

# FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF RORO TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE VIEW POINT OF INTER-REGIONAL COMMODITY FLOW

Koji KOBUNE  
Special Advisor, Dr. Eng'g  
Ides Inc.  
3-15-1, Komazawa, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, 154-8585 Japan  
Email: kobunekoji@nifty.com

**Abstract:** RoRo transport system has been one of the subjects often mentioned among the transport society including maritime business community and national and local governments. So far, the advantage of RoRo (Roll-on/Roll-off) transport system has been overemphasized only for the quick procedure at the terminals: the elimination of cargo handling, quick loading and unloading and correction of charges. While passenger vehicles surely welcome simpler procedure at the terminals, the total transport cost is the major concern of the consignors. Depending on the type and transport distance, some commodities are the potential cargoes for RoRo shipping service, while others are most-likely to remain as the cargoes of inter-island shipping either conventional or container cargoes.

This paper firstly reviews the changes in the inter-island and short-distance shipping in the Philippines to delineate the impact of RoRo service on the national transport system, and discusses the competitiveness RoRo shipping against the inter-island shipping from the viewpoint of transportation cost and time. Secondly, inter-regional commodity flow is discussed based on the cargo statistics of the Philippine Port Authority, and identifies the potential routes for RoRo shipping service as well as the potential commodity along the routes. Lastly, the paper discusses how the advantage of RoRo service can be most effectively utilized.

The RoRo transport service is a sort of an integrated system. The paper also highlights the regulatory and administrative aspects that are required to promote RoRo shipping service in the Philippines.

**Key words:** Roll-on/Roll-off, Inter-regional commodity flow, transport cost, maritime transport system.