



The Monthly e-News Brief of NMF

Volume 1, Number 3

December 2006



MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

Dubai Man-made Island Poised to Greet First Residents

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Source: The Khaleej Times Online, 4 November 2006.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/todaysfeatures/2006/November/todaysfeatures_November10.xml§ion=todaysfeatures.

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Source: *Fairplay Daily News*, 24 Nov 2006.
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Russian Navy Intensifies Anti-terror Operations

Russia's navy has intensified operations to combat international terrorism. "Russia is involved in NATO's Active Endeavor operation and is patrolling the Mediterranean jointly with NATO ships to prevent terror attacks, the transfer of weapons of mass destruction and drugs," Russia's Navy Commander Admiral Vladimir Masorin told Interfax.

Source: Interfax, 16 November 2006, http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/politics/28.html?id_issue=11622873

N Korea's Red Cross Urges Japan to Lift Port Entry Ban on NKorean Ships

North Korea's Red Cross urged Japan to lift its port entry ban on North Korean ships, warning that Tokyo will be held accountable for consequences of a possible physical clash. Japan has banned North Korean imports, barred port entry of North Korean ships and prohibited most North Korean nationals from entering the country as part of its sanctions against the communist nation over its Oct. 9 nuclear test.

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Malaysia to Provide Aerial Protection over Malacca Straits

Ships and boats plying the Straits of Malacca will get aerial protection from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). According to the state government sources, the agency will use fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters to conduct aerial surveillance over the national maritime zone in the Straits.

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MARITIME COOPERATION

Norway Provides Funding for ITCP's Maritime Security Components in Africa

IMO's technical co-operation activities in Africa have received a major funding boost with the conclusion of an agreement between IMO and NORAD, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. Under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement signed between the two organizations on 30 October 2006, NORAD will provide US\$226,000 towards three technical co-operation activities in Africa in the field of maritime security, to be executed through IMO's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP). The agreement sees the establishment of a bilateral trust fund arrangement between IMO and NORAD.

Source: IMO, Press Briefings, 2 November 2006, <http://www.imo.org/>

Linking Science and Policy in the Baltic Sea

Scientists in the Baltic Sea region are set to intensify their cooperation in a bid to rescue their sea from a range of environmental problems and turn it into a sea which is able to sustainably provide a range of goods and services to the millions of people living on or near its shores. BONUS, an EU-funded research project is a first step in this cooperation drive.

Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP6_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=26642&DOC

China, U.S. Navies Hold Exercises

The U.S. and Chinese navies held joint search-and-rescue exercises on 19 November, the latest step aimed at enhancing cooperation.

Source: *Tehrantimes.com*, 20 November 2006, <http://www.tehrantimes.com>

Rajapaksa wants Joint Patrolling by Two Navies, India Refused

On the eve of his five-day visit to India from 25 November, Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa said he intended to raise the issue of joint patrolling of the seas by Indian and Sri Lankan navies. India refused to have joint patrolling with the Sri Lankan navy, but willing to supply "non lethal" logistical items to the Sri Lankan Military as reported in *The Hindu*.

Source: *The Hindu*, 25 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/25/stories/2006112510810100.htm>.



MARITIME LEGISLATION

FAL Amendments Enter into Force

Several important amendments to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Convention) entered into force on 1 November 2006. They include new recommended practices which include ships, persons and cargo, to a "Single Window" concept and use of pre-arrival data for subsequent release and clearance of passengers and cargo.

Source: *IMO, Press briefing 40*, 1 November 2006, <http://www.imo.org/>.

New International Rules to Allow Storage of CO₂ in Seabed Adopted

Storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) under the seabed will be allowed from 10 February 2007, under amendments to an international convention governing the dumping of wastes at sea. Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, at their first meeting held in London from 30 October to 3 November, adopted amendments to the 1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention). The amendments regulate the sequestration of CO₂ streams from CO₂ capture processes in sub-seabed geological formations.

Source: *IMO Press Briefing 43*, 8 November 2006, <http://www.imo.org/>.

Framework for Community Action in the Field of Marine Environmental Policy

The European Parliament adopted a legislative report on Framework for Community Action in the field of Marine Environmental Policy. The European Council says that this Directive establishes a framework within which Member States shall achieve good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2017 at the latest.

Source: 14 November 2006, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/064-12636-317-11-46-911-20061113IPR12517-13-11-2006-2006-false/default_en.htm.

World Court to Hear Malaysia/Singapore Isle Dispute

The UN's highest court will launch hearings in November next year to decide the sovereignty of a rocky island at the heart of territorial dispute between Malaysia and Singapore.

Source: *The New Zealand Herald*, 17 November, 2006.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=2&ObjectID=10411240.



Wild Fish Stocks Declining, Growth of Mariculture Industries

Wild fish stocks the world over are on the decline, putting increasing pressure on local and international governments to cut fishing quotas. While the chances of natural stocks recovering are unlikely, the ever-growing market demand for fish and seafood is paving the way for substantial growth of mariculture industries, says Rhodes University's Professor Peter Britz, of the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science.

Source: Creamer Media's Engineering News, 6 November 2006.

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/eng/news/thisweek/?show=96177>.

New Zealand Condemns Europe over Pacific Fishing

New Zealand's government and environmentalists condemned the European Union for blocking moves to protect fish stocks in the South Pacific. The EU refused at international fishing talks in Hobart, Australia, to limit their current fishing operations in the South Pacific, after New Zealand had proposed a range of measures to protect fragile deep-water ecosystems.

Source: The Raw Story, 13 November 2006.

http://rawstory.com/news/2006/New_Zealand_condemns_Europe_over_Pa_11132006.html

Kenya to Host 8-Country \$35 Million Indian Ocean Fisheries Project

Kenya will play host to the World Bank funded \$35 million South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Project. The Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI) in Mombasa will be the regional management unit headquarters of the project, involving eight countries at the SouthWestern sector of the Indian Ocean.

Source: 14 November 2006, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200611140067.html>

Subsidy on Inputs for Fishermen

Assistant Director of Fisheries Chand Basha on 21 November assured Indian fishermen of subsidy on inputs to pursue their occupation.

Source: The Hindu, 22 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/22/stories/2006112209130500.htm>.



Sakhalin's Black Tears

Russia with support from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development plans to expand the drilling and build two pipelines in one of the most seismically active regions in the world. This will affect the world's last 100 or so Western Pacific grey whales. It will destroy the key salmon fishing area off the island due to potential dumping of one million tons of waste into the sea and threaten the livelihood of tens of thousands of fishermen. Furthermore the Sakhalinians have to live with a permanent threat that a large oil spill will destroy their environment. The future of Sakhalin lies in the hands of the international financial institutions and multinational companies.

Source: 1 November 2006, <http://regions-bank.feng-shui-hq.com/16208/>.

Divers to Help Collect Marine Environment Data

Scuba divers and snorkelers along the Western Australian south coast are being recruited to gather information about the region's marine environment. The Salt Water Treasures program aims to involve schools and local community groups in collecting information on different marine species and monitoring sites at risk of being infested with introduced marine pests.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200611/s1784412.htm>.

Plastic Ocean

The ocean can absorb heat from the sun and carbon dioxide from the air, but it can't absorb plastic trash. A report released on 6 November by Greenpeace states that plastic, people

threw away and was subsequently dumped into the ocean, is now part of the marine environment and is harming animals.

Source: 7 November 2006, <http://sciencesketches.blogspot.com/2006/11/plastic-ocean.html>.

Parliamentary Committee to Probe Management of the Marine Environment

According to the News Release (MARINE) issued by the Scottish Parliament on 10 November 2006 the management of the marine environment in Scotland will be subject to its first ever Holyrood parliamentary inquiry.

Source: 10 November 2006, http://media.netpr.pl/notatka_67381.html.

Gangotri Glacier Receding

According to Greenpeace release, the Gangotri glacier in the Himalayas, the main water source of River Ganga, has been receding at the rate of 34 metres every year due to global warming.

Source: *Economic Times*, 23 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>



PIRACY

Piracy in Brazil is on the Up

The Brazilian Ship Agents Association for the state of São Paulo and Santos, Sindamar, has claimed that piracy in Brazil is on the up. They have reported that there have been 12 attacks on vessels in Santos between August and the end of October this year.

Source: *Shiptalk*, 16 November 2006.

<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1240&rcid=149&pcid=148&cid=149#anch>.

Japanese to Head Anti-piracy Center in Singapore

A Japanese diplomat was appointed as the first executive director of an information sharing center to be launched by Asian countries to combat piracy in the region, the Japanese Embassy in Singapore said Yoshiaki Ito, minister at Japan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, will head the center in Singapore. The center will be officially launched as part of a Japan-initiated pact for Asian countries to tackle the threat of piracy in the region, especially in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways.

Source: *Joyo Indonesia News Service*, November 28 2006.



MARINE RESOURCES

Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting in Steep Decline

Scientists with Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) released a research report concluding that the United States' largest remaining loggerhead sea turtle rookery is in steep decline. In the report, which was posted on FWCC's website, scientists analyzed 17 years of sea turtle nesting data and found that since 1989 nest counts have declined 22% throughout Florida.

Source: 9 November 2006, <http://www.environmentaljobs.com/index.php?itemid=9>.

Drugs from Ocean Microbes

Biologist J. Craig Venter, whose role in the Human Genome Project brought him international fame and fortune, for developing drugs from ocean microbes, and UCSD announced a joint venture to accelerate research into the DNA of ocean microbes and build a computer infrastructure to manage the vast amount of information generated from that effort. The project is titled CAMERA, short for Community Cyber infrastructure for Advanced Marine Microbial Ecology Research. It is being funded by a \$24.5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Vent also hopes to build a lab at UCSD for developing drugs from ocean microbes.

Source: 9 November 2006, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/science/20061109-9999-7m9venter.html>.

Japanese Research Fleet to Kill 860 Whales in Annual Antarctic Hunt

Japan's research whaling fleet is planning to kill 850 minke and 10 fin whales on its annual hunt in the Antarctic, the Fisheries Agency announced. Japan, the world's largest consumer of seafood, strongly opposes to the global ban on commercial whaling imposed by the International Whaling Commission 20 years ago. Although the primary objective of its fleet is researching the populations, feeding and breeding habits of whales, the meat from the catch is distributed commercially, with proceeds cycled back to pay the costs of the program.

Source: USA Today, 14 November 2006, http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-11-14-whales_x.htm.

Gulf of Mannar Abounds in Sea Snake Varieties

The Gulf of Mannar extending from Rameswaram to Kanyakumari, is a paradise for marine biologists, as it harbours nearly 4,000 species of sea organisms. An intensive field study carried out by Aaron Savio Lobo, a Goa-based young scientist and the first person to study sea snakes in the Gulf of Mannar in the recent past, has proved that the Gulf of Mannar has one of the richest diversities of sea snakes in Indian waters.

Source: The Hindu, 24 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/24/stories/2006112415300600.htm>.



MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Experts Call for Marine Anti-fouling Technology

The National Institute of Ocean Technology and the International Bio deterioration and Biodegradation Society organized a three-day international conference on Recent Advances in Marine Antifouling Technology at Chennai. Two hundred delegates from around the world gathered. The experts suggested that the academic institutions and industries should work together in developing marine anti-fouling technologies for industry use.

Source: The Hindu, 13 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/13/stories/2006111318160900.htm>.

Eyes in the Sky to Help Detect Oil Spills

Managing oil spills in the high seas is set to become simpler. In what could come as a boon for Coast Guard and marine biologists, scientists at the Directorate of Integrated Coastal Marine Area Management Project, Chennai, have developed a mathematical model based on satellite monitoring that would enable it to detect and monitor offshore oil spills accurately.

Source: The Times of India, 17 November 2006, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/461225.cms>.

DARPA Study Looks into High-Speed Underwater Capability

The US Defence Advance Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has awarded contracts to Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics Electric Boat to create and demonstrate a high-speed underwater express vehicle. It will be designed with the aim of carrying out high-speed littoral missions using supercavitation technology, testing the feasibility of the technology to transport high-value cargo and/or small units of personnel.

Source: Jane's Navy International, 17 November 2006.

http://www.janes.com/defence/naval_forces/news/jni/jni061117_1_n.shtml.

Tsunami-Detecting Network in Development

Researchers are hoping to develop a network of ocean-floor and mobile sensors that would help detect tsunamis in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The network would offer an inexpensive alternative to buoys such as those in a U.S.-designed system to be placed in the Indian Ocean.

Source: Tehrantimes.com 25 November 2006.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/Description.asp?Da=11/25/2006&Cat=7&Num=7>.



Tom Allan of United Kingdom Awarded IMO International Maritime Prize

The prestigious International Maritime Prize for 2005 has been presented to Dr. Tom Allan (United Kingdom), former Chairman of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to IMO. The 96th session of the IMO Council in June 2006 took the decision to award the prize to Dr. Allan in recognition of his long service to the cause of maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment, highlighted by his work representing the United Kingdom at IMO and chairing IMO's senior technical body, the MSC, from 1999 to 2005.

Source: IMO, Press Briefing 42, 7 November 2006, <http://www.imo.org/>.

'K' Line Plans Academy in Mumbai

Japanese shipping firm, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line) is set to open a "K" Line Maritime Academy (KLMA) next April in Mumbai. The training facility at Andheri will be equipped with a wide variety of equipment to train approximately 500 people every year.

Source: The Economic Times, 20 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

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

Acknowledgment: *Making Waves is a compilation of maritime news published in various national and international news papers, journals and websites. NMF expresses its profound gratitude to all the sources of information and organizations thereof cited in this news Brief.*

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Scientists in the Baltic Sea region are set to intensify their cooperation in a bid to rescue their sea from a range of environmental problems and turn it into a sea which is able to sustainably provide a range of goods and services to the millions of people living on or near its shores. BONUS, an EU-funded research project is a first step in this cooperation drive.

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<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1240&rcid=149&pcid=148&cid=149#anch>.

Japanese to Head Anti-piracy Center in Singapore

A Japanese diplomat was appointed as the first executive director of an information sharing center to be launched by Asian countries to combat piracy in the region, the Japanese Embassy in Singapore said Yoshiaki Ito, minister at Japan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, will head the center in Singapore. The center will be officially launched as part of a Japan-initiated pact for Asian countries to tackle the threat of piracy in the region, especially in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways.

Source: *Joyo Indonesia News Service*, November 28 2006.

MARINE RESOURCES

Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting in Steep Decline

Scientists with Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) released a research report concluding that the United States' largest remaining loggerhead sea turtle rookery is in steep decline. In the report, which was posted on FWCC's website, scientists analyzed 17 years of sea turtle nesting data and found that since 1989 nest counts have declined 22% throughout Florida.

Source: 9 November 2006, <http://www.environmentaljobs.com/index.php?itemid=9>.

Drugs from Ocean Microbes

Biologist J. Craig Venter, whose role in the Human Genome Project brought him international fame and fortune, for developing drugs from ocean microbes, and UCSD announced a joint venture to accelerate research into the DNA of ocean microbes and build a computer infrastructure to manage the vast amount of information generated from that effort. The project is titled CAMERA, short for Community Cyber infrastructure for Advanced Marine Microbial Ecology Research. It is being funded by a \$24.5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Vent also hopes to build a lab at UCSD for developing drugs from ocean microbes.

Source: 9 November 2006, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/science/20061109-9999-7m9venter.html>.

Japanese Research Fleet to Kill 860 Whales in Annual Antarctic Hunt

Japan's research whaling fleet is planning to kill 850 minke and 10 fin whales on its annual hunt in the Antarctic, the Fisheries Agency announced. Japan, the world's largest consumer of seafood, strongly opposes to the global ban on commercial whaling imposed by the International Whaling Commission 20 years ago. Although the primary objective of its fleet is researching the populations, feeding and breeding habits of whales, the meat from the catch is distributed commercially, with proceeds cycled back to pay the costs of the program.

Source: USA Today, 14 November 2006, http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-11-14-whales_x.htm.

Gulf of Mannar Abounds in Sea Snake Varieties

The Gulf of Mannar extending from Rameswaram to Kanyakumari, is a paradise for marine biologists, as it harbours nearly 4,000 species of sea organisms. An intensive field study carried out by Aaron Savio Lobo, a Goa-based young scientist and the first person to study sea snakes in the Gulf of Mannar in the recent past, has proved that the Gulf of Mannar has one of the richest diversities of sea snakes in Indian waters.

Source: The Hindu, 24 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/24/stories/2006112415300600.htm>.



MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Experts Call for Marine Anti-fouling Technology

The National Institute of Ocean Technology and the International Bio deterioration and Biodegradation Society organized a three-day international conference on Recent Advances in Marine Antifouling Technology at Chennai. Two hundred delegates from around the world gathered. The experts suggested that the academic institutions and industries should work together in developing marine anti-fouling technologies for industry use.

Source: The Hindu, 13 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/13/stories/2006111318160900.htm>.

Eyes in the Sky to Help Detect Oil Spills

Managing oil spills in the high seas is set to become simpler. In what could come as a boon for Coast Guard and marine biologists, scientists at the Directorate of Integrated Coastal Marine Area Management Project, Chennai, have developed a mathematical model based on satellite monitoring that would enable it to detect and monitor offshore oil spills accurately.

Source: The Times of India, 17 November 2006, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/461225.cms>.

DARPA Study Looks into High-Speed Underwater Capability

The US Defence Advance Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has awarded contracts to Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics Electric Boat to create and demonstrate a high-speed underwater express vehicle. It will be designed with the aim of carrying out high-speed littoral missions using supercavitation technology, testing the feasibility of the technology to transport high-value cargo and/or small units of personnel.

Source: Jane's Navy International, 17 November 2006.

http://www.janes.com/defence/naval_forces/news/jni/jni061117_1_n.shtml.

Tsunami-Detecting Network in Development

Researchers are hoping to develop a network of ocean-floor and mobile sensors that would help detect tsunamis in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The network would offer an inexpensive alternative to buoys such as those in a U.S.-designed system to be placed in the Indian Ocean.

Source: Tehrantimes.com 25 November 2006.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/Description.asp?Da=11/25/2006&Cat=7&Num=7>.



Tom Allan of United Kingdom Awarded IMO International Maritime Prize

The prestigious International Maritime Prize for 2005 has been presented to Dr. Tom Allan (United Kingdom), former Chairman of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to IMO. The 96th session of the IMO Council in June 2006 took the decision to award the prize to Dr. Allan in recognition of his long service to the cause of maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment, highlighted by his work representing the United Kingdom at IMO and chairing IMO's senior technical body, the MSC, from 1999 to 2005.

Source: IMO, Press Briefing 42, 7 November 2006, <http://www.imo.org/>.

'K' Line Plans Academy in Mumbai

Japanese shipping firm, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line) is set to open a "K" Line Maritime Academy (KLMA) next April in Mumbai. The training facility at Andheri will be equipped with a wide variety of equipment to train approximately 500 people every year.

Source: The Economic Times, 20 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

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

Acknowledgment: *Making Waves is a compilation of maritime news published in various national and international news papers, journals and websites. NMF expresses its profound gratitude to all the sources of information and organizations thereof cited in this news Brief.*

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MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

Dubai Man-made Island Poised to Greet First Residents

Palm Jumeirah, a man-made island off Dubai, is bracing for the arrival of its first residents, even as questions remain about the environmental impact of the mega-projects under way in the Gulf city state. Work is meanwhile also continuing on two other palm tree-shaped islands even bigger than Palm Jumeirah. One, Palm Jebel Ali, is jutting out into Gulf waters to the west. The other, Palm Deira—planned to be 18 kilometers long and nine kilometers wide but still in its early stages—is emerging to the east.

Source: The Khaleej Times Online, 4 November 2006.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/todaysfeatures/2006/November/todaysfeatures_November10.xml§ion=todaysfeatures.

Coast Guard Station at Kakinada

The UPA government established the 29th Coast Guard Station at Kakinada on 10 November 2006. This would help step up vigil along the East Coast, from Kakinada to Chennai

Source: The Hindu, 12 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/12/stories/2006111205340300.htm>.

Chinese Port Capacity to Cross 5.5 bt in 2006

The handling capacity of Chinese ports will grow 18% to 5.5 billion tonnes by the end of this year. The ports are expected to handle 94 million TEUs this year, up 24% over 2005, said minister of communications Xu zuyuan in Tianjin.

Source: The Economic Times, 13 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

Indian Navy to Induct US-made Choppers for the First Time

For the first time, Indian Navy would induct US-made helicopters with the government giving the go-ahead for purchase of six Sikorsky-Seaking choppers.

Source: The Times of India, 17 November 2006, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/462580.cms>.

Cochin Port Finalises Plan for Cruise Terminal

Kochi is set to receive three more luxury cruise liners in the coming weeks promising a repeat of the last tourist season during which the Port received as many as 22 cruise liners. The busy schedule for Kochi, as the new season starts, augurs well for the Port, which has finalised plans for setting up a world-class cruise terminal to exclusively service cruise vessels.

Source: The Hindu, 24 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/24/stories/2006112421480400.htm>

India Eyes an Island in the Sun

Mauritius has offered to hand over the Agalega Islands to India ostensibly for development as a tourist destination. Indian companies would develop hotels and resorts and also upgrade the existing airstrip on the island into an airport. Indian companies or the government may also have the option to develop a port, which could be used for purposes of both trade and tourism.

Source: *Times of India*, 25 November 2006.
http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/India_eyes_an_island_in_the_sun/articleshow/563606.cms

Scoda Exports to Develop Andhra Port

Andhra Pradesh has cleared the proposal of Czech based Scoda Exports Company for the development of Nizampatnam Port, in Guntur district, involving an investment of Rs 10,000 crore. When operational by 2010, the port would be able to handle bulk, break-bulk and container vessels.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 27 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

SHIPPING

ConCor in Working JV with Seaways

Container Corporation of India (Concor), the prime mover of containerised cargo by rail and Secunderabad based logistics major Seaways group have entered into a joint working agreement to provide end-to-end logistics for exports from Punjab region to Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 13 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

DGS Extends Cabotage NOC Network to All Shipowners

In its latest directive, directorate general of shipping has instructed INSA 'to extend their cabotage NOC network to cover all shipowners regardless of membership' to the premier association.

Source: *The Economic Times*, 13 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

Shreyas Shipping to Acquire Container Vessel

In a bid to augment its fleet strength, Shreyas Shipping and Logistics has signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) for purchase of fully cellular ship at a cost of Rs 60 crore. In a filing on the Bombay Stock Exchange, the company said the proposed procurement of the 1,300 Teu capacity vessel built in 1991 would fulfil the requirements of its expanding logistic operations.

Source: *The Hindu*, 23 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/23/stories/2006112302171707.htm>

Security Costs 'Must be Shared'

Asian shippers meeting in Jakarta have called for proportional sharing of security costs by "all parties" in the supply chain. Shippers have also called for simplified freight tariffs and removal of surcharges when normality returns. "Surcharges, if implemented, should be temporary in nature." The meeting comprised the 29th AGM of the ASEAN Shippers' Councils and the 3rd annual meeting of the Asian Shippers' Council. The Japan Shippers' Council attended as an observer.

Source: *Fairplay Daily News*, 24 Nov 2006.
<http://www.fairplay.co.uk/secure/display.aspx?articlename=dn0020061124000000>.

SHIPBUILDING

Chantiers Delivers World's Biggest LNG Ship

Chantiers de l'Atlantique made a brief comeback to shipbuilding last week to hand over the world's biggest liquefied natural gas carrier to date to state-owned energy utility Gaz de France.

Source: *Lloyd's*, 17 November 2006.

L&T Entering into Shipbuilding

L&T is planning to enter shipbuilding by investing Rs 2000 crore. The company is looking for locations in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat

Source: *Economic Times*, 23 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

Japanese Ship Detained at Jamnagar

Customs and Excise department personnel at Jamnagar have detained a Japanese ship, which was brought for ship-breaking, after its owners' 'failed' to provide necessary documents. The ship was purchased by a Surat-based Steem Company nearly one year back for breaking at Alang ship-breaking yard in Bhavnagar.

Source: The Times of India, 25 November 2006.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/NEWS/India/Japanese_ship_detained_at_Jamnagar/articleshow/570131.cms.



MARITIME SECURITY

Korea Mulls Joining PSI

The South Korean government is reportedly planning to formally participate in the U.S.-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), but not to conduct inspections and seizures of North Korean vessels in its territorial waters, according to the source. The government is also planning to provide material support for PSI interdiction exercises both onshore and offshore.

Source: 4 November 2006, <http://english.donga.com/srv/service.php3?bicode=050000&biid=2006110474468>.

Russian Navy Intensifies Anti-terror Operations

Russia's navy has intensified operations to combat international terrorism. "Russia is involved in NATO's Active Endeavor operation and is patrolling the Mediterranean jointly with NATO ships to prevent terror attacks, the transfer of weapons of mass destruction and drugs," Russia's Navy Commander Admiral Vladimir Masorin told Interfax.

Source: Interfax, 16 November 2006, http://www.interfax.ru/e/B/politics/28.html?id_issue=11622873

N Korea's Red Cross Urges Japan to Lift Port Entry Ban on NKorean Ships

North Korea's Red Cross urged Japan to lift its port entry ban on North Korean ships, warning that Tokyo will be held accountable for consequences of a possible physical clash. Japan has banned North Korean imports, barred port entry of North Korean ships and prohibited most North Korean nationals from entering the country as part of its sanctions against the communist nation over its Oct. 9 nuclear test.

Source: International Herald Tribune, 17 November 2006.

http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2006/11/17/asia/AS_GEN_NKorea_Japan_Sanctions.php.

Malaysia to Provide Aerial Protection over Malacca Straits

Ships and boats plying the Straits of Malacca will get aerial protection from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA). According to the state government sources, the agency will use fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters to conduct aerial surveillance over the national maritime zone in the Straits.

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<http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1240&rcid=149&pcid=148&cid=149#anch>.

Japanese to Head Anti-piracy Center in Singapore

A Japanese diplomat was appointed as the first executive director of an information sharing center to be launched by Asian countries to combat piracy in the region, the Japanese Embassy in Singapore said Yoshiaki Ito, minister at Japan's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, will head the center in Singapore. The center will be officially launched as part of a Japan-initiated pact for Asian countries to tackle the threat of piracy in the region, especially in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest waterways.

Source: *Joyo Indonesia News Service*, November 28 2006.

MARINE RESOURCES

Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nesting in Steep Decline

Scientists with Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) released a research report concluding that the United States' largest remaining loggerhead sea turtle rookery is in steep decline. In the report, which was posted on FWCC's website, scientists analyzed 17 years of sea turtle nesting data and found that since 1989 nest counts have declined 22% throughout Florida.

Source: 9 November 2006, <http://www.environmentaljobs.com/index.php?itemid=9>.

Drugs from Ocean Microbes

Biologist J. Craig Venter, whose role in the Human Genome Project brought him international fame and fortune, for developing drugs from ocean microbes, and UCSD announced a joint venture to accelerate research into the DNA of ocean microbes and build a computer infrastructure to manage the vast amount of information generated from that effort. The project is titled CAMERA, short for Community Cyber infrastructure for Advanced Marine Microbial Ecology Research. It is being funded by a \$24.5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Vent also hopes to build a lab at UCSD for developing drugs from ocean microbes.

Source: 9 November 2006, <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/science/20061109-9999-7m9venter.html>.

Japanese Research Fleet to Kill 860 Whales in Annual Antarctic Hunt

Japan's research whaling fleet is planning to kill 850 minke and 10 fin whales on its annual hunt in the Antarctic, the Fisheries Agency announced. Japan, the world's largest consumer of seafood, strongly opposes to the global ban on commercial whaling imposed by the International Whaling Commission 20 years ago. Although the primary objective of its fleet is researching the populations, feeding and breeding habits of whales, the meat from the catch is distributed commercially, with proceeds cycled back to pay the costs of the program.

Source: USA Today, 14 November 2006, http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2006-11-14-whales_x.htm.

Gulf of Mannar Abounds in Sea Snake Varieties

The Gulf of Mannar extending from Rameswaram to Kanyakumari, is a paradise for marine biologists, as it harbours nearly 4,000 species of sea organisms. An intensive field study carried out by Aaron Savio Lobo, a Goa-based young scientist and the first person to study sea snakes in the Gulf of Mannar in the recent past, has proved that the Gulf of Mannar has one of the richest diversities of sea snakes in Indian waters.

Source: The Hindu, 24 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/24/stories/2006112415300600.htm>.



MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Experts Call for Marine Anti-fouling Technology

The National Institute of Ocean Technology and the International Bio deterioration and Biodegradation Society organized a three-day international conference on Recent Advances in Marine Antifouling Technology at Chennai. Two hundred delegates from around the world gathered. The experts suggested that the academic institutions and industries should work together in developing marine anti-fouling technologies for industry use.

Source: The Hindu, 13 November 2006, <http://www.hindu.com/2006/11/13/stories/2006111318160900.htm>.

Eyes in the Sky to Help Detect Oil Spills

Managing oil spills in the high seas is set to become simpler. In what could come as a boon for Coast Guard and marine biologists, scientists at the Directorate of Integrated Coastal Marine Area Management Project, Chennai, have developed a mathematical model based on satellite monitoring that would enable it to detect and monitor offshore oil spills accurately.

Source: The Times of India, 17 November 2006, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/461225.cms>.

DARPA Study Looks into High-Speed Underwater Capability

The US Defence Advance Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has awarded contracts to Northrop Grumman and General Dynamics Electric Boat to create and demonstrate a high-speed underwater express vehicle. It will be designed with the aim of carrying out high-speed littoral missions using supercavitation technology, testing the feasibility of the technology to transport high-value cargo and/or small units of personnel.

Source: Jane's Navy International, 17 November 2006.

http://www.janes.com/defence/naval_forces/news/jni/jni061117_1_n.shtml.

Tsunami-Detecting Network in Development

Researchers are hoping to develop a network of ocean-floor and mobile sensors that would help detect tsunamis in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The network would offer an inexpensive alternative to buoys such as those in a U.S.-designed system to be placed in the Indian Ocean.

Source: Tehrantimes.com 25 November 2006.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/Description.asp?Da=11/25/2006&Cat=7&Num=7>.



Tom Allan of United Kingdom Awarded IMO International Maritime Prize

The prestigious International Maritime Prize for 2005 has been presented to Dr. Tom Allan (United Kingdom), former Chairman of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to IMO. The 96th session of the IMO Council in June 2006 took the decision to award the prize to Dr. Allan in recognition of his long service to the cause of maritime safety and the protection of the marine environment, highlighted by his work representing the United Kingdom at IMO and chairing IMO's senior technical body, the MSC, from 1999 to 2005.

Source: IMO, Press Briefing 42, 7 November 2006, <http://www.imo.org/>.

'K' Line Plans Academy in Mumbai

Japanese shipping firm, Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha (K Line) is set to open a "K" Line Maritime Academy (KLMA) next April in Mumbai. The training facility at Andheri will be equipped with a wide variety of equipment to train approximately 500 people every year.

Source: The Economic Times, 20 November 2006, <http://www.etshipping.com>

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

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