

MAKING WAVES

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MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

Funds Tied Up for Dhamra Port Project (India)

Dhamra Port Company Ltd (DPCL), a 50:50 joint venture company of Larsen & Toubro Ltd and Tata Steel, has achieved financial closure for development of an all-weather deep port at Dhamra on the Orissa coast. Sheltered between the main land and Kanika Island, Dhamra Port will be the deepest all-weather port of its kind in India with a draught of 18.5 metres, which can accommodate super cape-size vessels up to 180,000 DWT.

Source: *Business Line*, 2 March 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/03/02/stories/2007030207830700.htm>



Chennai Box Terminal Handles 8.29 Lakh TEUs

Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) handled 8.29 lakh TEUs in 2006, registering an increase of 18.42 per cent in volume over the previous year's seven lakh TEUs. CCT took over the terminal from the Chennai port on November 30, 2001, when the annual handling was 3.50 lakh TEUs. It has so far invested more than \$100 million (Rs 450 crore) to develop terminal equipment.

Source: *Business Line*, 2 March 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/03/02/stories/2007030207860700.htm>

Kolkata Port raises Dock Capacity to 1 Lakh sq.m.

Kolkata Port Trust has created about 29,000 sq metres of new container stacking capacity in the Kolkata Dock System (KDS) — 23,000 sq.m. in the Basra Extension area and another 6,000 sq.m. at Berth Number 5 area, both under the Netaji Subhas Dock — bringing the total to more than 1lakh sq.m., enough for the storage of around 10,000 TEUs at a time. The port authorities have also installed a computerised information centre in the KDS. The centre will benefit various agencies involved in the operation of the port such as the customs, the shipping lines, their agents and other users.

Source: *The Business Line*, 6 March 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/03/06/stories/2007030602031100.htm>

[Hamburg Port Operator Keen to Build New Terminal at JN Port](#)

Hamburg Port and Logistics Company, the terminal operator at Germany's Hamburg port, is keen to invest in India's ports, particularly for the fourth container terminal being planned at Jawaharlal Nehru port.

Source: Mint, 8 March 2007.

[Chennai Port signs Agreement to Set up Second Container Terminal](#)

The Chennai Port Trust on 7 March 2007 took another step towards achieving its objective of becoming a container hub on the east coast by entering into a licence agreement with Chennai International Terminals Private Limited (CITPL) for developing the second container terminal. CITPL, a joint venture of PSA International Pvt. Limited and Sical Logistics Limited, will develop the project on a build-operate-transfer basis at a cost of Rs.492 crore. The terminal's rated capacity would be eight lakh TEUs per year.

Source: The Hindu, 8 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/08/stories/2007030817910600.htm>

[IWAI to Link up Creeks around Mumbai for Cargo Evacuation](#)

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is preparing plans to ease traffic around key water ways in Mumbai harbour by diverting the heavy vehicular traffic over the sea routes. According to IWAI officials, inland waterways will connect places like Bassein near Uttan (close to Vasai, a Mumbai suburb) and Nagothane to Mumbai Port. These waterways will be carved from the existing creeks around Bassein, Thane, Panvel, Dharamtar and also Amba River to form a circular connectivity in and around Mumbai. The proposal, requiring dredging of existing coastal areas, will facilitate faster cargo evacuation.

Source: The Economic Times, 12 March 2007.

[China to Build Port in Sri Lanka](#)

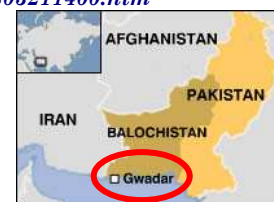
China and Sri Lanka on 12 March initiated an agreement worth \$360 million for the construction of the Hambantota harbour in the south. The agreement was signed by the representatives of the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited and the Sino Hydro Corporation Limited and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.

Source: The Hindu, 13 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/13/stories/2007031303211400.htm>

[Pakistan Launches Strategic Port](#)

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf inaugurated Gwadar deep sea port in the southern province of Balochistan on 20 March 2007.

Source: BBC, 23 March 2007, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6469725.stm



SHIPPING

[Port Calls to Get Cheaper](#)

The cost of calling for shipping lines at an Indian port is set to come down following the tax concessions for the upkeep and maintenance of navigation channels in the sea and exemption from payment of customs duty for dredgers announced in the budget.

Source: Mint, 2 March 2007.

Global Majors add More Lines from Chennai Port

Exporters and importers from the US and Europe to South India will now be able to ship goods in and out of the country faster, as more container shipping lines are starting direct weekly services from Chennai's container terminal. The terminal is run by Dubai government owned DP World. This will save travel time by four to five days, say logistics experts. For Example, Maersk Line will start a weekly direct container shipping service from Chennai to Savannah (US east coast) from 16 March 2007. This would reduce transit time between the two destinations by four days and help consignees save on container handling charges at the transshipment port of Colombo.

Sources: Mint, 3 March 2007.

The Business Line, 6 March 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/03/06/stories/2007030600710700.htm>

Merchant Ship Total Losses Tumble

There has been a dramatic reduction in the number of total losses of merchant ships since the year 2000. New statistics released by the International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI) indicate that in 2006 only 67 ships (of 500 gross tons and over) were 'total losses', as compared to 140 in 2000 and a peak of 182 during the 1990s. However, there has been an equally dramatic increase in serious partial losses, up by 200% since 1998.

Source: Marine Link news, 5 March 2007,

<http://www.marinelink.com/Story/Report%3aMerchantShipTotalLossesTumble-206201.html>

SCI to buy Five Offshore Support Vessels for Rs 440 Cr

State-owned Shipping Corporation of India will invest close to Rs 440 crore or \$100 million to buy five offshore support vessels to meet the rising demand in the offshore oil exploration and production sector.

Source: Mint, 8 March 2007.

QM2 in Dubai

Queen Mary 2, the world's largest ocean liner, arrived in Dubai, for the first time, on 11 March, as part of her maiden global world cruise. As it docked at the state-of-the-art Dubai Cruise Terminal in the Port Rashid complex, the 1,132-foot-long, 72-metre tall vessel made history by becoming the largest ship ever to enter Dubai.



Source: Shiptalk News, 12 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1763&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186%0A%0A%0A%0A#anch>

Great Eastern Shipping wins Deal worth Rs 220 Crore

Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd, India's largest private shipping company (by fleet size), has won a Rs 220 crore (\$50 million), one year contract, from Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) to ship crude oil from West Asia to its 10.5 million tonne refinery located in Mangalore. MRPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state-owned ONGC Ltd.

Source: Mint, 20 March 2007.



SHIPBUILDING

[ICICI Ventures Buys Tebma](#)

Chennai based Tebma Shipyard, a small yard specialising in tugboats and dredgers, has sold a 60% stake to a private equity player-ICICI Ventures, for around, Rs 1 Bn (\$23 M). ICICI Ventures has also made an open offer for Tebma on Over the Counter Exchange (OTCEI).

Source: The Economic Times, 12 March 2007.

[China to Match World Leader ROK in Shipbuilding Orders for 2007](#)

China's shipbuilding industry may come close to matching world leader Republic of Korea (ROK) in terms of compensated gross tonnage (CGT) in 2007 and take a 30-35 percent share of the global market, according to the China Securities Journal.

Source: <http://economy.webhostingkingdom.com/2007/03/14/china-to-match-world-leader-rok-in-shipbuilding-orders-for-2007/>, 14 March 2007.

[Baosteel, CSSC to Build China's Largest Shipbuilding Base](#)

The China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) and the Baosteel Group (SSX:600019), two leading Chinese central enterprises, have signed a contract on jointly building the civil product project of Jiangnan Changxing Shipbuilding base, the largest shipbuilding base in China. Under the contract, CSSC and Baosteel will jointly invest more than 10 billion yuan (US\$1.3 billion) to build and renovate two production lines of the shipbuilding base. CSSC will take a stake of 65 per cent, and Baosteel, 35 per cent.

Source: Business in Asia Today, 19 March 2007.

[Strategic Shipyards to Get a Facelift](#)

India's three Ministry of Defence shipyards - Mazagaon Docks, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Goa Shipyard will be modernised and upgraded to the level of international shipyards across Europe, Japan and Korea. The Defence ministry has decided to plan for the second phase of modernisation, though the current round initiatives are yet to conclude. The second round of upgradation of these shipyards will be initiated by 2010-11.

Source:

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News_By_Industry/Transportation/Shipping_Transport/Strategic_shipyards_to_get_a_facelift/articleshow/1825696.cms, 29 March 2007.



MARITIME FORCES

[MCA Takes On New SAR Helicopters](#)

The UK's Maritime & Coastguard Agency is upgrading its search and rescue operations by taking delivery of new S-92 Sikorsky helicopters.

Source: Fairplay, 1 March 2007, <http://www.fairplay.co.uk/>

[Indian Coast Guard To Acquire New Vessels](#)

The Indian Coast Guard will acquire three new specialised vessels this year to tackle oil spill disasters, A. Rajasekhar, Inspector General and Commander, Coast Guard Region (West), told The Hindu

Source: The Hindu, 12 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/12/stories/2007031207800100.htm>

[U.S. Coast Guard Running Out of Ships](#)

For the second time in four months, the U.S. Coast Guard has experienced a major disaster in its shipbuilding programs. The Coast Guard was finally forced to admit defeat in its effort to build 58 new patrol ships (Fast Response Cutters).

Source: <http://www.strategypage.com/htmw/htsurf/articles/20070325.aspx>, 25 March 2007.



MARITIME SECURITY

[Ship Smuggling Arms Destroyed](#)

The Sri Lankan navy blew up an unidentified arms-smuggling ship and killed about 12 of its crew on 28 February 2007, hours after a naval craft attacked a Tamil Tiger rebel flotilla in the north and killed 16 militants, officials said. The ship which was reportedly flying no flag, was believed to be carrying weapons and ammunition for the Tigers and had ignored the navy's orders to stop.

Source: *The Hindu*, 1 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/01/stories/2007030104751600.htm>

[Panama Nuclear Fuss](#)

Panamanian environmentalists gathered recently at the entrance of the Panama Canal to protest against the expected passage of a ship carrying radioactive material. The activists carried flags and distributed flyers to warn Panamanians of the risks caused by the British-registered ship which is heading for Japan with vitrified residues aboard. Alberto de Jesus Mercado with the Friends of the Sea Movement said the vessel was endangering maritime security of Panama and the Caribbean nations through which it passes.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 1 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1720&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

[Making Ports Secure](#)

Philippine Authorities are taking steps to strengthen security in the country's ports to deter the movement of terrorists and criminals as well as illegal cargo. Presidential Management Staff chief Cerge Remonde said the security plan is in line with the completion of 17 priority port projects in various parts of the country this year. He said President Arroyo has allocated a total of P23.5 billion for the construction of 28 major and minor ports until 2010. Remonde and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) general manager Oscar Sevilla, in a news briefing at the Palace, said security devices are being acquired for use in the ports, including more scanning and x-ray machines.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 6 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1745&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

[LTTE to Shoot at Civilian Ships](#)

The LTTE on 5 March 2007 asked civilians not to board Sri Lankan vessels plying between Trincomalee and Jaffna as it had taken a decision to attack such vessels with immediate effect. The warning was put out by the Voice of Tigers (VOT) radio, and had appeared in the pro LTTE website *puthinam.com* and the Tamil daily *Sudar Oli* also. The LTTE said that civilian vessels would become a legitimate military target if they were suspected of carrying Sri Lankan Troops.

Source: *Hindustan Times*, 7 March 2007.

[Lanka will Allow Indian Navy Men on Board Patrol Vessels](#)

The Sri Lankan government has reportedly agreed to let Indian naval personnel board its ships during patrolling in the Palk Strait to prevent possible recurrence of attacks on Indian fishermen, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi said. The decision was conveyed to a DMK delegation by Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner PM Amza.

Source: The Indian Express, 13 March 2007.

[SA Goes High-Tech](#)

The National Ports Authority of South Africa is installing high-tech equipment at the country's eight ports to enhance security and ensure compliance with international maritime anti-terrorist measures.

Source: Shiptalk News, 15 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1793&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>,

[LNG Security Needs Review](#)

The US government needs to examine the risks of terrorist attacks against LNG tankers in American waters more closely, according to a new congressional study this confirms a prior report that said intense fire from a crippled LNG ship could burn people a mile away. The Government Accountability Office urged more study of the potential impact of an LNG tanker catastrophe, especially with the demand for liquefied natural gas soaring.

Source: Shiptalk News, 15 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1792&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

[Canadian Port Security Fails Test](#)

Canada's ports have received a failing grade from a federal Senate committee on national security and defence. In a report entitled Canadian Security Guide Book, the committee said Ottawa has failed to act on recommendations contained in a committee's report published in 2003 that concluded that Canada's marine ports are "inundated with organised crime," under-policed and insufficiently equipped with container scanning equipment. At that time the committee called on the federal government to conduct an inquiry into overall security at Canada ports. However, in the current report, the committee headed by Sen Colin Kenny, said that no inquiry has resulted and that "most of the significant problems endure at Canada's marine ports." the Senate report points out that while comprehensive systems for scanning containers have been installed at ports elsewhere in the world, no such comprehensive system appears to be in the works for Canada.

Source: Lloyd's Register – Fairplay, 23 March 2007.

[Navy, Coast Guard Intensify Patrolling](#)

Within hours of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's air strike at the main military base of the Sri Lanka Air Force, the Indian Navy re-established a Forward Observation Point (FOP) at the Sangam point (the confluence point) at Arichamunai, one of the closest points to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. The Navy also adopted the 24-hour duty schedule. The Navy and Coast Guard have intensified patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line. Twelve marine commandos have been deputed at the FOP in Arichamunai, where there is no human habitation.

Source: The Hindu, 28 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/28/stories/2007032808470400.htm>

Sri Lanka Navy Destroys Three LTTE Boats

Sri Lanka Navy Fast Attack Craft (FACs) on 28 March night attacked an LTTE sea movement off Alampil, in the eastern coast of the island and destroyed three Sea Tiger boats, killing at least 12 Tamil Tiger cadres.

Source: *The Hindu*, 30 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/30/stories/2007033019291500.htm>

Singapore to Build New Command Center for Maritime Security

Singapore is building a joint command center that will house three maritime groups under one roof to increase coordination against threats at sea. The Changi Command and Control Center is expected to be operational in 2009 to coordinate local, regional and international security efforts to deal with threats such as piracy and terrorist attacks on ships. The center, to be located beside the Changi naval base, will house the Singapore Maritime Security Center, the Information Fusion Center and the Multinational Operations and Exercises Center.

Source: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2007/3/28/nation/20070328145358&sec=nation>



MARITIME COOPERATION

Euro Eye in the Sky Agreement

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and European Space Agency have signed an agreement to strengthen the framework for co-operation in the field of maritime monitoring and surveillance. The agreement was signed at the final preparatory stage of EMSA's new satellite-based oil spill monitoring service covering all European waters and adjacent high seas.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 2 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1727&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

India, Japan, U.S. to Hold Pacific Naval Exercise

India is likely to team up with Japan and the United States to hold a "goodwill" naval exercise, off the Japanese coast along the Pacific Ocean next month.

Source: *The Hindu*, 6 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/06/stories/2007030602421300.htm>

US Moves in on Vietnam's Economy

A maritime agreement signed between Vietnam and the US is set to improve the competitiveness of Vietnam's economy. In a phone interview with Fairplay, a US Embassy spokesman in Hanoi said US shipping services will now be able to acquire 51% share in joint-venture enterprises with their Vietnamese counterparts. The maritime agreement is also aimed at "bolstering Vietnam's infrastructure priorities and focus on their development," he added. The agreement which was signed on 15 March will also see the exchange of software, technology and know-how to Vietnam's shipping community. The new agreement comes on the back of previous US-Vietnamese trade initiatives.

Source: *Lloyd's Register - Fairplay*, 22 March 2007.

Vietnam, Panama Sign Agreement

Vietnamese classification society Vietnam Register signed an agreement with Panama's Isthmus Bureau of Shipping (IBS) to check on Panamanian ships in Vietnamese waters. Another agreement, to be signed in April, will enable IBS to inspect Vietnamese ships in Panamanian waters.

Source: *Lloyd's Register - Fairplay*, 26 March 2007.

[South Korea, India Open Arms Sales Talks](#)

South Korea and India began bilateral talks on 21 March 2007 on cooperation in weapons sales, particularly in shipbuilding.

Source: <http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=local&newsid=40909>



MARITIME DISPUTES

[UN Hears Caribbean Border Dispute](#)

The International Court of Justice is examining the Caribbean maritime demarcation between Nicaragua and Honduras that had almost led almost to war.

Source: *Fairplay*, 6 March 2007, <http://www.fairplay.co.uk/>

[Japan Set to Raise Stakes in China Row](#)

Japan is preparing new laws to protect offshore oil and gas rigs in a move that will raise the stakes in a long-running dispute with China over maritime boundaries in the East China Sea. Two separate bills, enjoying cross-party support, would set out a “basic law” of the sea and provide legal protection for Japanese rigs and vessels in the country’s exclusive economic zone.

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/d6790e46-d710-11db-b9d7-000b5df10621.html>, 20 March 2007.



MARITIME LEGISLATION & POLICY

[New EU Safety Laws](#)

European lawmakers are considering a raft of maritime safety measures aimed at keeping dangerous vessels away from EU coastlines, following a series of recent shipping accidents.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 1 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1717&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

[Disputes Redressal Forum for Shippers](#)

The Shipping Ministry of India has constituted a Disputes Redressal Forum to handle the grievances of shippers. This is being viewed by many as a first step towards the enactment of the Shipping Trade Practices Act, which, when in force, will bring transparency in practices by various agencies in the maritime sector. Along with the decision to constitute the Disputes Redressal Forum, the Government, it is learnt, has also taken a few other decisions. Thus, all the logistics service providers in the maritime sector will be required to make available on a public domain not only their tariffs but also the cost structure of each tariff item so as to make them transparent.

Source: *The Business Line*, 5 March 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/03/05/stories/2007030501880600.htm>

[New Rules Attract Private Firms](#)

New rules framed by the government on insurance cover for ships entering Indian ports are attracting private general insurance firms to the shipping sector. ICICI Lombard General Insurance has floated a new insurance scheme for small ship owners. This caters to their third party liabilities and expenses that arise from owning and operating ships, a company official said.

Source: *Mint*, 7 March 2007.

[Malaysia to Adopt More Maritime International Conventions](#)

The Attorney Generals' Chambers (AG) will study the possibility of Malaysia adopting more conventions and agreements under the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to facilitate international trade and shipping.

Source: 8 March 2007, <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=250316>

[Indonesian Age Limit](#)

The Indonesian Transportation Department will reportedly continue to implement its policy to limit the age of operational ships in the country to a maximum of 25 years, a spokesman said.

Source: Shiptalk News, 14 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1781&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

[Dredgers Oppose Delhi's New Policy](#)

Private Indian dredging companies have opposed the new dredging policy announced by the shipping ministry, saying it favours government-owned Dredging Corp of India (DCI) in the award of government contracts. The new policy takes effect from 1 April, and will give price preference to companies that register their vessels in India to encourage Indian-flagged dredgers. From that date, any company owning Indian-flagged dredgers will have first right of refusal on contracts if the bid is within 10% of the lowest received for any government-owned dredging work. To safeguard DCI's interests, Delhi has reserved the right to assign to it any dredging contract in any major port. Shipping ministry sources said the new policy will encourage Indian branches of foreign dredging companies to flag in. However, the Indian Dredger Owners' Association fears that because of uncertainties created by the new guidelines, domestic dredging companies will hesitate to invest in acquiring dredgers and the uncertainty will continue even after the tendering process.

Source: Lloyd's Register – Fairplay, 21 March 2007.

FISHING

[Tamil Fishermen in Jaffna Protest Fishing Limits](#)

The fishermen of Pashaiyoor, Gurunagar, Kolumbuththurai and Navanthurai in the Jaffna municipal area have protested against the ban on fishing imposed by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA). The SLA allowed fishermen to fish in shallow waters only up to 500 meters from the shore. SLA made the concessionary announcement after the representatives of the Goodwill Committee for Peace and Justice met the SLA commanders and requested the lifting of total ban on fishing. Fisheries union officials said that nearly 4,000 local fishermen rejected the offer saying that 500 meter in the shallow water sea is knee deep and does not contain enough fish stock worth fishing, and vowed to boycott until they are allowed to go fishing in boats.

Source: <http://www.tamilsydney.com/content/view/434/37/>, 3 March 2007.

[Greenpeace Launches Global Database of Pirate Fishing Vessels](#)

Greenpeace has launched a first global database of blacklisted, illegal fishing vessels, in a bid to tackle the huge problem of illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing, a \$9 billion rogue industry which is having a devastating effect on fish stocks and biodiversity in some of the most ecologically important areas of the world's oceans. The Greenpeace database (<http://oceans.greenpeace.org/blacklist>), which was launched at the meeting of the committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organisations

(FAO) in Rome, aims to publicly identify vessels which are involved in so-called 'pirate fishing', to expose the lack of action by the authorities to prevent the illegal trade.

Source: *Web Wire*, 7 March 2007, <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=28652>



MARINE ENVIRONMENT

How Does Climate Change Directly Impact on Marine Ecosystems?

The latest European Science Foundation Marine Board study report- "Impact of climate change on European marine and coastal environment: Ecosystem Approach" shows how even moderate climate scenarios have caused marked consequences on the European marine environment. The study has detailed the impact of climate change at a European Seas level – in the Arctic, the Barents Sea, the Nordic Seas, the Baltic, the North Sea, the Northeast Atlantic, in the Celtic-Biscay Shelf, the Iberia upwelling margin, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Source: <http://www.huliq.com/13230/how-does-climate-change-directly-impact-on-marine-ecosystems>, 3 March 2007.

Travel by Sea Also Aggravates Global Warming

Carbon dioxide emissions from shipping are double those of aviation and increasing at an alarming rate, which will have a serious impact on global warming, according to research by the industry and European academics. Shipping currently accounts for around 5% of the global total of carbon dioxide emissions, compared to the 2% derived from air travel. An IMO study of greenhouse gas emissions has estimated that emissions from the global fleet would increase dramatically in the next 20 years as globalisation leads to increased demand for bigger, faster ships. Without action, the IMO predicts that by 2020, emissions from ships would increase up to 72%.

***This must however be seen in the context of the fact that over 90% of volume of world cargo is transported over the sea.*

Source: *The Hindu*, 5 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/05/stories/2007030505971400.htm>

Malta Gets Tough on Pollution

Malta is in the process of reviewing and fine-tuning its present regime to fight maritime pollution. In a bid to garner better control over maritime pollution, a Maritime Safety Committee involving such agencies as the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA), the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) and the Civil Protection Department (CPD) has been established. This Committee is led by the Malta Maritime Authority (MMA) which co-ordinates operations in cases of maritime accidents and incidents. A working group has also been appointed to forward recommendations to Government on the existing organization that involves intervention and the provision of adequate response in cases of maritime emergencies and pollution

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 6 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1743&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>

Atlantic Ocean Warming Linked to Stronger Hurricanes

Scientists funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and affiliated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, N.C., reported fresh evidence to support the theory that global warming has contributed to the emergence of stronger hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. But the trend does not hold up in the world's other oceans.

Source: *The Hindu*, 8 March 2007.

[New Study to Save Marine Resources](#)

The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT) will tie-up with research institutions to carry out studies for better conservation of resources in the Gulf of Mannar and its future management during 2007.

Source: The Hindu, 10 March 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/03/10/stories/2007031008740500.htm>

[Rising Sea Threatens Sundarbans](#)

After a 10-year study in and around the Bay of Bengal, oceanographers say the sea is rising at 3.14 mm a year in the Sundarbans against a global average of 2 mm, threatening low-lying areas of India and Bangladesh

Source: Mint, 20 March 2007.

[Chemical Interception](#)

Chinese Maritime Safety Administration will increase inspections at ports in the city of Shanghai, after the interception of four container shipments of dangerous chemicals that were mislabeled to conceal the true nature of the goods, Shanghai Daily reported. The Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration said the shipments were cosigned by four separate companies and arrived in the city on separate ships over an 11-day stretch beginning on 5 March.

Source: Shiptalk News, 23 March 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1831&rcid=187&pcid=178&cid=187#anch>



MARINE TECHNOLOGY

[Wave-Power Technology Accelerates](#)

Ocean Power Delivery is testing its prototype wave energy device, known as Pelamis, off the coast of the Orkney Islands. The site 500 miles north of the islands is the world's biggest wave farm so far, BBC reported. Pelamis consists of four long steel tubes that are each 40 meters long and float on the surface of the sea. The action of the waves makes each section flex against the next one. According to a company representative, within five to 10 years wave power will be as cheap as wind power; right now, it's an emerging technology. European Marine Energy Centre says that a fifth of the U.K.'s energy could come from waves. The tide might just be turning.

Source: Marine Technology Reporter, 19 March 2007,

<http://www.mtronline.net/mt/mtStories.aspx?ShowStory=1009362096>

[Singapore Funds Maritime R&D](#)

Singapore has set up a S\$10M (\$6.5M) fund to boost maritime research and development. The Maritime and Port Authority and the Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*Star) are splitting the grant to be provided over three years to the Centre for Offshore Research & Engineering (CORE) at the National University of Singapore. An MOU for the purpose was signed between the university and A*Star, MPA and the Economic Development Board when the offshore research programme was launched. Separately CORE has signed an MOU with seven industry partners, among whom are Singapore's leading shipyards grouped under conglomerates Keppel Corp and Semb Corp and classification societies Lloyd's Register (Asia) and American Bureau of Shipping. Singapore is the world's leading builder of jack-up rigs and the MOU provides for joint research projects in offshore and marine engineering. Offshore related works including construction of jack-up rigs, semi-submersibles and FPSO and FSO conversions account for a significant portion of Singapore's booming marine industry.

Source: Fairplay, 23 March 2007.



Shipping Directorate Eases Institute Norms

The DG Shipping has relaxed norms for maritime institutes. They would now have to enter only into a tie-up with shipping companies for the on the job training of students. Earlier they were required to sign a memorandum of understanding with shipping companies. Director General of Shipping, which earlier insisted on an MoU, has now relaxed the rules after representations from 120 maritime institutes in Chennai. At present, 18000 students, who have already undergone the four year theoretical course, have not been able to find jobs as they could not complete six months of on-the-job training, mandatory to get "Certificates of Competence."

Source: Mint, 8 March 2007.

India May Ship in Foreign Seafarers

India has a shortage of over 500 marine officers. A serious shortage of qualified Indian marine officers has led the government to consider foreign seafarers on board the Indian ships. The Merchant Shipping Act does not allow this. The Directorate-General of Shipping (DGS) is considering the demand of Indian shipowners to allow them to recruit up to two foreign nationals to work on board Indian ships in both nautical and engineering disciplines, subject to certain conditions. A senior shipping ministry official confirmed the development, adding, "Either the master or the chief officer must be an Indian national."

Source:

<http://www.businessstandard.com/economy/storypage.php?leftnm=3&subLeft=1&chklogin=N&autono=277171&tab=r>, 9 March 2007.

India Calls for One Cadet per Ship

India will appeal at IMO to make it mandatory for all ship owners to carry cadets as part of a move to overcome the acute shortage of trained sea-going officers. Director General of Shipping (DGS) Kiran Dhingra has proposed that every ship should employ at least one trainee officer, mirroring India's stipulation that all Indian-registered ships must carry at least one cadet. "IMO should make it mandatory for every ship to accommodate at least one trainee on board. This will take care of the deficit," said Dhingra, who added that practical training is necessary for seafarers. The proposal comes at a time when Indian ships are finding it increasingly difficult to employ experienced officers. Recently, DGS had issued a notification instructing maritime institutes to link up with shipping companies to provide sea-time training to students. However, the notification had to be diluted after training institutes opposed to the move.

Source: Lloyd's Register – Fairplay, 29 March 2007.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. Requests for subscription and cancellation may be sent to the address below.

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