

# MAKING WAVES

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## MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

### [Kochi Berths First Mainline Vessel](#)

With MV Emirates WASL berthing at Cochin, the port became another major facility in the country to receive direct mainline container vessels. So far Cochin was handling feeder vessels ferrying transshipment boxes from hub ports in the neighbouring countries like Colombo, Singapore and Dubai. The mainline service, with average 3000 TEUs carrying capacity, will now call at Cochin Port twice every week.

*Source: The Economic Times, 4 December 2006.*

### [India-Singapore Group to Explore for Gas Offshore Myanmar](#)

Indian and Singaporean companies will jointly explore oil and natural gas in the offshore area of Myanmar's western Rakhine state as reported by the official newspaper New Light of Myanmar.

*Source: Xinhua News Agency, 8 December 2006. [http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=38927](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=38927).*

### [Tuticorin Box Project Cleared](#)

Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee has approved Tuticorin Port Project of converting its eighth berth into the second container terminal on build, operate and transfer model. The project is estimated to cost Rs 150 crore. Besides PSA-Sical consortium, which is operating the present container terminal on BOT basis, Chettinad Logistics, Larsen & Toubro and Dubai Ports are expected to participate in the bidding.

*Source: Economic Times, 11 December 2006.*

### [DPW Denies 'Security' Blues](#)

Dubai Ports World (DPW) has denied rumours that they walked out of the Gwadar Port Project in Pakistan because the Indian National Security Council (NSC) had raised "security concerns" over its operations in India. NSC had reportedly alleged that the port operator's strategic association in Pakistan is a matter of concern for India as Gwadar port development is being sponsored by the Chinese government. However, DPW officials said the company's decision was based on pure economics of the project. "We are not aware of any NSC report on DPW. The decision on Gwadar was taken at least two months ago," said a senior official.

*Source: The Economic Times, 11 December 2006.*

### [Singaporean Firm to Run Gwadar Port](#)

Port of Singapore Authority International (PSAI) has been selected as the operator for Gwadar port in the southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan. The selection was made at a board meeting of the Gwadar Port Implementation Authority (GPIA). The

selection of PSAI was unanimous and a committee has been set up to hold negotiations with the port operators after getting the government's approval.

Source: *Asia Times*, 12 December 2006. [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/HL12Df05.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/HL12Df05.html)

### **"Augment Port Infrastructure"**

The Tuticorin Stevedores' Association (TSA) has sought the intervention of the Central Government to augment the infrastructure facilities at Tuticorin port on a war footing to arrest the slide in the efficiency of the port.

Source: *The Hindu*, 14 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/14/stories/2006121412000300.htm>.

### **Sethusamudram Work in Full Swing**

Sethusamudram Ship canal Project is in full swing. Dredging in Adam's Bridge area was flagged off by the Union Shipping Minister TR Baalu recently. According to him, the entire SSCP work, being carried out by state owned Dredging Corporation of India, is expected to be completed by February 2008. Currently, only one vessel is involved in dredging operations, but the government is scheduled to get another vessel costing Rs 250 crore soon, which is capable of dredging up to 3500 cubic ft of sand per hour. Minister said none of the coral reefs and marine life would be affected.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 18 December 2006.

### **India to Help Build Myanmar Port**

India plans to invest Rs 4.5 billion for the development of Myanmar's Sittwe port to connect northeastern India with East Asia. The port, earlier known as Akyab, would be connected with Mizoram through Kaladyn River. According to Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Commerce, the work on the project will start in January 2007 and is expected to be completed within three years.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 25 December 2006.

### **Two National Waterways Planned**

Centre is mulling over declaring two more national Waterways- National Waterway No 4 and National Waterway No 5. National Waterway No 4 will have a length of 1.095 km route from Kakinada to Pondicherry. The National Waterway No 5 will be a 623 km route from West Bengal's Geonkhali to Orissa's Paradip on one end and Talcher on the other. Expected to complete the project by 2016-17, the entire work will involve about Rs 2000 crore.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 25 December 2006.

### **Shanghai Port is World's Busiest for 2nd Consecutive Year**

The cargo turnover of Shanghai port exceeded 500 million tons in 2006, making it the world's busiest port for the second consecutive year, says Shanghai Port Administration. Shanghai Port has handled more than 20 million TEU (twenty-foot container equivalent units).

Source: *Business Times*, 29 December 2006.

<http://businesstimes.asiaone.com/sub/shippingtimes/story/0,4574,219525,00.html?>



## **SHIPPING**

### **No Foreigners Aboard Indian Vessels**

The shipping industry has been asking the government to either permit employment of foreign nationals on-board Indian ships or amend the present tax structure for Indian seafarers due to acute shortage of Indian seafarers. However, the government is of the view

that the shortage pertains only to some categories and is not as acute as the industry claims. Therefore The Indian government will not permit employment of foreign nationals aboard Indian vessels by amending the Shipping Act.

*Source: 7 December 2006.*

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1319&rcid=154&pcid=98&cid>

### **Blanket Security Level Increase**

The Indian Director-General of Shipping has directed port authorities to enhance security of ships and port facilities to level 2 under the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code with effect from November 30.

*Source: 7 December 2006.*

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1321&rcid=149&pcid=148&cid=149>.

### **Shipping Insurance Costs May Rise 5-6% Next Year**

Insurance costs for shipping companies may rise between 5 and 6 percent in 2007 as greater emphasis is being laid on stricter maritime safety regulations, said Aon Corp, the world's second-biggest insurance broker.

*Source: 8 December 2006. <http://businesstimes.asiaone.com/sub/shippingtimes/story/0,4574,217729,00.html?>*

### **SCI Forbes Orders Tankers**

SCI Forbes, a 50:50 joint venture between state-run Shipping Corporation of India and Forbes Gokak group, has ordered four chemical tankers for \$100 mn at South Korea's INP Shipyard. The ships are expected to be delivered starting from first quarter of 2009.

*Source: The Economic Times, 11 December 2006.*

### **India, Pak Sign Shipping Protocol**

India and Pakistan signed a revised shipping protocol to allow flagships of both countries to carry third country cargo from each other's ports. It was signed by Shri TR Baalu, Indian Shipping Minister and his Pak counterpart Babar Khan Ghorri in Delhi on 14 December 06. This is expected to enhance tonnage under both the flags and also result in competitive shipping rates. The Pak minister said the revised protocol would also pave way for a Mumbai-Karachi ferry service.

*Source: The Economic Times, 18 December 2006.*

### **Adani into Shipping**

Finally, the Ahmedabad- based Adani enterprise, a part of the group that operates Mundra Port, is foraying into shipping. It's board has approved a proposal to raise \$250 mn through foreign currency convertible bonds to purchase ships. The international trading major; Adani is currently plying nearly 300 ships annually on charter. The group is already in the process of setting up a shipbuilding and repair yard in Mundra, apart from constructing the second container terminal.

*Source: The Economic Times, 18 December 2006.*

### **DGS Calls for Easy Fiscal Regime, Second Registry to Boost Shipping**

Kiran Dhingra, Director General of Shipping, has called for relaxation in cabotage laws and rationalisation of the fiscal regime. She has asked the government to address manning issues, develop shore-based infrastructure and more importantly, to open a second international registry. Her subgroup has proposed three targets for tonnage acquisition for Indian shipping. The first target is to reach 10 million gross tonnage (GT), the second to achieve 12 mn GT and the third 15 mn GT.

*Source: The Economic Times, 18 December 2006.*



### **China Launches Huge Oil Production Vessel**

A huge oil tanker, 323 meters long and 63 meters wide, and measuring 71 meters from its keel to the top of its smoke stack, was launched in Shanghai. The ship, which can load or off-load 190,000 barrels of crude oil a day, is called a floating production storage off-loading (FPSO) vessel. It was designed and built by Shanghai Waigaoqiao Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. for ConocoPhillips China Inc. The 300,000-ton deadweight vessel costs 240 million U.S. dollars. It can store 2 million barrels of crude oil. It is the largest and most expensive of its kind in China.

*Source: Xinhua, 8 December 2006. [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-12/08/content\\_754450.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-12/08/content_754450.htm).*

### **Chowgule to Build Bulk Carrier**

Chowgule Steamships Ltd (CSL) has placed an order through its wholly-owned subsidiary Chowgule Steamships (Overseas) Ltd to build a 37000-DWT, super box Bulk carrier, to be built at Saikai Heavy Industries, Japan.

*Source: The Economic Times, 18 December 2006.*

### **Reduce Duty on Shipbuilding Equipment**

Shipping ministry has asked finance ministry to reduce customs duty levied on import of shipbuilding equipment. Shipping ministry officials said that this will help companies like Rolls Royce and Wartsilla, which import marine equipment and engines to supply to domestic shipyards.

*Source: The Economic Times, 18 December 2006.*

### **Korea Received More than 40 Percent of Global Shipbuilding Orders**

Korea has been the world's leader in shipbuilding for four consecutive years. The country received more than 40 percent of global shipbuilding orders in the 11 months to November. Shipbuilding exports are expected to account for 7 percent of Korea's total exports by reaching a record \$21.8 billion this year.

*Source: The Korea Herald, 22 December 2006.*

[http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html\\_dir/2006/12/22/200612220021.asp](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/SITE/data/html_dir/2006/12/22/200612220021.asp).

### **India: Navy to Commission Third Large Amphibious Ship INS Shardul**

Defense News' reports that the Indian Navy will commission its third Landing Ship Tank, INS Shardul, on 4 January 2007 at its newest and largest naval base: Karwar, on the west coast of India. The ship was built by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers.

*Source: India Defence, 27 December 2006. <http://www.india-defence.com/reports/2767>.*

### **Korea's Most Expensive Ship Costs US\$630 Million**

The most expensive ship among the orders Korean shipbuilders won in 2006 is a US\$630 million drill ship. Samsung Heavy Industries won the contract from Sweden in October to build the 97,000-ton drill ship, which is 228 m long and 19 m tall. In terms of price, the ship costs the equivalent of five 300,000-ton crude oil carriers (VLCCs) or two or three LNG ships.

*Source: 29 December 2006. <http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200612/200612290035.html>.*

### **India Launches Submarine Production**

India is to begin assembling the French Scorpene attack submarines as part of its plan to boost its naval power and military-industrial know-how. The 2.4 billion euro deal to build initial six diesel submarines was signed in October 2005 with Armaris, a subsidiary of

France's Thales group and Direction des Constructions Navales (DCN). The agreement also includes the sale of 36 Exocet-type anti-submarine and anti-ship missiles. The Scorpene, jointly developed by DCN and Spain's Navantia, is a 67-metre-long (220 feet) craft designed for attack and interception. Malaysia and Chile have also placed orders. India's contract covers a 12-year period, and the first craft is scheduled to enter into service in 2012, with an additional submarine following each year. India's navy currently has 16 submarines, but these are mainly ageing Russian and German models. With the Scorpene, India is hoping to bring its fleet up to date to match challenges from rivals, Pakistan and China.

*Source: AFP, [http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp\\_asiapacific/view/246742/1.html](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/246742/1.html)*

### **South Korean Shipbuilders are Buying More Steel from China**

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. and Samsung Heavy Industries Co., the world's three biggest shipbuilders, all based in Korea, are buying more steel plate to deliver a record number of ships over the next three years. Samsung Heavy recently admitted it can't secure enough steel plate from suppliers in Korea and Japan, and so will more than double purchases of steel plates from China next year. The company purchased 9% of its steel from China this year, but next year it will buy 21% of its steel from that country. Hyundai Heavy bought about 16% of its steel from China this year, but will buy 22% next year.

*Source: 29 December 2006. <http://www.nsnet.com/index.php?itemid=10081>.*



## **MARITIME SECURITY**

### **Navy to Track Terror Threats in Gujarat**

The Navy is setting up a hi-tech surveillance centre to monitor possible terror threats to economic installations in Gujarat.

*Source: 7 December 2006 2006.*

*[http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Navy\\_to\\_track\\_terror\\_threats\\_in\\_Gujarat/articleshow/737927.cms](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Navy_to_track_terror_threats_in_Gujarat/articleshow/737927.cms).*

### **Giant US Warship Sails into Gulf**

One of the world's largest warships, the USS Dwight D Eisenhower, entered the Gulf to conduct missions in direct support of troops participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Maritime Security Operations (MSO).

*Source: Gulf Daily News, Vol XXIX, NO. 267, 12 December 2006.*

*<http://www.gulfdailynews.com/Story.asp?Article=164246&Sn=BNEW&IssueID=29267>.*

### **Japan will not Allow Nuclear-Armed Ships to Pass Through Its Waters**

The Japanese government reiterated that Japan would not allow nuclear-armed ships to pass through its waters under any circumstances.

*Source: Kyodo, <http://www.japantoday.com/jp/news/393943>.*



## **MARITIME COOPERATION**

### **India, Japan for Stronger Defence Ties**

Both India and Japan had agreed to undertake a goodwill exercise between the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and the Indian Navy in 2007. Recognising the large exclusive economic zone and maritime interests possessed by both countries, the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe confirmed their intention to enhance cooperation in capacity building, technical assistance and information sharing between their respective agencies and undertake anti-piracy measures.

Source: *DailyIndia.com*, 15 December 2006. <http://www.dailyindia.com/show/93517.php/India-Japan-for-stronger-defence-ties>.

### **Pak's Maritime Force Comes to Aid of Indian Dhow**

Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency (MSA) reportedly mounted an operation to aid an Indian vessel with a crew of 11 that was stranded at sea after engine problems.

Source: *The Hindu*, 19 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001200612191819.htm>.

### **Hydrographers Finalise Modalities for Joint Survey of Sir Creek**

In a positive step forward towards resolving their maritime boundary dispute, Indian and Pakistani hydrographers agreed to conduct a joint survey of the Sir Creek area, a marshy strip, off the Gujrat coast, from January 15.

Source: 23 December 2006, <http://www.zeenews.com/znews/articles.asp?aid=343913&sid=SAS>.

### **Russia-Aided Service**

Rosoboronservice India (ROS-I), a company especially created to address the Indian Navy's concerns about poor availability of Russian origin spares, has offered to provide life-cycle support to submarines, frigates and helicopters. With 70 per cent of the Indian Navy's assets estimated to be of Russian origin, President Vladimir Putin permitted eight companies to form a joint venture with an Indian firm to address complaints of poor maintenance support.

Source: *The Hindu*, 27 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/27/stories/2006122702761500.htm>.

### **U.S. ups Port-Security Exchanges**

The U.S. Coast Guard is quietly expanding exchanges with Chinese maritime-security agencies in a move that reflects the boom in seaborne trade between the two countries.

Source: *The Washington Times*, 28 December 2006, <http://washingtontimes.com/world/20061227-095254-9064r.htm>.

### **Vietnam, China Launch Joint Navy Patrol**

Vietnamese and Chinese navies carried out their second joint patrol in the Tonkin Gulf on December 28 in implementation of an agreement between the navies of the two countries.

Source: *Nahn Dan*, 29 December 2006. [http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/news/291206/domestic\\_vn.htm](http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/news/291206/domestic_vn.htm).



## **MARITIME LEGISLATION**

### **Michigan Ballast Water Law could Halt International Ships to the Twin Ports**

According to the Michigan ballast water law, that takes effect from 1 January 2007, foreign ships will not be allowed in Michigan's waters until and unless best available technology to clean ballast water is installed in visiting ships.

Source: 30 December 2006, <http://www.businessnorth.com/kuws.asp?RID=1749>.



## **FISHING**

### **Form Ministry for Fisheries at Centre**

In a press release Ms. Manorama Madhwaraj, MP, said that the Centre should consider creation of a separate Union Ministry of Fisheries to look after the interest of fishery development and welfare of fishermen community. She urged the Union Government to ensure immediate implementation of the Murari Committee recommendations.

Source: *The Hindu*, 9 December 2006

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/09/stories/2006120917990300.htm>.

### **Sri Lanka's Fishing Industry Recovers from Tsunami**

The fishery industry in Sri Lanka is well on the path to recovery after it was hit hard by the tsunami tragedy in December 2004, when it lost 75 percent of its fishing fleet. Figures from the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Ministry show that during the first nine months of 2006, Sri Lanka produced 172,460 tonnes of fish, 74 percent increase over the same period in 2006.

Source: 26 December 2006, <http://www.teluguportal.net/modules/news/article.php?storyid=26403>.



## **MARINE ENVIRONMENT**

### **NASA: Satellites Show Fish Stocks to fall as Oceans Warms**

In a NASA study, scientists have concluded that when Earth's climate warms, there is likelihood of reduction in the ocean's primary food supply. This poses a potential threat to fisheries and ecosystems.

Source: 7 December 2006, [http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article\\_id=11078496253](http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article_id=11078496253).

### **EU Environmental Ministers Agreed on Protection of Marine Environment**

Environment ministers of the European Union reached a political agreement on the marine strategy directive. The directive aims to achieve or maintain a good marine environment by the year 2021.

Source: 19 December 2006.

<http://www.kauppalehti.fi/4/i/vritykset/hellink/tiedote.jsp?selected=kaikki&oid=20061201/11665081802870>.

### **China Unveils Plan for Blasting Of River Reefs**

China plans to make the Mekong river deep enough to accommodate large cargo vessels by blasting rocks in stretches of the river near the Golden Triangle and then dredging a channel. Dredging would eventually allow bigger vessels to navigate the river linking China and Thailand. China will also seek approval from Myanmar and Laos for the dredging. About 330km of the river would need deepening to allow for the larger ships to pass back and forth between China and Thailand. The controversial plan to dredge the Mekong has long been opposed by conservationists who say the action would damage fish habitats and destroy the river's fragile ecosystem.

Source: Bangkok Post, [http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/21Dec2006\\_news15.php](http://www.bangkokpost.com/News/21Dec2006_news15.php).



## **MARINE RESOURCES**

### **New Marine Wildlife Watching Code**

A new marine wildlife watching code, The Scottish Marine Wildlife Watching Code has been developed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act. It aims to promote enjoyment of marine wildlife and raise awareness about the best ways to watch species including dolphins, birds, seals, otters and basking sharks.

Source: The Shetland Times, 1 December 2006.

[http://www.shetlandtoday.co.uk/Shetlandtimes/content\\_details.asp?ContentID=20857](http://www.shetlandtoday.co.uk/Shetlandtimes/content_details.asp?ContentID=20857).

### **Concern over Sea Turtle Population**

Decline in sea turtle population in the Gulf of Mannar over the years is causing concern among marine scientists who have launched an all-out effort to save the endangered species from extinction. J.K. Patterson Edward, director, Sugandhi Devadason Marine Research Institute (SDMRI), affiliated to Manonmanium Sunderanar University suggested trawl nets be fitted with 'turtle excluder devices' to avoid incidental catch. SDMRI had launched

a month-long campaign from December 1 to 31 in the district, to create public awareness on marine turtles and their conservation, as part of the 'International Year of Turtle' celebrations. The campaign was sponsored by the Department of Ocean Development, Government of India, Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Trust, Indian Ocean-South East Asia (IOSEA) secretariat in Bangkok, and South East Asia Sea Turtle Associative Research, Japan.

*Source: The Hindu, 3 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/03/99hdline.htm>.*

### **Global Census Reveals that Oceans are Full of Unknown Species**

An international team of scientists has discovered at least 500 new underwater species, including gangly and googly-eyed creatures that can live in the most hostile of environments. The findings are in stark contrast to a string of bleak scientific reports that have projected the virtual disappearance of all major commercial fish species in a matter of decades if fishing practices aren't changed. O'Dor, a professor of marine biology at Dalhousie University, said the work of the census differs from most other studies because it is being done largely in water far off the coast, not in coastal areas where stocks are being imperiled by heavy fishing and pollution is thought to be affecting some species. The 2,000 researchers from 80 countries who are participating in the census are probing waters that have rarely been studied, in areas once thought to be beyond human reach.

*Source: ctv.ca, 10 December 2006.*

*[http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20061210/ocean\\_lifeforms\\_061210/20061210?hub=SciTech](http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20061210/ocean_lifeforms_061210/20061210?hub=SciTech).*



## **MARINE TECHNOLOGY**

### **New System Planned to Monitor Ships**

India is putting in place a superior monitoring system to track ships plying near its coast. Named the national automatic identification system (AIS), the network is at a conceptual stage and meant to overcome the shortcomings of the current system to sift merchant and passenger ships from rogue vessels which might approach the coast, said official sources. The transmission of information will be through VSAT (satellite dishes) links instead of very ultra high frequency transmission used by the present INSPIRES (Indian ship position reporting system) that has been functional for the past 10 years.

*Source: The Hindu, 1 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/01/stories/2006120103131500.htm>.*

### **Improved Propulsion Designs for Unmanned Underwater Vehicles**

Inspired by the sleek and efficient propulsion of squid, jellyfish and other cephalopods, a University of Colorado researcher has designed a new generation of compact vortex generators that could make it easier for scientists to maneuver and dock underwater vehicles at low speeds and with greater precision.

*Source: 12 December 2006. [http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article\\_id=51030782641](http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article_id=51030782641).*



## **MARITIME TRADE**

### **Marine Exports to U.S. Fall by 23%**

While the India's exports of marine products to most countries increased, exports to the U.S. dropped 23.43 per cent in quantity and 14.32 per cent in value in the first half of the financial year of 2006-07 compared with the first half of 2005-06 figures. During April-September, India exported 22,329 tonnes of seafood to the U.S. markets, down by 6,831 tonnes of seafood from last year's 29,160 tonnes. In rupee terms, value realisations dropped



to Rs.896.17 crores in the same period of 2005-06.Exports to the U.S. were badly hit by the impositions of anti-dumping duty by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the customs bond.

Source: *The Hindu*, 30 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/30/stories/2006123001021900.htm>.



## MARITIME BOUNDARY ISSUES

### Seoul, Beijing Agree to hold Further Talks on Sea Border

South Korea and China agreed to hold additional talks and a conference on ways to draw a clear demarcation line in their shared waters, but failed to narrow differences on where the line should lie, South Korean officials said.

Source: *Yonhap News*, 7 December 2006.

<http://english.yna.co.kr/Engnews/20061207/61000000020061207190216E2.htm>.

### Surinam and Guyana before Arbitration Tribunal

Both Surinam and Guyana began presentations before an Arbitration Tribunal established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to solve their maritime boundary Dispute.

Source: *Caribbean Net News*, 11 December 2006.

<http://www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgiscrypt/csArticles/articles/000046/004677.htm>.

### International Maritime Commission for Timor Gap

International Maritime Experts have declared on 18 December 2006 an International Commission of Jurists for the Timor Gap and Timor Sea/ Pacific Rim islands (ICJ-TGAP) to conduct scientific studies for drawing up the borders between Indonesia, Australia and Timor Leste, based on international principles. The ICJ-TGAP has 15 members from various countries and backgrounds with experts in international relations, international law, international sea law, maritime borders and human rights. The organization will also guide policy makers of the three countries toward sustainable solutions as regards indistinct maritime borders. In addition, it is expected that ICJ-TGAP will be able to defend Indonesians' rights and interests especially traditional fishermen's rights.

Source: *Tempo Interactive*, 21 December 2006.

<http://www.tempointeractive.com/hg/nasional/2006/12/21/brk,20061221-89893,uk.html>.



## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### Maritime University to Commence Soon

Union Minister for Shipping and Road Transport Shri T R Baalu said the maritime institutes at Mumbai, Kolkatta and Vishakapatnam would be affiliated to the National Maritime University proposed at Semmancheri near Chennai. Speaking at the inauguration of various competitions for fishermen being conducted in connection with the 125th year celebrations of the Chennai Port Trust, Baalu said Rs 25 crore has been released as the first instalment to provide basic infrastructure to the university. 'The remaining amount will be released after passing a Bill in the next session of Parliament,' he said.

Source: 20 December 2006. <http://newstodaynet.com/20dec/ld9.htm>.

### Centre to Train Fishermen Community

The Directorate-General of Shipping will launch a training programme to provide employment opportunities to the fishermen community, said Minister of Shipping, Road

Transport and Highways Shri T.R. Baalu. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10 crore would be made in the coming financial year for the programme.

Source: *The Hindu*, 23 December 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/12/23/stories/2006122301802000.htm>.

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

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