51 and 500 employees, while 34.8% of them had over 501 employees. Around 74% had been in business for more than 15 years. Shipping manager respondents were also asked to provide information concerning their firms' annual revenues in 2006. The results indicated that 39.1% of respondents reported annual revenues between NT \$ 10 million and NT \$ 1 billion, 25.4% revealed annual revenues between NT \$ 5 billion and NT \$ 30 billion, and 21.7% had annual revenues of NT \$ 30 billion or more.

Results of empirical analyses

Importance of container developing strategies according to respondents

This survey also sought to identify the most important container developing strategy of Kaohsiung Port. Responses' assessment of each of the container developing strategy used in the questionnaire was determined using a five-point Likert scale, anchored by the level of importance '1 = very unimportant' to '5 = very important'. Table 1 shows the importance of each container developing strategic attributes as perceived by respondents in descending order. Results indicated that eight developing strategies stood out as being very important to all respondents (their mean scores were over 3.99): to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan, improving port information systems, encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement

with carriers, simplified customs procedures, prompt response to carriers' complaints, flexible rate to response market change, and simplified administrative procedures. In contrast, the least important developing strategies attribute to respondents were: encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung, free trade zones marketing and promotion, and enhancing human resource management (their mean scores were below 3.55).

Table 1 Importance of container developing strategic attributes in Kaohsiung Port

Container developing strategic attributes	Mean	S.D.	Rank	
To remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland			Tunk	
China and Taiwan	4.22	1.07	1	
Improving port information systems	4.13	0.76	2	
Encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers	4.12	0.85	3	
Simplified administrative procedures	4.11	0.80	4	
Prompt response to carriers' complaints	4.04	0.81	5	
Flexible rate to response market change	4.00	0.90	6	
Simplified customs procedures	3.99	0.90	7	
Developing transshipment services	3.92	0.93	8	
Establishing international distribution centers	3.88	0.93	9	
Encouraging private sector invest in port operations	3.85	0.83	10	
Providing incentives for cargo growth	3.81	0.96	11	
Enhancing the functions of free port zones	3.76	0.99	12	
Management reorganization	3.73	0.96	13	
Enhancing employee training and knowledge	3.72	0.83	14	
Strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport	3.71	0.91	15	
Encouraging private-sector equity participation in port	3.69	0.90	16	
Providing one stop shopping services for carriers		0.80	17	
Dredging channel and berths draft		1.08	18	
Strengthening port sales and promotion	3.64	1.02	19	
Encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung		0.95	20	
Free trade zones marketing and promotion	3.53	0.98	21	
Enhancing human resource management	3.49	0.93	22	
Note: The many garge are based on a 5 point Library goals (1-years unimportant 5-				

Note: The mean scores are based on a 5-point Likert scale (1=very unimportant 5= very important); S.D.=standard deviation

In addition, the perceived implemented time for container developing strategic attributes for the Kaohsiung Port was also investigated in the questionnaire, anchored by 1=below one year, 2= one to three years, 3= three to five years, and 4=over 5 years. Table 2 shows the perceived implemented time for each container developing strategic attributes as perceived by respondents in descending order. Results indicated that seven developing strategies stood out as being short-term need to perform to all respondents (their mean scores were below 1.67). They were

prompt response to carriers' complaints, strengthening port sales and promotion, providing one stop shopping services for carriers, enhancing employee training and knowledge, flexible rate to response market change, providing incentives for cargo growth, and developing transshipment services. In contrast, the long term developing strategies (their mean scores were over 2.17) attribute to respondents were: simplified customs procedures, enhancing human resource management, establishing international distribution centers, encouraging private-sector equity participation in port, strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport, to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan, management reorganization, management reorganization, and dredging channel and berths draft.

Table 2 The perceived implemented period of container developing strategic attributes in Kaohsiung Port

Container developing strategic attributes	Mean	S.D.	Ranking
Prompt response to carriers' complaints	1.22	0.58	1
Strengthening port sales and promotion	1.43	0.56	2
Providing one stop shopping services for carriers	1.45	0.78	3
Enhancing employee training and knowledge	1.51	0.68	4
Flexible rate to response market change	1.51	0.77	4
Providing incentives for cargo growth	1.56	0.67	5
Developing transshipment services	1.67	0.71	6
Encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung	1.85	0.82	7
Encouraging private sector invest in port operations	1.90	0.78	8
Free trade zones marketing and promotion	1.93	0.85	9
Enhancing the functions of free port zones	1.96	0.72	10
Simplified administrative procedures	1.97	0.88	11
Encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers	1.97	0.83	11
Improving port information systems	1.98	0.69	12
Simplified customs procedures	2.17	0.99	13
Enhancing human resource management	2.18	0.94	14
Establishing international distribution centers	2.20	0.94	15
Encouraging private-sector equity participation in port	2.22	0.82	16
Strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport	2.28	0.82	17
To remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan	2.39	1.08	18
Management reorganization	2.40	0.90	19
Dredging channel and berths draft	2.52	0.87	20

Note: Mean 1 represents below one year; 2 represents between one and three years; 3 represents between three to five years; 4 represents over 5 years; S.D.=standard deviation

One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) results

To evaluate the relationships between the importance of container developing strategy and respondents' characteristics, an ANOVA was performed in this study. As can be seen in Table 3, the result of ANOVA analysis indicated that five container developing strategic attributes differed significantly in terms of importance at the 0.05 statistical level. These are: to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan, encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers, encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung, management reorganization, and dredging channel and berth draft. Notably, the largest mean difference between port authority employee and shipping managers was related to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan (4.36 and 3.70, respectively). Port authority rated encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers as the most important container developing strategic attribute, where shipping academics and shipping managers rated it as fourth.

Table 3 shows the results of perceived implemented period of container developing strategic attributes. With the exception of enhancing human resource management, management reorganization, and simplified administrative procedures, other strategic attributes did not differed significantly at the 0.05 statistical level. In general, they perceived that prompt response to carriers' complaints and strengthening port sales and promotion could be implemented within one and half year. In contrast, port authority perceived that management reorganization (mean = 2.64) was the longest period to implement of strategic attribute, where shipping academics and shipping managers perceived to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan as well as dredging channel and berths draft, respectively.

Table 3 Importance of container developing strategic attributes according to shipping academics, port authorities, and shipping managers

	Respondents						
Container developing strategic attributes	aca	nipping ademics N=33	•	uthorities =33	Shipping managers N=23		F value
	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	
To remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan	4.45	1	4.36	2	3.70	11	4.09*
Simplified customs procedures	4.06	2	4.24	4	4.00	5	0.72
Improving port information systems	4.00	3	4.27	3	4.13	3	1.07
Encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers	3.88	4	4.39	1	4.09	4	3.21*
Prompt response to carriers' complaints	3.85	5	4.15	6	4.17	2	1.57
Establishing international distribution centers	3.85	5	4.00	8	3.74	10	0.56
Enhancing the functions of free port zones	3.82	6	3.70	12	3.78	9	0.13
Developing transshipment services	3.79	7	4.21	5	3.70	11	2.72
Simplified administrative procedures	3.79	7	4.09	7	4.13	3	1.34
Flexible rate to response market change	3.76	8	4.00	8	4.35	1	3.02
Free trade zones marketing and promotion	3.73	9	3.56	15	3.22	16	1.89
Encouraging private-sector equity participation in port	3.73	9	3.64	13	3.70	11	0.09
Encouraging private sector invest in port operations	3.67	10	3.97	9	3.96	6	1.34

Note: The mean scores are based on a five-point scale (1=very unimportant to 5=very important) * represents significance level p < 0.05 ** represents significance level p < 0.01

Table 3 Importance of container developing strategic attributes according to shipping academics, port authorities, and shipping managers (continued)

	Respondents						
Container developing strategies for the port of Kaohsiung	Shipping academics		Port authority		Shipping manager		F value
		=33		=33		=23	
	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	
Strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport	3.64	11	3.64	13	3.91	7	0.79
Providing one stop shopping services for carriers	3.61	12	3.79	11	3.57	15	0.66
Enhancing employee training and knowledge	3.58	13	3.79	11	3.83	8	0.80
Encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung	3.52	14	3.85	10	3.17	17	3.63*
Providing incentives for cargo growth	3.52	14	4.00	8	3.96	6	2.54
Strengthening port sales and promotion	3.48	15	3.79	11	3.64	13	0.73
Management reorganization	3.42	16	4.00	8	3.78	9	3.14*
Enhancing human resource management	3.30	17	3.58	14	3.65	12	1.16
Dredging channel and berths draft	3.24	18	4.09	7	3.61	14	5.69**

Note: The mean scores are based on a five-point scale (1=very unimportant to 5=very important)

* represents significance level p < 0.05** represents significance level p < 0.01

Table 4 Perceived implemented period of container developing strategic attributes

	Respondents						
Container developing strategic attributes	Shipping academics N=33		Port authorities N=33		Shipping managers N=23		F value
	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	
Prompt response to carriers' complaints	1.27	1	1.09	1	1.30	1	1.15
Strengthening port sales and promotion	1.45	2	1.45	6	1.35	2	0.30
Providing one stop shopping services for carriers	1.58	3	1.21	2	1.61	5	2.50
Enhancing employee training and knowledge	1.58	3	1.39	4	1.57	4	0.71
Flexible rate to response market change	1.61	4	1.36	3	1.57	4	0.91
Developing transshipment services	1.75	5	1.63	7	1.61	5	0.38
Providing incentives for cargo growth	1.76	6	1.42	5	1.48	3	2.33
Encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung	1.88	7	1.79	10	1.91	10	0.17
Encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers	1.94	8	1.94	12	2.04	12	0.13
Free trade zones marketing and promotion	2.03	9	1.73	9	2.09	13	1.58
Improving port information systems	2.03	9	2.03	13	1.83	8	0.74
Simplified customs procedures	2.06	10	2.03	13	1.74	7	1.03
Encouraging private-sector equity participation in port	2.09	11	1.67	8	1.96	11	2.59
Enhancing the functions of free port zones	2.09	11	1.85	11	1.91	10	0.98

Table 4 Perceived implemented period of container developing strategic attributes (continued)

			Respo	ndents			
Container developing strategic attributes		Shipping academics N=33		Port authorities N=33		Shipping managers N=23	
	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	Mean	Ranking	
Establishing international distribution centers	2.15	12	2.27	17	2.17	16	0.15
Strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport	2.27	13	2.39	19	2.14	15	0.66
Encouraging private sector invest in port operations	2.30	14	2.21	15	2.13	14	0.30
Enhancing human resource management	2.39	15	2.33	18	1.65	6	5.46**
Management reorganization	2.55	16	2.64	21	1.87	9	6.21**
Simplified administrative procedures	2.55	16	2.15	14	1.65	6	6.16**
Dredging channel and berths draft	2.64	17	2.58	20	2.26	17	1.40
To remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan	2.70	18	2.24	16	2.14	15	2.33

Note: 1. mean 1 represents below one year; 2 represents between one and three years; 3 represents between three to five years; 4 represents over 5 years 2.** represents significance level p < 0.01

Factor analysis

Factor analysis was used to reduce the container developing strategy attributes to a smaller, manageable set of underlying factors. This was helpful for detecting the presence of meaningful patterns among the original variables and extracting the main service factors. Principal components analysis with VARIMAX rotation was employed to identify key strategic dimensions. In order to aid interpretation, only variables with factor loadings greater than 0.5 were extracted, a conservative criterion based on Hair, Anderson, Tatham, and Black (1995). In addition, variables with two factor loading scores greater than 0.50 were eliminated (Kim and Muller, 1978). An examination of Table 5 shows three items was eliminated in this research. Six factors were found to underlie the various sets of container developing strategies for the port of Kaohsiung based on responses to the survey. They were labeled and are described below:

- (1) Factor 1 is an administrative management efficiency strategic dimension, comprising eight attributes, namely, enhancing employee training and knowledge, simplified administrative procedures, management reorganization, enhancing human resource management, improving port information systems, simplified customs procedures, encouraging private sector invest in port operations, and strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport. This factor accounted for 47.82% of the total variance. Enhancing employee training and knowledge had the highest factor loading on this factor.
- (2) Factor 2 is a carrier services related strategic dimension. This dimension consists of six items, namely, encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers, developing transshipment services, dredging channel and berth draft, providing one stop shopping services for carriers, encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung, and strengthening port sales and promotion. Encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers had the highest factor loading on this factor. Factor 2 accounted for 8.455% of the total variance.
- (3) Factor 3, a price and incentive strategic dimension, comprises four items, namely, providing incentives for cargo growth, flexible rate to response market change, encouraging private sector invest in port operations, and prompt response to carriers' complaints. Providing incentives for cargo growth had the highest factor loading on this factor. Factor 3 accounted for 6.16% of the total variance.

- (4) Factor 4 is a logistics services strategic dimension. It consisted of three attributes, namely, enhancing the functions of free port zones, establishing international distribution centers, and free trade zones marketing and promotion. This factor accounted for 5.791% of the total variance. Enhancing the functions of free port zones had the highest factor loading on this factor.
- (5) Factor 5 consisted of one attribute, namely, to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan. This factor accounted for 4.63% of the total variance. Thus, the factor is labeled as direct shipping strategic dimension.

A reliability test based on a Cronbach Alpha statistics was used to determine whether the five factors were consistent and reliable. Cronbach Alpha values for all factors are also shown in Table 5. With the exception of the fifth factor (direct shipping strategic dimension) was not available for reliability test because only one attribute, the values of the other four factors are well above 0.80, considered a satisfactory level of reliability in basic research (Nunnally, 1978; Carmines and Zeller, 1979; Sekaran, 1992; Churchill, 1991; Litwin, 1995).

Table 5 also showed the importance of the factors as judged by respondents. Results showed they perceived the most important container developing strategic dimension is direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan (mean=4.220), followed by price and incentive (mean=3.925), administrative management efficiency (mean=3.821), carrier service (mean=3.756), and logistics services strategic dimensions(mean=3.723).

Table 5 Factor analysis for container developing strategic attributes

Container developing strategic attributes	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5
Enhancing employee training and knowledge	0.792	0.246	0.059	0.189	0.087
Simplified administrative procedures	0.777	0.277	0.191	0.277	-0.048
Management reorganization	0.731	0.394	0.192	0.074	-0.058
Enhancing human resource management	0.727	0.018	0.368	0.235	0.028
Improving port information systems	0.696	0.346	0.166	0.279	0.035
Simplified customs procedures	0.649	0.133	0.311	0.055	0.356
Encouraging private sector invest in port operations	0.638	0.422	0.197	0.049	0.054
Strengthening the intermodal connection with road, air, and inland water transport	0.608	0.008	0.266	0.456	0.145
Encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers	0.190	0.806	0.136	0.130	0.011
Developing transshipment services	0.074	0.798	0.090	0.382	0.085
Dredging channel and berths draft	0.359	0.711	0.338	0.033	0.053
Providing one stop shopping services for carriers	0.414	0.674	0.216	0.065	-0.04
Strengthening port sales and promotion	0.380	0.656	0.212	0.240	0.053
Encouraging carriers to establish container positioning center in Kaohsiung	0.106	0.608	0.171	0.239	0.246
Providing incentives for cargo growth	0.083	0.188	0.888	0.135	-0.020
Flexible rate to response market change	0.342	0.236	0.694	0.205	0.044
Encouraging private-sector equity participation in port	0.385	0.200	0.661	0.122	-0.019
Prompt response to carriers' complaints	0.494	0.292	0.595	0.076	0.104

Table 5 Factor analysis for container developing strategies(continued)

Enhancing the functions of free port zones	0.262	0.188	0.272	0.836	-0.010
Establishing international distribution centers	0.290	0.261	0.314	0.735	0.176
Free trade zones marketing and promotion	0.175	0.443	-0.091	0.693	0.021
To remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan	0.090	0.127	-0.016	0.085	0.936
Mean	3.821	3.757	3.925	3.723	4.220
Eigenvalues	10.522	1.860	1.355	1.274	1.021
Percentage variance	47.826	56.281	62.441	68.232	72.872
Cronbach Alpha	0.9178	0.8909	0.8565	0.8601	-

Conclusions and Discussion

Previous studies have explored the importance of competitive strategies in the context of port operations. However, to identify a competitive strategy based on a empirical studies was lacking. This study used an exploratory analysis to evaluate container developing strategies from the perspectives of port authority, shipping managers, and shipping academics. This study has provided a framework for examining the key container development strategies specifically in the Port of Kaohsiung. This study's main findings, derived from a survey conducted in Taiwan, are summarized below.

The six most important strategic attributes from the all respondents perceptions are to remove the restriction of direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan, improving port information systems, encouraging a long term berth leasing agreement with carriers, simplified customs procedures, prompt response to carriers' complaints, flexible rate to response market change, and simplified administrative procedures. The present research suggests that port authorities need to be especially concerned with these attributes when developing their competitive strategies.

It should be noted that the strategic attributes used to identify critical dimensions in the previous research have significant variations. This study provides a fundamental concept for port authorities to identify and assess their key container developing strategic dimensions. Based on a factor analysis, the findings reflect that direct shipping between Mainland China and Taiwan was the most important strategic dimension, followed by price and incentive dimension, administrative management efficiency, carrier services, and logistics services strategic dimensions. In particular importance, strategic dimensions not only involved one strategy (direct shipping strategic dimension) but also covered other key strategic dimensions such as price and incentive related, information management related, organizational related, human resource management related, and logistics and so forth. This implies that port authorities need to consider an overall integrated strategy before they implement any strategic decisions. Hopefully, an understanding of competitive ports' behavior and strategies based on the concept of capability and resources should enable port operators to compete effectively in a competitive market.

However, there are some limitations to this research, and there exists wide scope for future research. First, this research was limited to examining the crucial container developing strategies based on an exploratory analysis. Further studies could be conducted to ascertain antecedent and

consequent relationships between performance and competitive advantage. Another worthwhile direction for future research could be use of the concept of strategic groups to identify strategic differentiation and competitive advantages in a competitive environment based on resource based view. Strategic groups mapping is beneficial for understanding the situation in a particular industry. Such an approach could investigate strategic and operating differences among various firms within an industry. Additionally, strategic group analysis is a helpful tool for informing companies about significant differences in competitors' approach to the market-place.

The analysis used in this study was static, i.e. the evaluation of respondents' perceptions was conducted at one point in time. Longitudinal research could be employed to examine how perceptions of key strategic dimensions change over time. In addition, this research was conducted in the Port of Kaohsiung. Future research could undertake the same scope of investigation in other international ports context.

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