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

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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.