

MAKING WAVES

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MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

[Vinashin Opens 'Offshore' Unit](#)

Viet Nam Shipbuilding Industry Group, Vinashin, officially opened its new subsidiary Vinashin Offshore Industries (Vinaoffshore) in Ha Noi on 1 February 2007. Vinaoffshore will focus on manufacturing floating storage and off-loading (FSO) units, single point moorings, oil drilling vessels and other heavy equipment.

Source: 2 February 2007. <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/showarticle.php?num=01IND020207>

[India to Develop Myanmar Port to Benefit NE States](#)

India is contemplating to provide for aid the development of Myanmar's Sittwe port at a cost of \$103 million to give Indian land-locked northeastern states access to sea for trade and commerce. This will be done after developing Kaladan river, which connects the northeastern state of Mizoram with the Bay of Bengal, as a waterway. The government's move assumes significance in view of Bangladesh's reported reluctance to give India access to Chittagong port.

Source: The Economic Times, 3 February 2007,

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/Economy/India_to_develop_Myanmar_port_to_benefit_NE_states/RssArticleShow/articleshow/1557095.cms

[State-Run Firms Adopt Names In Line With Identity Policy](#)

China Shipbuilding Corp (CSBC) will have its names changed in line with the government policy to emphasize Taiwan identity. The CSBC will be renamed as Taiwan International Shipbuilding Corp said Economics Minister Chen Ruey-long. The new name has been adopted in line with a directive President Chen Shui-bian issued in 2004 to avoid confusing Taiwan companies with those from China.

Source: The China Post, 3 February 2007, <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/latestnews/200723/44093.htm>

[Paradip Port Plans Capacity Expansion](#)

Paradip Port Trust (PPT) has drawn up major expansion plans to increase its installed cargo handling capacity of 51.4 million tonnes to 106.4 million tonnes by 2011-2012. For this expansion, the company will add eight berths within five years. Addressing reporters on the sidelines of an interactive session organised by Federation of Indian Export Organisation, PPT chairman K Raghuramaiah said: "The estimated capital expenditure for these eight additional berths is Rs 1,478 crore. This will be set up on a private-public partnership model. The PPT will contribute Rs 300 crore for setting up these berths".

Source: The Economic Times, 5 February 2007

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1560707.cms>

Varun Shipping's Offshore Business Gets New Dimension

Varun Shipping Company (VSCL) acquired one 2001-built anchor handling and towing supply (AHTS) vessel on 31 January and renamed it 'Subhiksha'. Varun has also entered into a memorandum of agreement for purchase of its sister vessel which will be delivered to the company by April-May 2007. With this acquisition, the company has completed an investment of around \$320 million out of its proposed expansion plan of \$400 million.

Source: The Economic Times, 12 February 2007.

MoU Signed for Shipbuilding Yard at Cuddalore

The Tamil Nadu Government signed an MoU with Goodearth Maritime for building a shipbuilding yard at Cuddalore. Chief Minister M Karunanidhi signed the agreement with the company's chairman at the secretariat. The company will begin the first phase of work at an estimated cost of Rs 500 crores and it will be completed in three years. This will provide direct employment to 5,000 people and indirect employment for 20,000 people.

Source: Marinelink, 15 February 2007,

<http://www.marinelink.com/Story/MoU+Signed+for+Shipbuilding+Yard+at+Cuddalore-205994.html>

L&T Plans Mega Shipyard

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is drawing up plans to make an initial investment of Rs 1000 crore in building India's largest shipyard. The new shipyard is likely to come up in the southern port city of Chennai by the end of 2008 or in early 2009, and will be the country's first shipyard equipped to build very large crude carriers (VLCCs) with a capacity of 3-3.5 lakh DWT. A team led by S. Sreekumar, former director of operations at Cochin Shipyard, has already begun work on the yard.

Source: Mint, 21 February 2007

Gangavaram Port to be Ready Next Year

The port at Gangavaram near Visakhapatnam, initially with five berths, will be ready for trial runs by December and commercial operations by March 2008. The Vice-President, Gangavaram Port Ltd, Mr Pranav Choudhary, said the financial closure of the Rs 1700 crore project has been achieved. Construction work is at an advanced stage for 5 berths intended to handle coal, iron ore, steel, alumina, general cargo and liquid cargo.

Source: The Hindu 26 February 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/02/26/stories/2007022603571500.htm>

Vallarpadam Terminal: DP World Submits Plan to Kochi Port

DP World, the container terminal operator of the Cochin Port Trust, has submitted plans and drawings for the proposed international container transshipment terminal to be set up at Vallarpadam, for approval.

Source: The Business Line, 28 February 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/02/28/stories/2007022800620700.htm>



Mundra Port Surpasses Its Cargo Handling Record

Mundra surpassed its cargo handling record when M.V. Vinashin Eagle, carrying bulk wheat, discharged 25,042 tonnes in a single day. Possibly this record has not been achieved by any port in the country so far, said the Adani Group in a release.

Source: The Hindu Business Line, 2 February 2007.

<http://www.blonnet.com/2007/02/02/stories/2007020200710700.htm>

UK Remodels Ship Register

The UK has remodelled and renamed its shipping registry to make it more customer focused while retaining quality as its key objective.

Source: Fairplay News, 22 February 2007, <http://www.fairplay.co.uk/>.

Vizag Port Crosses 50-Million Tonne Mark Again

Visakhapatnam port crossed the 50-million tonne mark for the third year in succession and the port is projected to handle 57-58 mt of cargo by the end of the financial year against a target of 61 mt set by the Union Ministry of Shipping, Road, Transport & Highways.

Source: The Hindu Business Line, 27 February 2007

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/02/27/stories/2007022703991100.htm>

Increase in Cargo Handling Capacity of Major Ports

Annual aggregate cargo handling capacity of major ports increased from 397.5 MTPA in 2004-05 to 456.20 MTPA in 2005-06. Average turnaround time rose from 3.4 days to 3.5 days in 2005-06.

Source: Indian Express, 28 February 2007.



SHIPBUILDING

Cochin Shipyard Plans a Small Vessel Unit

Given the increasing demand the world over, public sector Cochin Shipyard Ltd has mooted a small ship division (SSD) to cater to the high-value small commercial vessel segment. The project has received in principle approval from the Shipping Ministry and the Planning Commission. The number of ships to be constructed by the division would be four in 2009-10, and progressively increase to eight per year by 2014-15. The turnover expected from the SSD would be around Rs 700 crore per year, at the fully stabilised position in 2014-15.

Source: The Hindu Business Line 5 February 2007.

<http://www.blonnet.com/2007/02/05/stories/2007020500400600.htm>.

U.S. Navy Updates 30-Year Shipbuilding Plan

More surface combatants and fewer expeditionary warfare ships are in the U.S. Navy's new 30-year fleet construction plan, which, despite numerous changes, preserves the goal of a 313-ship fleet. The plan, approved on 2 February 2007 by Navy Secretary Donald Winter, is updated every year and sent to Congress along with the president's annual budget. While the numbers required for individual types of ships such as submarines and aircraft carriers haven't been altered, the 2008 plan improves the building rate for surface combatants in the "far-term" period from 2021 to 2037.

Source: Defence News, 12 February 2007, <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=2550344&C=landwar>

China to Deliver 1st LNG ship

China has made substantial breakthroughs in shipbuilding as the first liquefied natural gas (LNG) ship made in China will be delivered in September. The ship with a capacity of 47,200 cubic meters is under construction by the Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of the China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC), China's top and the world's third largest shipping group. Another four such LNG vessels, under construction would be delivered in the end of 2007. Research and

Development for LNG ships with a capacity of 200,000 cubic meters is underway, sources with the CSSC said.

Source: China Daily, 20 February 2007.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2007-02/20/content_812017.htm

China Outsailed Korea in Ship Orders in January

Korea's shipbuilding industry, ranked top in the world, was overtaken by China's in terms of order volume last January for the first time ever. According to a report from Clarkson, a market researcher for the ship construction industry, the Korean shipbuilding industry received orders totaling 600,000 CGT (compensated gross tonnage) last month, much lower than China's orders of 1.4 million CGT. China's order volume is almost half of the world total order volume of 2.8 million CGT.

Source: 23 February 2007, <http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200702/200702230028.html>

Vietnam Shipbuilding Expansion Moves On

The Vietnamese government has given approval in principle for STX Shipbuilding Co. Ltd of South Korea, to build a \$500m shipyard covering 300 hectares in the Van Phong Economic Zone in Vietnam. This is the latest effort towards its goal of becoming a world-class shipbuilder to rival other countries such as China, South Korea and Japan.

Source: Marinelink, 23 February 2007, <http://www.marinelink.com/Story/ShowStory.aspx?StoryID=206107>.

Pakistan Eager to Cooperate With Turkey in Shipbuilding

Pakistan is eager to cooperate with Turkey in the area of shipbuilding. Pakistan wants to cooperate with Turkey in building of minimum four corvettes (warships). Sources said that Turkey is expected to submit its bidding on building a minimum of four warships for Pakistan within this month. A delegation from Pakistan is expected to visit Turkey in April.

Source: Turkish Press, 25 February 2007, <http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=164229>

ABG Shipyard Delivers Vessel

ABG Shipyard Ltd delivered a new anchor handling tug supply vessel Lamnal Co Merlin to the UAE-based owner Lamnalco Group on 27 february 2007. The vessel is the first to be delivered to Lamnalco in this fiscal and the company has so far delivered six vessels. The vessel is designed to support the floating production offloading storage (FPSO) vessels, offshore oil and gas fields on a 24 hour-basis.

Source: The Indian Express, 28 February 2007.

MARITIME FORCES

Marine Police Wing to be Set up in Puducherry

In his address at the 24th meeting of Southern Zonal Council at Hyderabad on 12 February 2007, Chief Minister N. Rangasamy said that to prevent infiltration of the LTTE into the coastal areas of Karaikal and Puducherry, the administration had set up a Coastal Police Station in Karaikal under the Coastal Security Scheme with cent percent grant from the Central government. Mr. Rangasamy said the Union Home Ministry had also agreed to set up similar police stations in Puducherry and Mahe. Seven more Marine Police Stations will come up at Nagapattinam, Keelaiyur and Vedaranyam in Nagapattinam district, Adhiramapattinam and Sethubavachathiram in Thanjavur district and Manamelkudi and Tirupunavasal in Pudukottai district of Tamil Nadu

Source: The Hindu, 12 February 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/13/stories/2007021304660300.htm>.

The Hindu, 25 February 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/25/stories/2007022505080500.htm>.

Fast Craft for Coast Guard

The Indian Coast Guard is in the process of acquiring a fleet of modern, high-speed boats to patrol sensitive stretches of the coastline. The proposal to purchase 15 boats is part of the government's ambitious Coastal Security Plan, which envisages a multi-pronged approach by the Coast Guard, Navy and security agencies in the form of marine police stations, outposts and check posts with high speed boats for more effective patrolling. Sources said the process for getting these high-speed boats with speeds upto 25 knots is likely to take at least six months and the Coast Guard is likely to begin inducting these vessels into their fleet towards the end of this year.

Source: Shiptalk News, 23 February 2007.

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1696&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186%0A%0A%0A%0A%0A#anch>.



MARITIME SECURITY

Greenpeace Iran Ban

Iran withdrew permission at the last minute for the Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior to enter the port of Bushehr where its first nuclear reactor is under construction, the campaign group said as per AFP reports.

Source: Shiptalk News, 19 February 2007

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1669&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>.

US Aircraft Carrier Arrives in the Gulf

Another American aircraft carrier arrived in the Gulf on 20 February 2007. The carrier, John C. Stennis, is leading a "strike group" that consists of several warships, many of which specialise in launching missiles. A top U.S. navy commander, Patrick Walsh, has attributed the deployment of the carrier to Iranian military exercises in the Strait of Hormuz.

Source: The Hindu, 22 February 2007, <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/22/stories/2007022202441500.htm>

Aussie Safety Campaign

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is to carry out a Focused Inspection Campaign (FIC) between March 1, 2007 and May 30, 2007. Port state control inspectors will examine safety aspects when working with mooring equipment on deck in heavy sea conditions.

Source: Shiptalk news, 22 February 2007.

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1686&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186#anch>.

Kankesanthurai Port Was the Possible Target of Suicide Boat

The target of the suspected suicide mission of the Sea Tiger wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was Kankesanthurai port in Jaffna peninsula, according to informed sources. The sources told The Hindu on 22 February 2007 that the suspects, including a Black Tiger operative and a Sea Tiger operative, ventured into Indian waters to find a safe route to the target, which is a high security zone.

Source: The Hindu, 23 February 2007. <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/23/stories/2007022308590100.htm>.

Africa Called To Task

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has called for fast responses from the governments of its members to boost security of their ports. At the Conference of African Ministers of Transport responsible for Maritime Affairs held in Nigeria, IMO

Secretary General Efthimios Mitropoulos said Africa needed innovative solutions to current challenges in the maritime security. He said he was concerned about limited responses of certain governments to their obligations under the SOLAS Convention and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

Source: *Shiptalk News*, 24 February 2007.

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1704&rcid=186&pcid=178&cid=186%0A%0A%0A%0A%0A#anc h>

Pirates Seize UN Ship Off Somalia

Pirates are reported to have hijacked a UN-chartered cargo ship delivering food aid to north-eastern Somalia. The ship, MV Rozen, had just delivered a cargo to Somalia's Puntland region when the pirates struck. There have been no reports of demands from the pirates and it is not known if any of the 12 crew have been injured.

Source: *BBC News*, 25 February 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6395033.stm>



MARITIME COOPERATION

Swedish Ship Brings Friendship to the Shores

Swedish ship Gotheborg, a wooden replica of an 18th century merchant ship that promoted trade between Europe and Asia, docked at the Chennai Port on 31 January 2007. It is on a global voyage, retracing the historic trade route between Europe and Asia and at the same time promoting friendship and creating awareness of climate change. It announced its arrival at the Dr. Ambedkar Dock in the Western Key of the port around 5 p.m. with a thunderous 11-round canon salute. The port authorities matched it with their gun salute.

Source: *The Hindu Business Line*, 1 February 2007.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/01/stories/2007020108340500.htm>.

Indian Navy Chief Meets top Brass of UAE Armed Forces

Enhanced cooperation on maritime security in Gulf waters figured prominently during talks between Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta and top brass of UAE armed forces. Admiral Mehta, on his first visit abroad after taking over as Navy Chief, met Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs of UAE and stressed on the need for enhanced cooperation between the two countries including maritime security in the Gulf waters.

Source: *ZEE News* 7 February 2007, <http://www.zeenews.com/articles.asp?aid=352745&sid=NAT&ssid=>

India Wants Cooperative Ties with China: Navy Chief

The rise of China is not a factor driving the Indian Navy's interest in safeguarding the sea lanes towards the Strait of Malacca, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta said. In an interview with *The Hindu* during his three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, Admiral Mehta said: "We do not consider China as an adversary at any point of time. We would like to have cooperative relations with it as we do with other countries. In fact, in two months our ships would call on Chinese ports, and even conduct a preliminary exercise there."

Source: *The Hindu*, 9 February 2007. <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/09/stories/200702090511400.htm>

Mauritius for Indian Help to Develop Port

In order to boost its port sector, Mauritius has sought Indian expertise to develop its lone port. According to Shekur Suntah, Deputy Director General of Mauritius

Ports Authority (MPA), the port needs a total investment of \$460 million, of which it is expecting at least \$ 245 million from Indian port developers.

Source: The Economic Times, 26 February 2007.

Friendly Ports

Spain's Valencia port is keen to enter into a friendship agreement with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai. Valencia port authorities are stated to have written to the government expressing their desire for an agreement with JNPT. On its part, JNPT is yet to hear from the government on the proposal from Valencia.

Source The Economic Times, 26 February 2007.

Bangladesh Naval Ship in Kochi

Bangladesh Naval Ship (BNS) Umar Farooq arrived at Kochi on a two-day goodwill visit on 26 February 2007. The ship has on board 29 officers, 56 trainee officers and a crew of 213 sailors.

Source: The Hindu, 27 February 2007. <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/27/stories/2007022705610300.htm>



MARITIME DISPUTES

Chile's Foreign Ministry Rejects Peru Border Definition Proposal

Chile's Foreign Ministry rejected a proposal from the Peruvian government to redefine maritime borders between the two countries. In a public declaration issued by Foreign Minister Alexander Foxley, Chile's government stated that the Chile-Peru maritime border had already been defined as per international treaties in the past.

Source: Merco Press, 1 February 2007, <http://www.mercopress.com/vernoticia.do?id=9778&formato=HTML>.

JNPT Throws Spanner in DPW Terminal Buy

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), India's second-largest port, has called for a legal explanation from Dubai Ports World over its takeover of a container terminal. This move could have huge implications for foreign investment in this crucial infrastructure sector. JNPT has issued a show-cause notice to DPW over its ownership of Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT). DPW is also locked in similar disputes with Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) and Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB). Authorities in both Chennai and Gujarat are questioning DPW over why it did not seek their permission before taking over the operations of the terminals in their ports.

Source: The Economic Times, 5 February 2007.

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Shipping_Transport/JNPT_throws_spanner_in_DPW_terminal_buy/articleshow/1560754.cms.

Cyprus Ready to Accept Bids for 11 LNG Exploration Blocks

Cyprus is ready to launch its first international offshore bidding round for 11 southern exploration blocks for liquefied natural gas (LNG) despite Turkey's efforts to create tension in the area with war games in an effort to fend off potential bidders for the project. The first round for the submission of applications for tenders for research and hydrocarbon exploitation will begin on 15 February and end on 16 July. The whole procedure is expected to be concluded by Autumn. The government of Cyprus has rejected protests by Turkey over the maritime economic zone agreement signed with Lebanon last month to delineate the exploration borders of each country. A similar agreement signed with Egypt two years ago also irked

Ankara that claims Cyprus cannot sign any natural resources agreement without the consent of Turkey (as a guarantor of the 1960 independence) nor without the consent of the Turkish Cypriot community in the north, which Turkey regards as “isolated” by the Greek Cypriot government.

Source: 7 February 2007, http://www.financialmirror.com/more_news.php?id=6035&nt=Business.



MARITIME LEGISLATION

[State Set to Amend Policy to Allow GMB Restructuring](#)

Restructuring of Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) is expected to take off. The state government is expected to amend the relevant portions of the GMB Act during the forthcoming session of the cabinet. According to GMB sources, the organisation will be reorganized into three separate divisions viz administration, port control and tariff regulator. The maritime body is being restructured as per recommendations of Deloitte, a management consultancy firm.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 12 February 2007.

[18 States Sign 2005 SUA Protocols](#)

Eighteen States have signed, subject to ratification, the 2005 Protocols to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA), 1988, and the related Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, 1988.

Source: *IMO Press Briefing 6*, 13 February 2007. <http://www.imo.org/>

[Russian Shipbuilders Get Benefits](#)

Russian Minister of Industry and Energy Viktor Khristenko intends to support the Russian shipbuilding industry through new legislation to prevent it from falling behind Western competitors. His ministry estimates that up to 40 platforms will be needed for oil and gas production on the continental shelf by 2030, along with 85 specialized ships and more than 140 support ships.

Source: *Marinelink*, 16 February 2007.

<http://www.marinelink.com/Story/Russian+Shipbuilders+Get+Benefits-206015.html>

[Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships](#)

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted Annex VI of MARPOL that provides regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships. The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the IMO subsequently passed several subsidiary regulations.

Source: 23 February 2007, <http://www.ereleases.com/pr/20070223003.html>.

[IMO – Performance Standard for Protective Coatings](#)

The IMO issued a resolution adopting a performance standard for protective coatings for dedicated seawater ballast tanks in all types of ships and double-side skin spaces of bulk carriers.

Source: *Marine Link News*, 23 February 2007. <http://www.marinelink.com/Story/IMO-%e2%80%93-Performance-Standard-for-Protective-Coatings-206112.html>

[Baalu Clears Cabinet Note on Market Regulation](#)

With Shipping minister TR Baalu clearing the cabinet note authored by his ministry on the shipping trade practices, the much-awaited act on industry regulation seems to be on its way to become an act. According to ministry sources, the bill is going to be tabled during the budget session of the parliament along with comments received from ministries like commerce and other related organizations. What has surprised

even shipping trade intermediaries is that not waiting for the act to be operational, the ministry has launched a five-point action plan to resolve shippers grievances.

Source: The Economic Times, 26 February 2007.

New Formula for Projects

Planning commission has found a new formula for all upcoming private port projects, after terminal operators, most of them bleeding, requested the shipping ministry to change the system. This will replace the existing cost-plus formula followed by tariff Authority for major Ports (TAMP) in fixing tariffs for private terminals at major ports.

Source: The Economic Times, 26 February 2007.

Growth of Maritime Arbitration Lags behind maritime trade growth in Asia

More than 90 percent of the world's goods are now carried by sea. And Asia's share of that maritime trade is increasing to almost 40 percent. But when it comes to the law, the number of maritime cases and arbitration done in the Asian region is lagging behind. When it comes to any kind of dispute resolution, most cases head towards traditional centres like London or New York. Less than 5% are arbitrated in Asia. At an International Congress of Maritime Arbitrators, the maritime arbitrators said hearing cases in Asia could help cut legal costs for regional ship owners by as much as half.

Source: Channel News Asia, 26 February 2007,

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporebusinessnews/view/260677/1.html>



U.S. Opposes Fishing Subsidy Proposals from Korea, Japan

The United States said South Korea and Japan have not gone far enough to reduce harmful fishing subsidies, saying they allow too many exceptions and do not meet the goals of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Source: Yonhap News, 3 February 2007.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/Engnews/20070203/44010000020070203043846E3.html>

Deep Sea Fishing-or Resource Mining?

Commercial fishing is increasingly taking place well offshore and in relatively deep water-because coastal areas all over are starting to get pretty fished out. The major problem is that a lot of the species out in the deeper water are very long lived, very slow to reproduce, and the huge harvest is taking more fish than what are being replaced. This has been called "mining" instead of fishing, as at the current rates it is probably unsustainable, according to some studies.

Source: 19 February 2007, <http://technocrat.net/d/2007/2/19/15057>

Sri Lanka Army Re-imposes Peninsula-wide Fishing Ban

Sri Lankan Military high command in Palaly in Jaffna district reintroduced the complete fishing ban in the seas in the Peninsula from 20 February 2007 until further notice, Fisheries Society sources said.

Source: Siber News, 22 February 2007,

<http://www.sibernews.com/news/sri-lanka/-200702227537/>



MARINE ENVIRONMENT

[New International Rules to Allow Storage of CO2 Under the Seabed](#)

Storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) under the seabed would be allowed from 10 February 2007, under amendments to an international agreement governing the dumping of wastes at sea.

Source: IMO Press Briefing 5, 9 February 2007. <http://www.imo.org/>.

[Acid Oceans Threatening Marine Food Chain](#)

The world's oceans are turning acidic due to the buildup of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, and scientists say the effects on marine life will be catastrophic. In the next 50 to 100 years corrosive seawater will dissolve the shells of tiny marine snails and reduce coral reefs to rubble, the researchers say.

Source: 18 February 2007, <http://science.netscape.com/story/2007/02/18/acid-oceans-threatening-marine-food-chain>

[First Digital Map of Shetland Waters](#)

Scientists at Shetland's fisheries college have drawn up the first detailed digital map of coastal waters out to the 12 mile limit, to help planners work out the best future for the marine environment. The digital map has been collated from more than 100 separate maps of the sea and seabed from 27 different organisations, as part of the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative (SSMEI).

Source: Shetland Marine News, 23 February 2007.

http://www.shetlandmarine.com/2007/08%20Service%20%20Support/first_digital_map_of_shetland_waters.htm



MARINE RESOURCES

[Scores of New Marine Species Discovered Off Philippines](#)

An international team of scientists has discovered thousands of new species of crustaceans and mollusks in waters off the Philippines. Scientists with the Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project surveyed deep-sea and coastal ecosystems around the island of Panglao in the Bohol province of the Philippines from 2004 to 2005. They found between 150 to 250 new crustacean species and up to 2,500 new mollusk species, according to the Associated Press. The project was led by scientists at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle and included institutions in France and the Philippines.

Source: 6 February 2007, http://outside.away.com/outside/news/2007206_1.html.

[Management Plan for Marine Park](#)

The Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, has launched a study on the underwater wealth, especially coral reef and other scheduled marine animals, of the Gulf of Mannar to design a management plan for the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.

Source: The Hindu, 8 February 2007. <http://www.hindu.com/2007/02/08/stories/2007020804760500.htm>

[Minke Whale](#)

Minke are the world's most-hunted whales. There are at least two species of minke. Recently, Japan has issued a scientific permit for some 850 Antarctic minke annually and up to 220 common minke whales in the North Pacific. In the North Atlantic, Norway kills some 640 common minke per year for commercial purposes,

while Iceland takes 39 under a scientific permit and Greenland up to 175 for subsistence purposes. There are no agreed current estimates of the population size of Antarctic minke whales, although it is believed to be considerably fewer than the 1980s estimate of 760,000. There are more than 100,000 common minke whales in the North Atlantic.

Source: *BBC News*, 25 February 2007,

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/guides/456900/456973/html/nn1page1.stm>

Antarctic Ice Breakups Reveal New Species

A potentially new species of shrimplike crustacean in the genus *Epimeria* was found near Elephant Island in Antarctica. The 1-inch-long (2.5-centimeter-long) creature was among nearly a thousand species collected during the first biological survey of a 3,860-square-mile (10,000-square-kilometer) section of the sea that was once covered by thick polar ice. A 500-billion-ton ice shelf known as Larsen B disintegrated into the Weddell Sea in 2002—seven years after the nearby Larsen A ice shelf broke apart. Experts believe global warming triggered both events.

Source: *National Geographic News*, 27 February 2007.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2007/02/photogalleries/antarctic-species/>



MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Oceanic 'Internet' to Track Global Marine Life

Up to one million marine creatures will be tagged to track their movements around the world, under an ambitious Canadian plan. The aim is to reveal more about the lives of fish in order to help protect them from overfishing, as well as monitor climate change in the oceans. The acoustic tags will relay information to lines of sensors on the ocean floor, but can also receive data from other tags. This is so that fish swimming out of range of the sensors can still provide data. When one of the fish comes back within range of a receiver, the tag will transmit the information from all the tagged fish it has been in contact with. "This is the BlackBerry for fish. Every fish will be able to talk to every other fish and when they get home they will report the data to one of the receivers," said Ron O'Dor, from Dalhousie University, Halifax, where the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) is based. The tags also measure the depth, temperature and salinity of the water the fish is swimming through.

Source: 13 February 2007,

http://environment.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn11175&feedId=earth_rss20.

Pinoy Students Make Corals Grow

A team of young Filipinos is using a method that earned them top honors at a competition at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to hasten coral growth by five times and ensure survival by more than 20 times in a marine reserve in Sagay City, 82.9 kilometers north of Bacolod City, Philippines.

Source: *The Manila mails*, 25 February 2007, <http://manilamaildc.net/article1673.html>



HUMAN RESOURCES

Liberian Maritime Training Institute to Re-open

The Bureau of Maritime Affairs in collaboration with the United State Merchant Marine Academy has announced plans to revamp the Maritime Training Institute in Marshall Lower Margibi County. The Maritime Training Institute according to the two sides will give birth to restoration of the Liberian Seafarer.

Source: Shiptalk News, 5 February 2007.

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1595&rcid=167&pcid=98&cid=167#anch>

Nod for Port, Dock Workers' Reward Payment Scheme

The Union Cabinet on 8 February 2007 approved payment of productivity-linked reward to port and dock workers and employees as per the new scheme for 2002-03 till 2009-10. The scheme will be reviewed thereafter and further action will be taken with fresh Cabinet approval, a Government communication said.

Source: *The Hindu*, 9 February 2007, <http://www.blonnet.com/2007/02/09/stories/2007020904981000.htm>.

NYKSM Scouting for Indian Seafarers

Global shipping major NYK Ship Management (NYKSM) is scouting for Indian seafarers to man their vessels. NYKsm is planning to double the number of Indian seafarers to 900 by 2010. At present, about 25% of NYK Shipmanagement's workforce comprises of Indians, second only to the Filipinos. With salaries growing at about 40% in the international maritime sector, Indian seafarers are preferring foreign shipping companies over domestic ones.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 12 February 2007

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/1598465.cms>

Maritime University to be Anchored in Chennai

The Shipping Ministry proposes to set up a Maritime University with the main objective of fostering excellence in various connected areas, according to Mr T.R.Baalu, Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways. The university will be established through an Act of Parliament and the Bill in this regard will be introduced in the next session of the Lok Sabha. It is proposed to set up the Central University in Chennai with campuses in Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam.

Source: *The Hindu*, 12 February 2007,

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/bline/2007/02/12/stories/2007021200590600.htm>

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

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