

# MAKING WAVES

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## MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

### Indian Govt. Sets Sail for Upgrade of 12 Major Ports

The government of India is working on a two-pronged strategy to upgrade 12 major ports to international standards during the 11th five-year Plan. The first part of the strategy entails a financial plan for the ports, while the second aims at initiating capital dredging. The financial plan is being prepared by the Planning Commission in tandem with the shipping ministry. According to ministry officials, though the amount to be invested is not yet finalised, a large share of the funds will come from private investors.

*Source: Business Standard, 1 May 2007,*

*<http://www.businessstandard.com/common/storypage.php?autono=283034&leftnm=3&subLeft=0&chkFlg>*

### Next Port of Call

Jupiter Capital has finalized a proposal to develop Vijaydurg port, in Sindhudurg district, for a concession period of 50 years, and would spend around Rs 1300 crore. Being a non major port, Jupiter Capital will have full freedom to fix tariffs for the services provided at the port. Maharashtra Maritime Board is expected to sign a formal agreement soon.

*Source: The Economic Times, 7 May 2007.*



### Report on Dwell Time is being Finalised

The report of the inter-ministerial group (IMG), which the Indian government has set up under the chairmanship of secretary, department of shipping to recommend measures for reducing the dwell time at major ports and to bring them in line with international standards, is being finalized.

*Source: The Economic Times, 7 May 2007.*

### Singapore's PSA to Build Container Terminal for Hazira on BOO Basis

The Singapore-based global ports company, PSA International, will construct a container terminal that can handle one million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) per annum for the Hazira Private Port Ltd (HPPL), about 25 km from Surat, on a Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis. This means while HPPL would continue to own the general port infrastructure, PSA would pay HPPL for the use of the port. The proposed twin-berth container terminal would be the first in south Gujarat and may require an initial investment of Rs 1400 crore (\$341 million).

*Source: Mint, 8 May 2007.*

### Site Selected for Deep Sea Port in Bangladesh

Shonadia Island and Kutubdia Channel have been selected as suitable sites for constructing deep sea port in three phases at a cost of Tk. 42,000 crore by 2055. Pacific International Consultants (PIC), Japan, submitted its first phase "Techno-Economic Feasibility Study" report at a meeting in the Shipping Ministry (Bangladesh) with Shipping Adviser M A Matin. In reply to a question, the shipping adviser said when the

government takes the final decision, financial assistance would have to be sought from World Bank and ADB. Asked about the difference of opinion in creating a deep sea port in the country, the shipping adviser said a technical committee would be constituted to scrutinise various issues and the recommendations of the committee would be sent in the next cabinet committee for approval. According to the feasibility study, the work of the first phase for constructing the deep sea port would be completed at a cost of Tk. 7,000 crore by 2020 while the second phase at a cost of 13,000 crore by 2035 and the last phase at a cost of Tk. 22,000 crore by 2055. A total of 11 kilometres long deep sea port with a total of 58 jetties would be constructed. PIC has been carrying out the feasibility study at a consultancy fee of Tk. 13, 24, 30,053.75 allocated from Chittagong Port Authority from its own resources.

*Source: The Bangladesh Today, 10 May 2007,  
<http://www.thebangladeshtoday.com/back%20page.htm>*

### **Chinese Ports' Cargo Handling Capacity to Reach 8 billion Tonnes by 2010**

The cargo handling capacity of China's ports is expected to reach eight billion tonnes and 170 million TEUs in 2010 amidst a trade boom and continued economic expansion.

*Source: 23 May 2007, [http://www.domain-b.com/industry/shipping/20070523\\_capacity.htm](http://www.domain-b.com/industry/shipping/20070523_capacity.htm)*

### **Focus on Dredging**

The government has decided to go ahead with a mega dredging company to be floated by Mumbai Port Trust, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Kolkata Port Trust, Mazagon Dock and Shipping Corporation of India. It has also decided against inviting foreign companies to partner the proposed joint venture, claiming that the foreign companies may form a cartel for domestic dredging works.

*Source: The Economic Times, 28 May 2007.*

### **L&T's Mega Shipbuilding Facility to Incorporate Port**

L&T, which has announced its plans to set up a mega Greenfield shipbuilding facility, on the east coast of India, at an estimated cost of Rs 2000 crore is understood to be reworking its plans. According to latest information, it is broadening the scope of its proposed facility to make it a fully integrated port-cum-shipyard facility.

*Source: The Economic Times, 28 May 2007.*

## SHIPPING

### **Iran Launches Asia-Europe Shipping Line**

The Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) initiated the new Asia-Europe line. 11 vessels will commute in the route. Reportedly, the container capacity of the company will be tripled after supplying the company with six 6,500-, four 4,900-, and five 2,300-container ships. The line starts in the Far East ports, covers the ports of China and Southeast Asia, enters the Persian Gulf, and moves toward North Europe and south and north of Mediterranean Sea.

*Source: 30 April 2007, <http://www.iranmania.com/News/ArticleView/Default.asp?NewsCode=51279&NewsKind=Current%20Affairs>*

### **Panama Canal Shipping Charges Jump**

Member shipping lines in the Westbound Transpacific Stabilization Agreement have announced their intention to increase Panama Canal charges for the first time in more than two years, reflecting annual increases in Panama Canal transit fees, as well as various premium charges and other related cost increases incurred over time. Effective from 1 June 2007, WTSA lines would individually raise their charges to a level of US\$212 per container, and either \$11.50 per metric ton or \$4.50 per cubic meter for cargo rated on a weight or measurement basis.

*Source: 11 May 2007,*

*<http://californiafarmer.com/index.aspx?ascid=fpStory&fpsid=28271&fpstid=2>*

### [Asian Ship Owners want Stronger Voice](#)

The Asian Shipowners' Forum is to set up a permanent secretariat in Singapore and appoint a Secretary General. The decision was announced in a joint statement issued at the sixteenth Asian Shipowners' Forum, held in Busan, Korea, May 28-30, hosted by the Korean Shipowners' Association. The event was attended by 119 delegates from the shipowner associations of Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and from the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations, comprising the associations of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. It was chaired by Mr Jin-Bang Lee, Chairman of the Korea Shipowners' Association. The decision to set up a permanent presence in Singapore reflects Asian shipowners' intention not only to speak out on the world shipping agenda, but to express a unified, consensual Asian shipowners' view to the international community. The new organisation is expected to be set up within the next six months, with the secretary-general to be picked in July.

*Source: MarineLog, 30 May 2007,*

*<http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMVII/2007may00300.html>*



## SHIPBUILDING

### [China Shipping Group Enters Shipbuilding Market](#)

China's second largest shipping conglomerate, Shanghai-based China Shipping Group plans to enter the new building market by the end of 2008. China Shipping Group's six current yards, situated in Shanghai and Guangzhou, are limited to ship repairs, ship conversions and hull maintenance. Ground for a new shipyard has already been broken in the Yanjiang Development Zone of Jiangdu in east China's Zhejiang Province. It will cover an area of 187 hectares and stretch 3,500 meters along the coastline. China Shipping Group plans to bring annual production capacity of the yard to 1.5 million deadweight tons over a period of three years. Reportedly, it is the second time in less than two months that a major centrally-administered state-owned Chinese enterprise has branched out into shipbuilding. In March, the Shanghai Baosteel Group Corp., China's largest steel producer, jointly invested 10 billion yuan (about US \$ 1.3 billion) with China State Shipbuilding Corporation to build the country's largest shipbuilding base at the estuary of the Yangtze River.

*Source: 2 May 2007, <http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMVII/2007may00024.html>*

### [World's Top 5 Shipbuilding Yard](#)

According to a report by London-based shipbuilding and marine transportation researcher Clarksons, China's Dalian Shipbuilding Industry with 2,838,000 compensated gross tons (CGT) ranked fifth on the list of world shipbuilding yards based on order backlog as of March. Hyundai Heavy Industries with 10,790,000 CGT came in first, followed by Samsung Heavy Industries with 8,517,000 CGT, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering with 6,559,000 CGT and Hyundai Mipo Dockyard with 4,296,000 CGT. Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries with 2,762,000 CGT and STX Shipbuilding with 2,659,000 CGT ranked sixth and seventh, respectively. 16 Chinese shipbuilding yards made the top 50 list, which exceeds the number of Korean companies.

*Source: 4 May 2007, <http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200705/200705040018.html>*

### [Countdown to Launch of First Astute Submarine at Barrow Shipyard](#)

The Royal Navy's largest and most powerful attack submarine, the first-of-class Astute, is now entering the final stages of preparation for the launch which will take place at the BAE Systems shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness on 8th June 2007.

*Source: 10 May 2007, [http://www.shippingtimes.co.uk/item577\\_astute.htm](http://www.shippingtimes.co.uk/item577_astute.htm)*

### **Building its Own**

China has begun an ambitious effort to build a fleet of more than 90 supertankers to improve its control over oil imports which are vital to sustaining a booming economy, shipping industry experts say. Government strategic planners in Beijing have set a target that half of the oil imports should be carried on Chinese-owned tankers. No deadline has been set to meet this goal, but Chinese shipping companies are expected to order as many as 65 supertankers, worth an estimated \$7.1 billion, by 2012, according to transport analysts.

*Source: Shiptalk News, 16 May 2007,*

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=2063&rcid=174&pcid=141&cid=174#anch>

### **India's ABG set to buy Vipul Shipyard**

India's ABG Shipyard Ltd says it has signed a MoU for acquisition of the Vipul Shipyard situated adjacent to the company's existing shipyard at Magdalla Port, District-Surat, Gujarat. ABG says the acquisition "will add substantial land with a good water front to its resources along with slipway and other plant and equipment for shipbuilding." This acquisition will enable ABG to enhance its shipbuilding capacity from the present 32 to 40 vessels on modular basis in future.

*Source: MarineLog, 24 May 2007,*

<http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMVII/2007may00241.html>

### **Bharati to build Voith-Schneider PSV's**

India's Bharati Shipyard reports that MAN Ferrostaal AG of Germany has ordered two large PSVs. The contract value of each vessel is Euros 38 million. The 105 m vessels will be diesel electric and fitted with two sets of Voith Schneider cycloidal propeller units at the stern. Classed with Germanischer Lloyd, they will have a free running speed of 17 knots, a cargo deck area of 1,400 sq meters and a 2,500 tons Deck load. Bharati Shipyard is to carry out the detailed engineering for the vessels in its in-house design center. Bharati Shipyard says this will be the first time that this type of PSV with Voith Schneider propulsion unit is built in Asia and that currently there are only three such vessels in operation worldwide.

*Source: MarineLog, 28 May 2007,*

<http://www.marinelog.com/DOCS/NEWSMMVII/2007may00280.html>

### **Shanghai Builds China's Biggest Container Ship**

A Shanghai shipbuilding company made a breakthrough in domestic shipbuilding industry by building the country's biggest container ship. Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding Co. Ltd, a subsidiary of China Shipbuilding Group Corporation, built a container ship capable of carrying 8,530 20-foot containers, making China the fourth country in the world capable of creating such container ships after South Korea, Japan and Denmark. With a loading capacity of 101,000 tons, the 334-meter-long ship only needs one helmsman and is equipped with four electricity generators. It is one of the five 8,530-TEU-ships the company is building for China Shipping Container Lines Co. Ltd. The company will also build four such ships for Greek shipping company Costamare.

*Source: 29 May 2007,*

<http://english.eastday.com/eastday/englishedition/metro/userobject1ai2869195.html>

### **World's Oldest Clipper to be Scrapped**

The world's oldest clipper, the SV Carrick, is to be scrapped. North Ayrshire Council have decided that the ship should be 'deconstructed', despite pleas from Sunderland and Australia as well as voices in Scotland pointing out the historic merits of the underland-built ship. North Ayrshire Council planning committee took the decision to log the dismantling of the ship,



built in 1864, after years of negotiations with other interested parties to give the ship a new home failed. The Scottish Maritime Museum at Irvine, where she has lain, rotting on a slip since being taken there after a disastrous spell when she was sunk in Princes Dock in Glasgow, say that they can't even fund the 'deconstruction' of the historic vessel.

*Source: 29 May 2007, [http://www.shippingtimes.co.uk/item642\\_carrick.htm](http://www.shippingtimes.co.uk/item642_carrick.htm)*

## MARITIME TRADE & ECONOMY

### [Varun Shipping's Net Profit Down 43 pc](#)

Varun Shipping's net profit for the fourth quarter of 2006-07 slipped 43.76 per cent to Rs 326.15 crore from Rs 579.9 crore a year ago. However, the company's total income for the quarter went up marginally to Rs 1,919.86 crore from Rs 1,904.48 crore. The board has recommended a 45 per cent dividend. Consolidated net profit for 2006-07, came down to Rs 1,449.05 crore against Rs 1,840.11 crore last year, while the net income rose to Rs 7,361.11 crore against Rs 6,635.54 crore a year ago.

*Source: Economic Times, 3 May 2007,*

*[http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News\\_By\\_Industry/Transportation/Shipping\\_Transport/Varun\\_Shippings\\_net\\_profit\\_down\\_43\\_pc/articleshow/1999323.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/News_By_Industry/Transportation/Shipping_Transport/Varun_Shippings_net_profit_down_43_pc/articleshow/1999323.cms)*

### [One in Four](#)

One of four seafarers around the globe today is a Filipino, putting the Philippines in the big league of the world's maritime industry, according to Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman Feliciano G. Salonga. Salonga noted statistics showing that remittances of Filipino seamen into the country have reached US\$3.5 billion, helping stabilise the country's economy for the last 25 years.

*Source: Shiptalk News, 4 May 2007,*

*<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=2017&rcid=167&pcid=98&cid=167#anch>*

### [Govt. of India to Develop Five Ports as Cruise Tourism Hubs](#)

With a view to encouraging high-end tourism in the country, the government has identified five ports on the Indian coasts for developing as cruise tourism hubs. The ports identified for the purpose are Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore and Kochi on the west coast and Tuticorin on the east. The Ministry of Tourism will extend assistance for procurement of cruise vessels or boats for promotion of this new tourism initiative. However, not many players have shown keenness for cruise tourism yet. So far only two operators have started plying cruise vessels – Star Cruises from Mumbai and Goa to Lakshadweep and Indian Ocean Cruise for operating from Goa to Lakshadweep via Mangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum. But international players who are eyeing Indian peninsula's vast coastline, dotted with exotic coastal cities, have begun to show interest. Royal Caribbean International took delivery of its brand new Freedom-class ship, showcasing wellness, family and wedding programmes on board. The firm launched cruise-liner 'Liberty' along world's largest cruise ship with sister ship 'Freedom of the Seas' this month and opened its outposts in India to attract the high-spending Indian and foreign tourists.

*Source: Times of India, 27 May 2007,*

*[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Govt\\_to\\_develop\\_five\\_ports\\_as\\_cruise\\_tourism\\_hubs/articleshow/2077436.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Govt_to_develop_five_ports_as_cruise_tourism_hubs/articleshow/2077436.cms)*

### [IVRCL Plans To Enter Port, Shipyard Business](#)

Hyderabad-based infrastructure major, IVRCL Infrastructures & Projects Ltd, plans to enter the port development business by setting up a Rs2,500 crore facility in Andhra Pradesh to target both the global and domestic markets for shipbuilding and offshore oil rig fabrication. As part of this strategy, it is also in the race—having set aside a \$150

million (Rs600 crore) corpus—to acquire a US onshore oil rig company with rigs in Brazil.

Source: *Mint*, 30 May 2007, <http://www.livemint.com/2007/05/30005722/IVRCL-plans-to-enter-port-shi.html>

## MARITIME FORCES

### [Forty New Ships to be Commissioned in Coming Years](#)

Asserting that its objective is to "get smarter and not merely larger in terms of numbers", the Indian Navy has announced that it would commission 40 new ships, most of them to be built indigenously, in the coming years.

Source: *The Hindu*, 2 May 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/004200705020312.htm>

### [Singapore Navy Receives its First Frigate, RSS Formidable](#)

The Republic of Singapore Navy received its first frigate – the RSS Formidable – at Changi Naval Base during celebrations to mark its 40th anniversary, attended by past and present Navy Chiefs. The frigates would play a key role in the integrated 3rd Generation SAF. The ship is the first of a fleet of six frigates coming into service over the next two years. Onboard naval helicopters, the Seahawks, are due in three years, and a new class of submarines is expected by the end of the decade

Source: 5 May 2007,

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/274399/1.html>

### [USS Nimitz Strike Group Joins 5th Fleet](#)

The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group (CSG) entered the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations on 8 May to conduct maritime security operations (MSO) in regional waters, and provide air support to ground forces operating in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Nimitz CSG relieves the Dwight D. Eisenhower CSG.

Source: 8 May 2007, [http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=29262](http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=29262)

### [USCG Split](#)

The US Coast Guard (USCG) may soon be split into two US maritime bodies under new legislation. A brand-new smaller federal agency is likely to be formed to take over most of the parts of the USCG that international and domestic shipowners meet in the course of their business. US Maritime Administration (MarAd) spokesman Shannon Russell however says that she is not aware of any such proposals but points out that one USCG function having to do with the alteration of bridges is set to be moved into MarAd.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 29 May 2007,

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=2123&rcid=191&pcid=178&cid=191#anch>

## MARITIME SECURITY

### [IMB Piracy Figures Refuted by Indonesia](#)

Indonesia has belatedly refuted that there were 42 piracy cases in the Malacca Straits in 2006 as stated by the IMB. According to its own data, there were 38 piracy cases in 2004, 15 in 2005, two last year, and so far this year there had been no case considered big enough to be included in the IMB data. Indonesian navy commander Admiral Slamet Soebijanto said the IMB statement was influenced by foreign interests which wanted to take part in guarding the Straits. Defence Minister Juwono Sudarsono said his ministry would send an official letter to the bureau on the vast difference. He was concerned that the IMB's statement could affect Indonesia's competitive edge internationally.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 14 May 2007

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=2052&rcid=191&pcid=178&cid=191#anch>

### **Mines, Small Boats May Pose Threat to U.S. Ports**

Members of Congress should be more concerned about the threat of terrorists using mines and small boats to attack multiple U.S. ports and disrupt the economy, according to a U.S. Coast Guard expert. Lawmakers should grant more funding to port surveillance to counter the threat, Guy Thomas, science and technology adviser for maritime domain awareness at the Coast Guard, said in an interview. Instead, lawmakers are focusing port security spending on scanning shipping containers for a nuclear bomb, which most experts in the Coast Guard and intelligence community agree should be less of a priority than maritime domain awareness, he said.

*Source: CQ Homeland Security – Transportation & Infrastructure, 14 May 2007, <http://public.cq.com/docs/hs/hsnews110-00002511604.html>.*

### **LTTE Hijacked Indian Fishing Trawler Sunk by Maldivian Defence forces**

Maldivian National Defence Force (MNDF) destroyed a 68 feet long fishing trawler that had been carrying weapons to the LTTE terrorists on 17 May 2007. The fishing trawler, as "Sri Krishna" was known to be sunk in the Maldivian waters off Gaaff Alif atoll and the man overboard was immediately rescued by the MNDF. Government Spokesman of Maldives, Mohamed Hussein Shareef said that the crewmember had revealed the LTTE connection to the incident. The crewmember speaking in South Indian Malayalam language had identified himself as a South Indian fisherman and told the coastguards that the trawler was smuggling arms and ammo for the LTTE. He has further revealed that the four LTTE terrorists had hijacked the fishing vessel and threw the other crew members overboard along with the fishing equipment. The man has also claimed that he was spared because he is the Technical Officer on the boat, and was needed by the crew in case of breakdown. Those four more occupants who had jumped overboard from the trawler were also rescued by the Coastguard.

*Source: 18 May 2007, <http://www.lankaweb.com/news/items07/190507-3.html>*

### **Sri Lankan Navy Discusses Maritime Security at Confab**

Sri Lankan Defence authorities held bilateral talks on maritime security with several key nations including the United Kingdom, a top Defence Ministry official said. He said a special defence delegation led by Navy Chief Wasantha Karannagoda, which attended the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference in Singapore held talks with Navy Commanders of New Zealand, Singapore, India, Bangladesh and the US Pacific Command on the sidelines of the conference. During the talks, Navy chiefs exchanged views on several security matters. The biennial maritime exhibition and conference was held from May 13 to 19 and was attended by Navy Chiefs from 16 nations. It was the biggest event in the year to discuss maritime security.

*Source: Daily Mirror, 22 May 2007, <http://www.sibernews.com/news/sri-lanka/-200705228654/>*

### **Israeli Report Warns Against Maritime Terrorism**

An Israeli intelligence expert issued a paper earlier this month warning that maritime terrorism is positioned to be al Qaeda's method of choice. Akiva Lorenz of the Israel-based International Institute for Counter-Terrorism said: "In the near future we will witness more maritime attempts to disrupt the oil flow in the Persian Gulf and against cruise ships." He said: "Six of the nine chokepoints in the world are located in geographical areas where local terrorist groups with ties to Al Qaeda possess maritime capabilities." He stated that terrorists might sink a vessel in order to disrupt narrow chokepoints vital to trade, indicating that sinking a tanker at one particular chokepoint could block all traffic. He added: "As a result, the world economy would experience a sudden shortfall of 90 percent of Saudi crude oil and all of Kuwaiti and Iraqi crude oil." Lorenz stated: "The massive cut to the oil supply would increase the oil price to unknown heights."

*Source: 28 May 2007,*

*<http://portsecuritynews.com/news/templates/registered.asp?articleid=1599&zoneid=1>*

### [Ransom Demand](#)

Somali pirates who hijacked two South Korean fishing vessels off the Somali coast are demanding \$700,000 ransom for the release of the scores of Asian crew members held hostage, Kenya's maritime official said on 26 May. Andrew Mwangura, director of the East African Seafarers Assistance Program, said the pirates who seized the Tanzanian-flagged vessels, about 370 kilometers off the coast of Somalia on May 15 have not made any intention of the reducing the ransom.

*Source: Shiptalk News, 29 May 2007,*

*<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=2111&rcid=191&pcid=178&cid=191#anch>*

### [Proper Inspection of Foreign Vessels Needed](#)

Reacting to the recent sinking of a merchant vessel from Dubai off Gujarat coast, the Indian Coast Guard has reiterated the need for proper maintenance and inspection of foreign vessels coming to the country's ship-breaking yards especially during the pre-monsoon and monsoon season. The merchant vessel, Marian Trans which was heading to Gujarat's Alang shipyard for breaking, sunk off Gujarat coast on 26 May making it the first ship tragedy of this monsoon, Coast Guard officials stated. Last monsoons saw fourteen grounding incidents and if it was not for proactive action from Coast Guard and other associated agencies like DG Shipping, maritime boards and state governments, the incidents could have catastrophed into major environmental disasters as all these vessels carried large quantities of oil, officials added.

*Source: 30 May 2007, <http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=238677>*



## MARITIME COOPERATION

### [Africa Mercy Sails from UK to Africa](#)

The world's largest non-governmental hospital ship, the Africa Mercy, set sail for Africa to embark on its inaugural service in war-torn Liberia. The former Danish rail ferry has been converted into a state-of-the-art hospital ship at a cost of over £30million and will provide free healthcare and community development services to the poorest people of Africa. The Africa Mercy is the fourth ship to be operated by the international charity, Mercy Ships, which has provided more than £350million worth of services since its inception in 1978. The charity's biggest supporter in the UK is Ann Gloag OBE, co-founder of the transport group Stagecoach. Through her Balcraig Foundation, she has donated in excess of £7.5million to the charity. A massive boost to the project also came in the form of a £6million matching grant donated by The Oak Foundation, based in Switzerland.



*Source: Shipping Times, 4 May 2007, [http://www.shippingtimes.co.uk/item539\\_africamercy.htm](http://www.shippingtimes.co.uk/item539_africamercy.htm)*

### [Indonesia, Australia Hope to Conduct Joint Sea Patrol](#)

Indonesian Fisheries and Maritime Affairs Minister Freddy Numberi said that Indonesia and Australia hope to conduct joint sea patrols to safeguard their waters, as reported by the national Antara News Agency. Minister Numberi and his Australian counterpart were attending the Regional Ministerial Meeting (RMM) on Promoting Responsible Fishing Practices in the Region along with delegates from 10 other countries. During the meeting Australia gave Indonesia a quota of exporting 250 tons of tuna to Australia.

*Source: 5 May 2007, [http://english.people.com.cn/200705/05/eng20070505\\_372180.html](http://english.people.com.cn/200705/05/eng20070505_372180.html)*



### [Decision on Guyana, Suriname Maritime Border Shifted to August](#)

The United Nations Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will give its final word in August instead of June, on exactly where the territorial waters of Guyana end and where Suriname's begin. The delay apparently was caused by procedural matters, which are yet to be finalised. In June 2000, Surinamese gunboats expelled a rig that was exploring for oil and gas deposits in an offshore area to which both countries lay claim, sparking one of the worst diplomatic incidents in the 15-nation Caribbean Community, of which both are members. Suriname's contention was that the rig, rented on a concession granted by Guyana, was in its waters. Guyana begged to differ.

*Source: 6 May 2007, [http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article\\_general\\_news?id=56519666](http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=56519666)*

### [Whaling Politics](#)

An unlikely grouping of the British Government, naturalist Sir David Attenborough, and Lord Ashcroft, the U.K. Conservative Party leader, has emerged to try to stop Japan and its allies from overturning the international ban on whaling. To the horror of more than 150 international anti-whaling groups, pro-whaling countries led by Japan gained a simple majority of votes at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting last year, but not the 75 per cent required to guarantee a return to commercial whaling. Britain and its allies are now making a concerted attempt to reverse even last year's simple majority. British Ministers have signed up Croatia, Slovenia, Cyprus, and Greece to join an anti-whaling coalition at the IWC's annual conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Two more anti-whaling nations, Costa Rica and Peru, have also been persuaded by Britain to pay their membership dues to allow them to vote. Japan has been accused of using multi-million dollar fishing aid packages to smaller countries to swing the IWC. Japan strongly denied using aid money to influence whaling votes, arguing that it was one of the largest aid givers in the world and supported these countries for other reasons.

*Source: The Hindu, 8 May 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/05/08/stories/2007050803490900.htm>*

### [Nigeria, Cameroon Agree on Maritime Border Demarcation](#)

The Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission has agreed on the demarcation of the maritime border between the two West African countries, according to United Nations source. During a meeting in Abuja, the commission heard conclusions from lawyers and cartographers before finally agreeing to keep the boundary line from the 1994 British Marine map. Agreeing on the boundary, which runs along the Bakassi peninsula and splits the large oil fields there in two, was essential to resolving the long-standing border dispute between the two countries. The commission was established by the UN on 15 November 2002, at the request of President Paul Biya of Cameroon and his Nigerian counterpart Olusegun Obasanjo to follow up on the implementation of an International Court of Justice decision on the two nations' border dispute. The conflict has dragged on for 13 years between Abuja and Yaounde over ownership of the territory, a 1,000-square-kilometre (400-square-mile) patch of Atlantic coastal swamp. Nigeria formally handed over the oil-rich Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon in compliance with the ICJ ruling and UN-brokered deadline in last August.

*Source: 12 May 2007,*

*<http://www.africasia.com/services/news/newsitem.php?area=africa&item=070512135027.64q0cafz.php>*

### [Pollution Laws for Cruise Ships Tightened](#)

The federal government of Canada announced tough new rules on marine pollution aimed partly at cruise ships that dump waste while going up and down the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The regulations would result in fines of up to \$1 million, jail terms as high as three years, or both for vessel operators who dump sewage and other waste in violation of international rules.

*Source: 8 May 2007, <http://www.canada.com/vancouver/sun/story.html?id=ca29aa4f-d872-4106-b572-fff117489646&k=12752>*

### [Australia Introduces New Maritime Crew Visa](#)

The Australian government announced it would be introducing a new visa aimed at hiring foreign crew members to help secure its borders. The Migration Amendment (Maritime Crew) Act 2007, passed by the Australian Parliament on 10 May 2007, introduces the Maritime Crew visa "to improve Australia's border security and bring sea crew into line with visa arrangements for most other visitors to Australia", according to Immigration Minister Kevin Andrews. Applications for the new visa will be available from 01 July 2007, with a transition period in place for six months after, to allow the maritime industry and other seafarers to become accustomed to the new procedures. From 01 January 2008, it will become mandatory for foreign sea crew traveling to Australia to hold Maritime Crew visas.

*Source: 10 May 2007, <http://www.workpermit.com/news/2007-05-10/australia/australia-introduces-new-maritime-crew-visa.htm>*

### [US May Finally Sign 'Law of the Sea' Treaty](#)

President Bush issued a statement supporting U.S. accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, a clear sign to the new 110th Senate to act quickly to join the treaty which governs use of the world's oceans. Senate approval is the final step for the U.S. to formally join more than 140 nations that have already ratified or acceded to the Convention. The U.S. has voluntarily complied with the entire convention since 1983 so accession would not require any changes in U.S. policy.

*Source: Spero News, 15 May 2007, <http://www.speroforum.com/site/article.asp?idCategory=33&idsub=134&id=9434&t=US+may+finally+sign+'Law+of+the+Sea'+treaty>*

### [Indian Govt. to Regulate Deep-Sea Fishing through New Act](#)

The Government will enact a new Act to regulate fisheries and fishing in the exclusive economic zone aimed at regulating deep sea fishing. The recently constituted Inter-Ministerial Empowered Committee would oversee deep-sea fisheries development. The National Fisheries Development Board would also address development needs of deep-sea sector. Pointing out that the country has a potential to produce 3.93 million tonnes of fish, Minister of Agriculture Sarad Pawar said major bulk of exploitable surplus of 0.8 million tonnes would come from deep sea belt, since there was little scope of further augmenting the existing three million tonnes fish production in the inshore belt.

*Source: The Hindu, 15 May 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/002200705152120.htm>*

### [India Seeks to Boost Exports, Quality of Tuna](#)

India wants to increase its exports of tuna, the third-most traded seafood in the world after shrimps and squids, and cuttlefish and the like, by around 18%—from 16,670 tonnes to a little less than 20,000 tonnes—in an effort to grow its seafood exports. It also wants to improve the quality of tuna exports, and hopes that the 18% increase in

volume will translate into an almost 84% increase in revenue—from \$18 million (Rs79 crore) in 2005-06 to \$33 million (Rs138 crore) in 2006-07. By 2010, the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the government-run export promotion body for the seafood trade in India, hopes to increase tuna exports to \$500 million. MPEDA has already given licences to 150 boats that will be converted to mechanized vessels for deep-sea tuna fishing; and another 300 will be converted by the end of this year.

*Source: Mint, 8 May 2007, <http://www.livemint.com/2007/05/08235906/India-seeks-to-boost-exports.html>.*

### **Greenpeace Protest was Suicidal**

Greenpeace members jumped into the North Sea directly in front of the fishing boat *Endurance* to protest overfishing of cod. The protesters claim overfishing could cause stocks of cod to be completely wiped out. However, a spokesman for the Scottish Fishermen's Federation said the stunt had put lives in danger. Greenpeace campaigners leapt into the water and swam in front of the fishing boat 40 miles off the coast of Unst, Britain's most northerly island, holding a red sign that read 'Stop - Cod in Crisis'. The pressure group said its members were swept aside in the trawler's wake after it failed to change its course and had to be picked up by a Greenpeace inflatable boat.



*Source: BBC, 13 May 2007, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/scotland/north\\_east/6650059.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/north_east/6650059.stm)*

### **Fish Disappearing along Gujarat Coast**

Fish of different species have started disappearing from the Gujarat coast. As per latest records of fishermen, last year no lobsters, tuna, halibut, crab, and Indian Shark were caught in the in-shore basin between Veraval and Okha. The number of prawns, pomfrets, cuttlefish has reduced to almost 90% in last five years. However the number of low value fish has increased. The latest report of the Gujarat Institute of Development Research on the state's progress—a study done at the behest of the planning Commission of India—calls this the result of “over fishing” in Gujarat's continental shelf. Fishermen, however, say it is due to pollution caused by the massive industrialisation taking place in Kutch and Saurashtra peninsula.

*Source: The Indian Express, 28 May 2007.*

## **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Bush Administration Proposes Coral Reef Recovery Fund**

The Bush administration delivered proposed legislation to Congress calling for greater protection for the nation's coral reefs. The bill, the Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Amendment Act of 2007, reauthorises the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and adds greater protections for coral reefs while enhancing marine debris removal and increasing the government's ability to work through cooperative partnerships. The proposed legislation would for the first time establish a damage recovery process for the coral reefs in National Wildlife Refuges, and increase the effectiveness of the current authorities for recovering damages to reefs in National Parks and National Marine Sanctuaries. It provides statutory authorisation for Department of the interior coral conservation activities, which are now conducted under general conservation authorities that do not mention coral reefs.

*Source: 11 May 2007, <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2007/2007-05-11-09.asp>*

### **Group sues EPA over Cruise Ship Pollution**

Seven years after asking the U.S. government to regulate cruise ship pollution, an environmental group is now heading to court. In a lawsuit, national advocacy group Friends of the Earth alleges the Environmental Protection Agency didn't act on a March 2000 petition to research and regulate cruise ship waste. Miami and Fort Lauderdale are the two busiest U.S. departure spots for ships, and cruise lines are building more -- and bigger -- vessels. These ships mean more pollution. After Friends of the Earth petitioned on behalf of 53 environmental organizations, the EPA held public meetings about cruise pollution and promised to publish recommendations. But action stopped when the Bush administration took office in 2001, said Teri Shore, the campaign director. The group hopes the lawsuit will motivate the EPA to respond to the petition and investigate ways of curbing cruise pollution.

*Source: 11 May 2007, <http://www.miamiherald.com/103/story/103126.html>*

### **New Multinational Firm to Combat Marine Pollution**

Representatives from the Sonatrach group and its partners Sonangol (Angola), Samir (Morocco), Statoil (Norway), Total (France), Repsol (Spain), Cepsa (Spain) and ENI (Italy) signed a document on 19 May 2007 at the Algiers Hilton hotel creating a new multinational joint stock company which aims to combat marine pollution caused by hydrocarbons. The new company is called "Oil Spill Response Company" (OSPREC). The move is a first not only for Algeria, but for the whole Mediterranean basin. The initiative was developed in response to the need for an efficient tool on the regional level to combat pollution from oil and other hydrocarbons. The new multinational will be responsible for fighting marine pollution caused by hydrocarbons along 20,000 km of coastline stretching along the southern shore of the Mediterranean and the shore of West Africa.

*Source: 23 May 2007,*

*[http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en\\_GB/features/awi/blog/2007/05/23/feature-02](http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/blog/2007/05/23/feature-02)*

### **Law to Allow Burying CO<sub>2</sub> in Seabed**

The Japanese Diet enacted an amendment to an environment bill to allow projects aimed at confining factory-emitted carbon dioxide in undersea aquifers. The move is part of measures to deal with global warming in line with a revised international treaty. Under Japan's revised Law Relating to the Prevention of Maritime Pollution and Maritime Disaster, the environment minister will permit such projects on condition that environment assessment surveys are conducted and continuous monitoring programs maintained. Permission will be subject to renewal every five years to assure implementation of the monitoring programs. The necessary technology is still in the developmental stage in Japan.

*Source: The Japan Times Online, 24 May 2007, <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20070524a8.html>*



## **MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

### **Samsung Heavy Industries Expands Engineering Design and Data Capabilities**

Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) has made a multi-million dollar extension of its commitment to using Intergraph's Marine Enterprise solutions suite for the design and manufacturing of ships. SHI will extend its existing Intergraph software installation by adding a significant number of IntelliShip seats. In addition, Intergraph's new solution 'IntelliShip Foundation' will act as a central information management system for engineering and manufacturing data at SHI.

*Source: 22 May 2007,*

*[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20070522005180&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070522005180&newsLang=en)*



### [Protection for Indian Sailors under Merchant Shipping Act](#)

The Indian Merchant Shipping Act addresses the subject of protecting interests of Indian sailors in various sections. However, to further strengthen the exiting provisions additional measures have been initiated by the Directorate General of Shipping. This information was given by the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Shri T.R. Baalu in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

*Source: 10 May 2007*

*<http://www.indlawnews.com/FFB1DFCA69EC92C890E0EA0B06FE9910>,*

### [Sri Lanka Ports Authority Signs a Collective Agreement with the Trade Unions](#)

Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) says that the ports management has come to a historical agreement with the trade unions to maintain technical peace and to develop the harbor operations. The workers' salaries will be increased yearly according to the agreement. An assessment system has been introduced to enhance the productivity. Port workers will have a minimum of Rs. 3,000 salary increase through the collective agreement, SLPA management said.

*Source: Colombo Page, 15 May 2007,*

*[http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_07/May15142424SL.html](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_07/May15142424SL.html)*

### [Common Entrance Test for Marine Training Courses](#)

Director General Shipping wants admissions to courses in the country's 128 maritime colleges to be on the basis of a common entrance test (CET) from 2008 onwards in an effort to standardise admission processes and ensure that students meet certain uniform and basic criteria. Since it is not adequately staffed for the task, the D G Shipping has decided to outsource the administration of this test to a reputed institute. The maritime regulator has asked several Indian Institutes of technology (IITs) and the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to submit proposals on the best way to conduct the CET.

*Source; Mint, 16 May 2007, <http://www.livemint.com/2007/05/15235757/From-2008-common-entrance-tes.html>*

### [Indian Ports will Labour 24x7 to Contain Delays](#)

In a bid to improve efficiency and cut down the turnaround time of ships calling at ports and the dwell time of cargo, the 13 major ports that the Central government runs will soon start working 24x7 round the year.

*Source: Mint, 16 May 2007, <http://www.livemint.com/2007/05/16001914/Turnaround-time-Indian-ports.html>*

### [Sri Lanka Appoints New Minister for Ports and Aviation](#)

Sri Lanka appointed Chamal Rajapakse, brother of President Mahinda Rajapakse, as the new minister of ports and aviation filling a post held by sacked minister Mangala Samaraweera.

*Source: 16 May 2007,*

*[http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=1217154637&no\\_view=1&SEARCH\\_TERMS=33](http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?newsID=1217154637&no_view=1&SEARCH_TERMS=33)*



### [New International Treaty on Wreck Removal Adopted in Nairobi](#)

A new international convention on wreck removal has been adopted in Kenya. The Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007, will provide the legal basis for States to remove, or have removed, shipwrecks that may have the potential to

affect adversely the safety of lives, goods and property at sea, as well as the marine environment. The convention was adopted by a five-day Diplomatic Conference - held in the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

*Source: Briefing 12, 22 May 2007, <http://www.imo.org/>*

### **Invaders from the Sea**

The documentary film *Invaders from the Sea* which features tiny alien invaders transported in ballast water is now available from IMO's Publications Section. This documentary won the gold award in the category of "Best United Nations Feature" at this year's "Stories from the Field", the third annual United Nations Documentary Film Festival, which took place in New York from 21 to 22 April 2007. The film was produced by IMO, the United Nations agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships, in co-operation with the BBC and the shipping industry.

*Source: <http://www.imo.org/>*

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

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