Digital transformation has been bringing sweeping changes across all industries. In shipping, the evolution has been progressive but slow. Ironic for an industry that has a key role in almost every industry in the global marketplace today. According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), over 90% of the world’s trade is carried by sea. But the reality is the shipping industry has been experiencing the drag of slow growth hampered by great operational complexities, stiff competition, evolving cross-border challenges and shrinking margins.

Overcapacity and uncertainty in the global economic and political climate have been keeping freight rates depressed, while rising oil prices, vessel charter and operational costs add pressure on shipping lines to run a tighter ship. In order to move more, and move faster, carriers have been trending towards bigger vessels that can carry bigger cargo volumes to achieve higher economies of scale. These mega ships need larger ports with the capacity, equipment and technologies that can support the most efficient vessel turnaround times.

With the bigger ports caught in the snarl of handling ultra-size vessels along increasingly congested trade routes, the initiated small and midsized ports are already readying themselves for the cascade of large vessels redeployed their way. Investments in infrastructure along with the right smart port technologies, processes and partners will give smaller players big advantages. In addition to more power to lure some vessel traffic from rival ports, smaller smart ports gain the agility to ride high on the wave of the shipping world’s new normal.

FIRST MOVER ADVANTAGE
Indonesia Port Corporation’s (IPC) Pelindo II, for one, has been playing it smart for a while now. The Indonesian state-owned enterprise has been undergoing vast transformation in recent years with ongoing improvements by way of hard and soft infrastructure.

When IPC kick started plans to implement a new Terminal Operating System (TOS) for all the terminals under its operation, it selected TOS provider CyberLogitec to realize its I.T. and TOS system implementation investment. From grooming talents and adopting information and communications technologies, to adding new equipment, facilities and processes, Pelindo II recorded achievements of sizeable growth in revenue and container traffic within a short timeframe.

DOING BIG THINGS
A lower cost base, agility and adaptability to change are key reasons midsized ports are making relatively swifter migration to smart port technologies. These intelligent digital solutions are helping growing ports to connect man, machines and methods all along the value chain to uncover new value and differentiated growth opportunities that set them apart from the big boys.

Linking all lines of communications together, every aspect of the logistics chain can be managed and controlled from vessel to gate. Incorporating integrated intelligence, big-thinking ports can deploy Internet of Things (IoT) technology onto their infrastructure.
and equipment to enable resources and processes to interact and exchange ‘live’ data, empowering higher performance from the day-to-day operations to the highest level of strategic management. With vital port logistics processes tracked in real time, smaller ports can gain even more agility, optimizing resources while reducing errors and unplanned disruptions.

Another significant trend in favor of smaller players is the rise of smart port solutions tuned to their needs. Most TOS solutions are primarily designed for container handling ports. Yet, many small and midsized terminals operate with both containerized and general cargo handling. With more and more carriers starting or expanding their multipurpose services, we are seeing a comeback trend of break bulk cargo, which is proving to be a fast-growing forte for small and midsized ports to meet this change of tides.

A NEW BUSINESS CASE

With the right solutions, port operators can automate and centralize standard operation procedure management and optimize business processes in a way that maximizes productivity and profitability. Inbuilt intelligent algorithms help operations personnel plan, schedule, and forecast operational requirements of vessels, yard and container handling equipment in a smart and optimized way. Data updates are synchronized in real time on all devices to assist the operation of job activities, especially when exceptions arise.

Using SmartLink EDI as an illustration, digitalized documentation can be linked to logistics partner systems so that there is clear visibility of business data across all links of the supply chain. The terminal can engage in electronic exchange of information with multiple industry organizations, including customs and port authorities, terminals and shipping lines, facilitating more efficient and transparent handling of complicated issues. Efficiency is upped, mistakes are reduced and costly downtime avoided.

The terminal becomes better able to scale up volume without too much additional investment in workforce and equipment strength.

A multipurpose TOS is capable of handling all types of cargo from cars to containers and bulk commodities and has scalability to manage multiple terminals in a single configuration. Fully customizable, configurable and adaptable to the dynamic needs of each terminal, the system ensures all aspects of operations can be managed in real-time while keeping track of all cargo movements.

Entirely HTML5-based, and operable on all devices, the solution enables users to access the applications anytime, anywhere even on their mobile devices as long as there is internet connectivity. From a single-window view with highly intuitive user interface comprising of rich graphics, yard operators can easily zoom in and out of the yard with full 3D visibility including ability to view into in-between container stacks.

Moving seamlessly from screen to screen, users enjoy information at their fingertips that aids close monitoring of yard operations. Built to be highly adaptive to change, CyberLogitec’s latest innovation is scalable to accommodate the growing demands of progressive ports.

SUMMARY

In the long run, container traffic is projected to be on the rise particularly in the emerging economies of the world. While they cannot physically compete with large ports in their capabilities to serve today’s mega vessels, smaller ports can leverage smart technologies to reinvent themselves and cruise comfortably into the new era of shipping.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jake Jung-Taek Kim is a sales manager of maritime and port software technologies in CyberLogitec Global. With more than 17 years in the industry, his career portfolio gave him a strong foundation in understanding key aspects of the business operations. He is currently responsible for business development, global account management, software product selling, and developing strategic alliances within South East Asia. Jake began his career as a systems engineer. He went on to managing enterprise infra system operations, designing system architecture, implementing new technologies and leading various IT projects within CyberLogitec. He developed strong business acumen harnessing on strategic partnerships and key market analysis that contributed to the growth for the company. Jake helmed the role of Project Lead for various TOS (Terminal Operating System) projects in Korea, Indonesia, Spain and other countries, delivering clear business benefits for clients.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

CyberLogitec is a global leader in providing technological innovation for maritime, terminal and logistics industry. We drive innovation by leveraging on our extensive industry knowledge and vast experience to meet the evolving needs of the market. We understand that optimizing operations is important for productivity and service delivery and we strive to continuously strengthen our capabilities by seeking to improve customers’ overall efficiency, competitiveness and productivity.

CyberLogitec is committed to provide flexible end-to-end solutions and business consultation for the maritime, port and logistics industry. We harness the strengths of our strategically located presence in U.S.A, Europe, China, Singapore and Korea to engage with our clients and partners to identify key markets and seize new opportunities.

ENQUIRIES

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Empower Your Logistics with Advanced Technology

From carrier shipping operations, port and terminal operating systems to logistics forwarding and warehouse management, CyberLogitec's advanced technologies solutions for the supply chain help the industry solve operational challenges by digitizing the flow of information, improving efficiency, competitiveness, productivity and service.

- Solve Operational Challenges for the Maritime and Terminal Industry
- Meet Shipping Industry Demands
- Enhance Customer Service