

ABSTRACT

TOWARDS DEVELOPING AN AIR TRANSPORTATION LOGISTIC FRAMEWORK FOR A RE-POSITIONED ECONOMY: MOVING AWAY FROM THE “QUASI-STATIONARY” PARADIGM.

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The purpose of this research is to highlight the critical state of the air transport industry within the Caricom region. It is also about developing and proposing new strategies to resolve the problems plaguing the industry. Air transport plays a crucial role on economic development through a series of feedback relationships stimulated by social profitability. Extensive air network connectivity remains a vital component for long term growth performance leading to increased national competitiveness. Case studies conducted on developed and emerging nations within the transport sector show a strong correlation exists with increasing connectivity advancing social and economic development. However, travel amongst Caricom and non-Caricom states within the Caribbean remain severely restrictive and expensive impacting negatively on tourism, the main growth driver, because of lack of connectivity in the region. A concerted drive by policy makers is required to reform current strategies and policies in the air transport sector with a globalized perspective in mind. The two case studies presented, of the London Underground and the ASEAN regional air transport sector, hold important lessons for the Caribbean in this regard. These support the case for a well thought-out air transport operational framework, in which government has a central role to play. A review of the policy instruments is undertaken so the region can brace for a liberalized environment. A spider web connectivity model is proposed to steer the region into a new paradigm.

Keywords: Vaman Persad Bajnath; Air transportation logistic framework; London Underground case; ASEAN case; Spider web connectivity; New air industry paradigm.