

## Assessing the Perceived Logistics and Spatial Feasibility of Establishing an Export Processing Zone in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

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This study assesses the feasibility of establishing an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, by evaluating the perceived logistics and spatial feasibility, based on insights from an expert panel. The research focuses on key factors such as transportation infrastructure and land suitability, using a structured framework. The expert panel's perceptions were critical in assessing the overall and component-wise viability of creating an EPZ in Trincomalee, with their evaluations informing the calculation of the Perceived Logistics and Spatial Feasibility Index (PLSFI). Trincomalee demonstrated strong potential, achieving a PLSFI score of 0.67, closely aligning with the established Katunayake EPZ's score of 0.68. The expert panel identified strengths in Trincomalee's road infrastructure, effective rail system, port services, and a well-structured land use plan, with a focus on sustainability. However, challenges such as moderate transport growth were noted. The study concludes that, based on the expert panel's perceptions, Trincomalee has significant potential to become a competitive EPZ, contributing to Sri Lanka's economic growth. It is strongly recommended that policymakers prioritize the development of the Trincomalee EPZ, with a focus on enhancing transportation networks and attracting strategic investments to capitalize on the region's logistical advantages.

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