

Contemporary Logistics in China

Transformation and Revitalization

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Preface

This report is a sequel to the first volume of the series entitled “*Contemporary Logistics in China: An Introduction*,” with the intention of extending the coverage of this broad subject and providing further information to the interested readers. With the steady and rapid development of China’s economy in the past decade, its logistics industry, in reflecting the market demand and being shaped by various physical and ideological influences, has gradually grown into a vibrant economic force. Its elevated interaction with the global trade partners as a prominent manufacturer and a gigantic consumption market has drawn wide attention from the world’s logistics professionals. There arose an intense interest in a comprehensive exposition of China’s logistics development in English. Yet for years there had been only scattered publications or research reports on the subject, mainly in Chinese language. The annual “Report of Logistics Development in China,” (called by the academicians, researchers, enterprises and governmental agencies in China as the “Blue Book”), published by the Logistics Research Center at Nankai University over the past decade, is a case in point. Realizing the broader interest of the English-reading community, the Center published its first English report entitled “*Contemporary Logistics in China: An Introduction*” in October 2011. The report was a first such document founded on the extensive study by a team of seasoned researchers at the Center, and was well-received by the global readers. It was organized to consist of five main sections: the development environment of China’s logistics, the supply and demand characteristic of the logistics market, the status of logistics infrastructure, emerging regional logistics, and logistics for some special segments. This coverage is adopted to afford the academic as well as practitioner readers a concise yet panorama view of the logistics development in present-day China, and an in-depth understanding of the logistics development trends of certain regions and hot issues.

This present report, as a second volume of the series, consists of seven chapters. It follows the same general conceptual organization, yet with updated analysis and discussion of logistics development, under the backdrop of the aftermath of the international financial crisis, the acceleration of the transformation of development mode and the strategic adjustment of the economic structure. The first three chapters of this report give an up-to-date summary of China’s economic development trend,

its status of logistics market development and the condition on logistics infrastructure development. The fourth chapter presents the status, the potential and special significance in logistics development of several booming economic regions: the Chengdu-Chongqing region, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the Northeastern region and the Zhongyuan city cluster. The rapid development of these regions has in various ways fortified the overall logistics capability of the nation.

The fifth chapter studies the current status, existing problems and future development trend of several emerging logistics segments: the fresh agricultural products logistics, the coal logistics and the express logistics. These segments have evolved swiftly in the past few years and their logistics have impacted the daily lives of all residents. Logistics needs, and enhancement of infrastructures, systems, regulations and information platforms, are explored in this chapter. The next chapter deals with the study of several hot spot logistics issues such as multimodal transport, bonded logistics and green logistics. These topics, though diversified, focus the attention on subjects that concern the logistics development in China, both for improving efficiency, consistency and for complying with the environmental responsibility. The final chapter gives a summary of the aforementioned subjects and a perspective view of the future development.

This volume, together with its predecessor report, aims to provide a comprehensive, balanced report and analysis of modern-day logistics development in China. It is based on the most up-to-date information and synthesized for a systematic presentation for readers in universities, consulting firms, media, logistics enterprises, governmental agencies, and research institutions. The appended cumulative statistics tables can also serve as a credible data source and reference manual for researchers who wish to engage in further study of the logistics development in China. Happy reading!