

Horizons

01 Dec 11 – 31 Dec 2011

December Issue



**S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

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statistics suggest**

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Naval Development

SINGAPORE | 5 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENCE TALK

Singapore Commissions First Archer-class Sub

Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen officiated at a ceremony to mark the commissioning of the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) first Archer-class submarine, RSS Archer, at Changi Naval Base this morning. During the ceremony, Dr Ng presented the commissioning warrant to Commanding Officer, RSS Archer, Lieutenant-Colonel (LTC) Jack Nyeo. Dr Ng also visited RSS Archer where he was briefed by LTC Jack Nyeo on the enhanced capabilities of RSS Archer.

[Full Report](#)

SEYCHELLES&CHINA | 2 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENSE NEWS

Seychelles Invites China to Set Up Anti-Piracy Base

The Seychelles invited Beijing to set up a military base on the archipelago to beef up the fight against piracy there, Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Paul Adam said. The declaration came Dec. 2 as Gen. Liang Guanglie is making the first-ever visit by a Chinese defense minister to the Indian Ocean island state. "We have invited the Chinese government to set up a military presence on Mahe to fight the pirate attacks that the Seychelles face on a regular basis," Adam said. "For the time being China is studying this possibility because she has economic interests in the region and Beijing is also involved in the fight against piracy," he explained.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 6 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENSE NEWS

China's Hu to PLA Navy: Be Ready for Combat

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Dec. 6 urged the People's Liberation Army Navy to prepare for military combat, amid growing regional tensions over maritime disputes and a U.S. campaign to assert itself as a Pacific power. The PLA Navy should "accelerate its transformation and modernization in a sturdy way, and make extended preparations for military combat in order to make greater contributions to safeguard national security," he said. Addressing the powerful Central Military Commission, Hu said: "Our work must closely encircle the main theme of national defense and military building."

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SINGAPORE&AUSTRALIA|2 DECEMBER 2011|DEFENSE NEWS

S'pore, Australian navies in joint exercise

The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) concluded a bilateral maritime exercise, codenamed Singaroo, on 17 Nov. The four-day exercise provided both navies with a good opportunity to deepen interoperability, said RSN Commander First Flotilla Colonel (COL) Giam Hock Koon. He had co-officiated at the opening ceremony of the exercise with Commander (CMDR) David McDonald, the RAN Commanding Officer HMAS Sirius, at Changi Naval Base on 14 Nov.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA&AUSTRALIA|7 DECEMBER 2011|DAILY NEWS & ANALYSIS

India, Australia pitch for freedom of navigation in maritime areas

Against the backdrop of China's objections to any activity in South China Sea, India and Australia Wednesday pitched for freedom of navigation in maritime areas. India and Australia discussed the prospects of holding a bilateral naval exercise, regional security issues and piracy at a meeting between Defence Minister AK Antony and his Australian counterpart Stephen Smith. "Both sides agreed that challenges in the area of maritime security like piracy and freedom of navigation are important issues which required concerted efforts of the global community," Defence Ministry said in release. However, the Defence Ministry, in its release, didn't mention any specific maritime area. In the recent past, China had objected to any activity in South China Sea including Indian oil exploration activities there.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA|2 DECEMBER 2011|GULF NEWS

Navy has no plans to set up base outside India

The Indian Navy has no plans of setting up base anywhere in the world but if legitimate Indian interests are affected, the navy would be there to protect it, said Western Naval Command chief Vice-Admiral D K Joshi on Friday. In the backdrop of China's concern over the presence of Indian public sector company ONGC Videsh Nigam Ltd operating with Vietnam in the South China Sea for oil exploration, he said, "we would be there to protect them." Though India has entered into a commercial venture with Vietnam, "we cannot offload our interests (in protecting) to a third country."

[Full Report](#)

INDIA|2 DECEMBER 2011|INDIAN GAZETTE

India mulling naval protocol to prevent skirmishes at sea

In the light of some incidents involving warships from Pakistan and China, India is considering a protocol on the lines of the Cold War era arrangement between the US and the erstwhile USSR warships to avoid any skirmishes at sea. Navy chief Admiral Nirmal Verma, who was asked if such a protocol is being worked out for incidents at sea, said such an arrangement was being debated within the Indian security establishment now, though no concrete action in this regard had been initiated yet.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA |1 DECEMBER 2011|CNTV

China's aircraft carrier starts 2nd sea trial

China has launched a second round of sea-trials for its aircraft carrier. And a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense responded to widespread concern over the trial's aim. The aircraft carrier, China's first, left the northern port of Dalian Tuesday for testing. A statement issued by the Ministry of National Defense last week said the trial is geared towards scientific research and experiments that the vessel's first trial in mid-August didn't cover.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA|22 DECEMBER 2011|THE JAKARTA POST

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RI orders 3 submarines worth \$1b in regional 'catch-up'

Indonesia's signing of a contract to procure three submarines from a South Korean company is an effort to keep pace with other countries in the region. The order will more than double Indonesia's existing fleet of two submarines; the KRI Cakra and KRI Nenggala. Andi Widjajanto from the University of Indonesia, told the The Jakarta Post that ordering three submarines was not enough as the 2024 Defense Strategic Plan required 10 submarines as the minimum essential force.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 28 DECEMBER 2011 | BERNAMA

South Korean Navy to Hold Surprise Anti-submarine Drills Next Year

The Navy will perform random drills with its patrol ships to prepare against North Korean submarine infiltrations, officials said Wednesday. "We will simulate enemy infiltration using our own submarines for surprise exercises starting early next year," Yonhap News Agency quoted a Navy official as saying. "These have been designed to enhance our Navy's capability to detect infiltrating North Korean submarines," the official said. The official said the Navy will deploy its Type-209 submarine, listed at 1,200 tons, or 214-class submarine, at 1,800 tonnes, to simulate North Korean submarines. The Navy will not inform any patrol vessels of the exercise schedules, the official added.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 28 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENSE NEWS

Taiwan Navy Retires 2 Missile Boats

Taiwan on Dec. 28 retired two patrol boats, the navy's first vessels armed with ship-to-ship missiles, that were hailed as "critical" to safeguarding the island, officials said. Hundreds of former and active soldiers who had served on board the 240-ton Lung Chiang and Sui Chiang bid farewell to the ships at a ceremony in southern Kaohsiung city, the navy said. Vice Admiral

Chiang Lung-an said the ships "have played a critical role in safeguarding Taiwan over the past 30 years".

[Full Report](#)

US&SINGAPORE | 17 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENSE NEWS

U.S. Navy Expects to Base Ships in Singapore

The United States, facing a rising China but a tighter budget, expects to station several combat ships in Singapore and may step up deployments to the Philippines and Thailand, a naval officer said. The United States has been increasingly vocal about defending freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, where tensions over territorial disputes between Beijing and Southeast Asian nations have been on the rise. In an academic article forecasting the shape of the U.S. Navy in 2025, Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, wrote that "we will station several of our newest littoral combat ships" in Singapore.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 17 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENSE NEWS

Malaysia Firm Wins \$2.8 Billion Navy Ship Deal

A Malaysian shipbuilder says it has won a 9 billion ringgit (\$2.8 billion) deal from Kuala Lumpur for six naval vessels developed by French manufacturer DCNS. In a filing with the local bourse Dec. 16, Boustead Naval Shipyard said it was given a letter of award by the Malaysian defense ministry to build and deliver six "second generation patrol vessels littoral combat ships." "The delivery of the first of class ship is estimated in 2017 with follow on ships every six months thereafter," it added.

[Full Report](#)

RUSSIA&INDIA | 30 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENSE NEWS

Russia Hands Over Nuke Sub Nerpa to India: Report

Russia has handed over the nuclear-powered attack submarine Nerpa to India following more than two years of delays, a senior naval official was quoted as saying Dec. 30.

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"The signing ceremony happened yesterday at the Bolshoi Kamen ship building facility in the (Far East) Primorye region where the Nerpa is now based," the official in the naval chief of staff told ITAR-TASS. Russian reports said an Indian crew would sail the Akula II class craft to its home base at the end of January after receiving it on a 10-year lease that has angered India's arch-rival Pakistan and resulted in retaliation threats.

[Full Report](#)

PHILLIPINES|14 DECEMBER 2011|DEFENSE NEWS

Philippines' New Warship Sent to Disputed Waters

The Philippines launched its newest warship on Dec. 14, a former U.S. Coast Guard cutter that President Benigno Aquino said would be deployed to waters at the heart of a territorial dispute with China. Aquino said the 378-foot (115-meter) Gregorio del Pilar would lead patrols in the parts of the South China Sea that the Philippines claims exclusively as its own and where exploration for potentially lucrative gas fields is underway. "The Gregorio del Pilar, named after the newest general of the Philippine revolution, will take the lead in patrols for our sovereignty, and in ensuring that our waters are crime-free," Aquino said.

[Full Report](#)

PHILLIPINES|6 DECEMBER 2011|MANILA STANDARD

Navy revives plan to buy P5-b ship

The Navy has been cleared to begin negotiations for the purchase of a multirole vessel from any of the friendly nations, Rear Admiral Alexander Pama said on Sunday. "The latest process that we had undergone with the Department of National Defense had good results and we did not encounter anymore objections," Pama said. "Hopefully, all the procedures required by the defense acquisition system would be finalized and early next year we can start negotiations for the acquisition," Pama said.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN|7 DECEMBER 2011|DEFENCE TALK

Japan Coast Guard Orders ISE Explorer AUV

International Submarine Engineering Ltd. is pleased to announce that the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) has placed an order for an Explorer autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV). The vehicle will be used for marine search and recovery as well as survey operations. The JCG Explorer will also be supplied with a light-weight self-articulating ramp based launch and recovery system which will be installed on one of their ships. This will enable the Coast Guard to launch and recover their AUV in an elevated sea state. The launch and recovery ramp system is built by Hawboldt Industries of Chester, Nova Scotia.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA|21 DECEMBER 2011|DEFENCE TALK

China increasing military presence in Indian Ocean

Little by little China is forming military links in Africa and in the Indian Ocean in order, experts say, to protect Beijing's economic interests in the region. In the past three weeks Beijing has committed to supporting Ugandan forces operating in Somalia and to helping the Seychelles fight piracy. "It is very clear that the Chinese leaders recognize that military force will play a bigger role to safeguard China's overseas interests," Jonathan Holslag, of the Brussels Institute of Chinese Contemporary Studies told AFP.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA|20 DECEMBER 2011|DEFENCE TALK

South Korea Picks Sagem for Submarine Modernization

The world specialist in inertial navigation, particularly for warships, Sagem (Safran) has been awarded the contract to modernize South Korean submarines. This latest success reinforces the company's leadership in the field of precision inertia. Under water, there is no point relying on GPS for guidance. Inertial navigation is therefore particularly important to submarines. To modernize the navigation system on board its Chang Bogo-class KSS-1 submarines and meet its precision

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requirements, the South Korean Navy has selected Sagem to supply its latest-generation system.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 15 DECEMBER 2011 | DEFENCE TALK

Australia courts European firms for submarine fleet

Australia said Tuesday it had invited three companies from France, Germany and Spain to submit designs for its new submarine fleet -- a project expected to span the next 30 years. Defence Minister Stephen Smith said Canberra had asked French naval defence firm DCNS, Spain's Navantia and HDW of Germany -- a ThyssenKrupp subsidiary -- to submit designs for the programme, which will see 12 new submarines built.

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Maritime Security and Safety

GLOBAL | 6 DECEMBER 2011 | LLOYD'S LIST

Pirate activity on the decline, statistics suggest

PIRACY statistics for 2012 are likely to show a perceptible reduction in the level of both attacks and hijacks compared to the year before, unless there is an unprecedented upturn between now and the end of year, according to the International Maritime Bureau. As of today, the IMB reported 415 attacks and 41 hijacks in the year to date, compared to 445 attacks and 53 hijacks for 2010 as a whole.

Full Report Available Upon Request

INDONESIA | 5 DECEMBER 2011 | ANTARA NEWS

Sunda Strait prone to piracy : Police

The Sunda Strait, a waterway separating Java island from Sumatra island, is prone to piracy, police said. Therefore, the Banten police would also pay attention to the security of vessels passing through or crossing the strait from Java to Sumatra or vice versa, Banten Regional Police Chief Brig Gen Eko Haid S said here Monday. The main sea transportation means between Java and Sumatra islands across the strait is a regular ferry service between Merak in Banten on Java island and Bakauheni in Sumatra's Lampung province.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN&US | 2 DECEMBER 2011 | FOCUS TAIWAN

Taiwan, U.S. discuss anti-piracy cooperation

Officials from the United States were in Taiwan this week to discuss counter-piracy measures, the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) said Friday. "The two sides held constructive and wide-ranging discussions on the problem of piracy at sea and on ways to expand our counter-piracy cooperation," according to a press statement issued by the AIT.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 6 DECEMBER 2011 | THE STAR

MMEA gets more speed and firepower

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) got a timely boost when it received three ONUK MRTTP 16 fast interceptor craft for its enforcement operations.

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The boats were officially handed over by BYO Marine to the agency in a ceremony witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. The craft can reach speeds of up to 70 knots and is equipped with a 12.7mm Oto Melara Hitrole gun. Besides being used for anti-drug and piracy operations, the craft will also be used for search and rescue operations and environmental pollution control.

[Full Report](#)

SEYCHELLES&CHINA | 5 DECEMBER 2011 | INTELLASIA

Seychelles invites China to set up anti-piracy presence

The Seychelles on Friday invited Beijing to set up a military presence on the archipelago to beef up the fight against piracy there, Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Paul Adam said. The declaration came as Liang Guanglie is making the first-ever visit by a Chinese defence minister to the Indian Ocean island state. "We have invited the Chinese government to set up a military presence on Mahe to fight the pirate attacks that the Seychelles face on a regular basis," Adam said. "For the time being China is studying this possibility because she has economic interests in the region and Beijing is also involved in the fight against piracy," he explained.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 2 DECEMBER 2011 | THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Security, maritime patrols beefed up in West Phi Sea

The government has increased its security and maritime patrols in the hotly contested West Philippine Sea to secure and protect the country's economic interests and address human trafficking and other forms of transnational crimes. Maj. Neil Estrella, spokesman of the military's Western Command, said that in recent months, air and naval operations have doubled over the area due to the involvement of other concerned government agencies.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA&SOUTH KOREA | 12 DECEMBER 2011 | BBC

Chinese fishermen 'stab South Korean coast guards'

The captain of a Chinese fishing boat has stabbed two South Korean coast guards, killing one and injuring another, officials say. The clash took place after the boat was stopped for illegal fishing in the Yellow Sea off Korea's Incheon port. Korean officials seized the vessel and detained nine Chinese crewmen. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said Beijing was trying to clarify details and was willing to work closely with the South Koreans. Chinese crews are regularly caught fishing in Korean waters. They are usually released after paying a fine.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 13 DECEMBER 2011 | LLYOD'S LIST

Intelligence-led pirate attacks are set to increase

RECENT pirate hijacks, such as the Fairchem Bogey, are evidence of the worrying increase in intelligence-led attacks and the situation is set to worsen in the New Year. In August, the Fairchem Bogey was taken while in the anchorage of Salalah, 6nm south of the port. The vessel had armed guards on board, but they were disembarked, as is required by port regulations. It is understood once the armed guards were clear of the vessel, a significant number of pirates attacked and hijacked it. Negotiations are still ongoing for its release. According to broker FP Marine Risks, this behaviour showed a recent change in the level of aggression and daring in attacks.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA&SOUTH KOREA | 5 DECEMBER 2011 | KOREA TIMES

China recognizes wrongdoing in violent clashes with Korean coast guard

China has acknowledged the wrongdoing of its fishermen in using violence against South Korean Coast Guard officers during crackdowns on illegal fishing, a Seoul official said Monday.

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The statement came during a meeting in Beijing between Cho Sei-young, the director-general of the South Korean foreign ministry's Northeast Asian affairs bureau, and his Chinese counterpart, Luo Zhaohui, on Friday, Cho said. "I explained how serious (the issue of illegal fishing) has become, and how it could put pressure on relations between South Korea and China if it is left as it is," he said in a meeting with reporters.

[Full Report](#)



Port and Shipyard Development

PHILIPPINES | 7 DECEMBER 2011 | MANILA BULLETIN

Subic groomed as cruise stop

The recent launching of the Asian Cruise Terminal Association (ACTA) has given this premier Freeport a big boost to becoming the next cruise ship destination. The group is seeking to provide a unified marketing platform for the cruise ship industry in the Asian region. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Deputy Administrator for Business Raul Marcelo said cruise ship operators are expected to turn to Asian destinations as economies in Europe and the United States falter.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 1 DECEMBER 2011 | SHANGHAI DAILY

Shanghai set to handle over 30m TEUs

Shanghai is expected to become the first port in the world to handle more than 30 million TEUs of containers annually this year. The city is boosting capacity as it bids to become a global shipping center by 2020. Shanghai's container throughput may reach 31.5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) for 2011, further cementing its position as the world's largest container port after it overtook Singapore in 2010."

Full Report Available Upon Request

AUSTRALIA | 17 DECEMBER 2011 | AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW

Here's where Australia booms

The central Queensland port city of Gladstone is set to become one of the biggest beneficiaries of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) boom, which Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO Leo Zussino believes is a "sustainable" boom that could go on for "decades". The boom is based around a series of LNG plants being built at Curtis Island on Gladstone Harbour

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PHILIPPINES | 16 December 2011 | PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY

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SBMA bats for two-point program to attract more investors

The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) will implement a two-point program which is seen to put the Subic Bay Freeport in a more competitive investment position over its Asian neighbors. SBMA chairman Roberto Garcia, in a recent meeting with executives of the Investment Promotion Agencies (IPA) composing the Technical Working Group of the Philippine Investment Promotion Plan (PIPP), said that he is now working on two points that will encourage investors to come in.

Full Report Available Upon Request

AUSTRALIA | 16 DECEMBER 2011 | THE CAIRNS POST

Land ahoy. It's our new marina berth

The largest marina in the Far North has expanded by a fifth with a further 44 berths in a \$2 million project being opened today. The Cairns Marlin Marina's G finger and Sailfish Quay pontoon are the first projects completed under an accelerated \$23 million of capital works program being brought forward by Ports North. The authority announced late last year it would bring forward more than \$23 million in capital works for the Port of Cairns in a bid to boost jobs and facilities for one of the city's most vital transport and tourism hubs.

Full Report Available Upon Request

INDONESIA | 15 DECEMBER 2011 | ASIAPULSE

Work to start on West Papua hub port

Work will start in March 2012 to build a US\$77.78 million hub port in Sorong, West Papua to be operational in 2013. It would take only 1.5 years to build the port, which will have the capacity to handle 0.5 million TEUs of container, said Richard Lino, the president of state port operator PT Pelabuhan Indonesia (Pelindo) II.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA | 13 DECEMBER 2011 | NIKKEI

China's Cosco To Invest In U.S., German, Indian Ports

State-owned China Ocean Shipping (Group) Co. plans to heavily invest in U.S., German and Indian port facilities, in a bid to increase revenue from its port-administration operations by securing controlling stakes in key container ports, Cosco Chairman Wei Jiafu recently told The Nikkei. Cosco is China's largest shipping firm.

Full Report Available Upon Request

SINGAPORE | 14 DECEMBER 2011 | BUSINESS TIMES SINGAPORE

Singapore port hits 2b gross ton mark

With the arrival of container ship MV APL Washington at PSA's Pasir Panjang Terminal yesterday, the Port of Singapore sailed past the two billion gross ton (GT) mark for the first time. The doubling of vessel arrival tonnage - where GT is a measure of a ship's internal volume and size - comes seven years after Singapore crossed one billion GT with the arrival of MV Cosco Shanghai. For the first 11 months, arrival tonnage has jumped 10.2 per cent from a year ago.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 22 DECEMBER 2011 | REUTERS

SATS venture to operate Singapore's Intl Cruise Terminal

The Singapore Tourism Board said on Thursday it has appointed a joint venture between SATS Ltd and Creuers del Port de Barcelona S.A. to operate Singapore's upcoming International Cruise Terminal for a 10-year term. The terminal, which is scheduled to commence operations in the second quarter of 2012, will double Singapore's berth capacity and allow the Southeast Asian city-state to accommodate the new generation of larger cruise liners.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 19 DECEMBER 2011 | SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore: Singapore Celebrates Two Billion GT in Annual Vessel Arrival Tonnage

A new milestone was set in Singapore's maritime history today when annual vessel arrival tonnage at the Port of Singapore crossed the two billion gross tons (GT) mark for the first time. This achievement is a reflection of the good growth of the Port of Singapore despite uncertainties in the global economy. To-date, vessel arrival tonnage for 2011 has grown by more than 10 percent, compared to the same period last year. This growth has helped to cement Singapore's position as the world's busiest port by vessel arrival tonnage.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA | 27 DECEMBER 2011 | THAI NEWS SERVICE

China: Shanghai port consolidates its position as world's busiest

Shanghai, the world's busiest container port, will consolidate its title this year and leverage its record throughput to become a multi-faceted provider of port services. The city, which overtook Singapore as the world's biggest container handler last year, saw its annual container traffic volume surpass 30 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEU) yesterday. The figure hits an unprecedented level in the world's port history and marks a new leg in Shanghai's voyage to become a global shipping center by 2020.

Full Report Available Upon Request

Maritime Transport



PHILIPPINES | 2 DECEMBER 2011 | TRADEWINDS

Philippines under fire over poor training standards for seafarers

The Philippines is continuing its policy to close what it judges to be substandard maritime courses following a negative assessment by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). EMSA's audit of the country's training facilities uncovered major deficiencies and non-compliance in maritime education and training. The clampdown is being orchestrated through the Commission on Higher Education (Ched), which recently controversially closed down two maritime courses offered at the Philippine Maritime Institute (PMI), a major supplier of seafarers. PMI had reportedly been highlighted by the EMSA audit. Ched commissioners found that the PMI programmes in bachelors of science in marine transportation and marine engineering did not meet the required standard.

Full Report Available Upon Request

PHILIPPINES | 12 DECEMBER 2011 | THAI NEWS SERVICE

Philippines: New shipping firm to dock at ATI's Batangas Port

A ranking official of Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) has announced that a new shipping firm will start calling at its Batangas Port concession beginning December 10. ATI vice president Sean Perez identified the port's newest customer as the Singapore-based MCC Transport, a wholly-owned subsidiary of A.P. Moller-Maersk Group. He said that MCC Transport will call on Batangas Port every Saturday on its inbound service from Singapore. Perez said that MCC ships will unload at Batangas Port before sailing to Manila, Kaohsiung, and Hong Kong.

Full Report Available Upon Request

THAILAND | 13 DECEMBER 2011 | ORGANISATION OF ASIA-PACIFIC NEWS AGENCIES

Floods hit Klong Toey Port business

Goods transport at Bangkok's Klong Toey Port has been hard hit due to Thailand's flooding crisis over the past couple of months, which has forced importers and exporters to switch to using Laem Chabang Port in the eastern seaside Chon Buri Province. Chalermchai Meekun-lam, Director-General of the Port Authority of Thailand, said Tuesday since the beginning of the government's 2012 fiscal year, starting from October 1, 2011, goods transport services at the Klong Toey Port have dropped by some 40 per cent due to the country's massive floods, a continued setback to the main Bangkok port's business, which expanded only 9 per cent in the 2011 fiscal year.

Horizons- August Issue

Full Report Available Upon Request

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 14 DECEMBER 2011 | MANILA BULLETIN

Gov't to decongest Manila ports, ease traffic by diverting cargoes

The government has heeded the call to ease congested traffic in Metro Manila by calling a meeting among stakeholders on the possible diversion of cargoes from the Manila Port to modernized ports in Batangas in the Calabarzon area and the Subic Freeport in Zambales. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DoTC) called for the first consultative meeting on the possibility of decongesting traffic in Manila. It hopes to do this by encouraging shipping lines to use the Batangas Port for cargoes to and from the southern Tagalog region and Subic for cargoes to and from Central and Northern Luzon. Presided by DoTC Assistant Secretary George Esguerra, the meeting was attended by most of the port handling operators in the three ports.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 16 DECEMBER 2011 | MANILA BULLETIN

Vessel fuel provider seen riding losses for most ship owners

At a time when the biggest-ever fleet of merchant vessels means losses and bankruptcy for ship owners, the company providing about 12 percent of their fuel is poised to make record profit. World Fuel Services Corp. will report a 31 percent gain in net income this year, the mean of five analyst estimates compiled by Bloomberg show. All of them recommend buying shares of the Miami-based company and on average anticipate a price of \$47.40 in 12 months, or 12 percent more than at 11 a.m. in New York Friday. The combined carrying capacity of oil tankers, dry-bulk carriers and container ships more than doubled over the past 15 years to 1.3 billion deadweight tons, according to London-based Clarkson Plc, the world's biggest shipbroker. While that caused charter rates to collapse below breakeven for most vessels this year as supply outpaced cargoes, it also drove annual fuel sales to a record \$130 billion, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

VIETNAM | 15 DECEMBER 2011 | VIETNAM NEWS SUMMARY

Vietnam shipbuilder Vinashin restructuring mired in divestment problems

After 17 months of restructuring, the Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Group, or Vinashin, has still found it desperately mired in problems relating to divestment of paid-in capital under various forms in hundreds of enterprises. According to a report sent to the Central Steering Committee for State-owned Enterprise Reform and Development last week, the restructuring process at Vinashin is still at a snail's pace due to several reasons. Under decisions of the Government, many of Vinashin subsidiaries had to be taken over by two other State-owned groups, namely Vietnam National Shipping Lines (Vinalines) and PetroVietnam.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 22 DECEMBER 2011 | MANILA BULLETIN

Owners see losses in worst tanker bear market since 1990s

The biggest glut of crude tankers in a quarter century means at least another year of losses for Frontline Ltd. and Overseas Shipholding Group as the shipping market suffers its worst rout since the mid-1990s. Rates from Saudi Arabia to Japan, the benchmark route, will rise 78 percent to average \$15,000 a day in 2012, according to the median estimate in a Bloomberg survey of 10 investors, analysts and owners. While that would still be unprofitable for owners and investors in shipping companies, speculators can make money because forward freight agreements, traded by brokers and used to bet on future transport costs, are anticipating an average of \$10,746 next year, from \$8,449 in 2011. '

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 20 DECEMBER 2011 | REUTERS

Horizons- August Issue

Six liners form Far East-Europe shipping alliance

Six container shipping firms, including units of Singapore's Neptune Orient Lines Ltd (NOL), said they agreed to create one of the largest vessel networks in the Far East-Europe trade lane to lift efficiency amid a global shipping downturn. The partnership will create a container shipping alliance with more than 90 ships in nine services calling at more than 40 ports in Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean, NOL said in a statement on Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 12 DECEMBER 2011 | NIKKEI

Weak container market sinks shipper profits

Container freight rates are sinking due to the slowing global economy and intensifying price competition, choking off key profit streams for major Japanese shipping firms. Among Japan's three leading ocean carriers, Nippon Yusen KK and Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd. are expected to post pretax losses for the year through March 2012. Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd., meanwhile, is likely to do slightly better and will probably manage to break even.

Full Report Available Upon Request

JAPAN | 12 DECEMBER 2011 | NIKKEI

Nuclear crisis creates strong demand for coastal tankers

Demand for tankers that transport fuel oils along coastal Japan is surging on the back of soaring demand for these commodities following the March 11 disaster. The meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has led to increased output from thermal power plants, which require fuel oils to generate power. Demand for kerosene is also rising, as anticipated power shortages this winter are prompting households to turn to nonelectric heaters.

Full Report Available Upon Request

AUSTRALIA | 9 DECEMBER 2011 | TRADEWINDS

Battle is on for Ichthys newbuilds

More than 20 shipowners and yards have expressed an interest in building up to three LNG carriers for the soon-to-be sanctioned \$30bn Ichthys LNG project in Australia. Industry players say energy major Total, which put out the original feelers on the vessel requirement, is expected to finish sifting through the initial proposals by Christmas. They indicate that a formal tender would then be sent out to selected parties in January, immediately after shareholders have taken a final investment decision (FID) on the two-train, 8.4 million-tonnes-per-annum (mtpa) project.

Full Report Available Upon Request

REGIONAL | 16 DECEMBER 2011 | SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS

Record large-vessel orders to hit Asian lines

Container lines are losing money on Asia-Europe routes after slashing rates by more than 50 per cent this year because of a price war and excess capacity. Next year, 42 of the biggest ships built will join the competition. These ships, able to hold more than 13,000 containers, will almost double this year's tally of 22.

Full Report Available Upon Request



Maritime Crime

INDONESIA | 5 DECEMBER 2011 | KOMPAS

Indonesia Asked The World to Combat The IUU Fishing

Fishing theft is a crime that is closely associated with various transnational organized crimes, such as drug smuggling, human smuggling and trafficking, economic crimes, and border's violation so that they should be fought as well as getting more serious attention from the world community. As saying by Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Sharif C. Sutardjo when opening a forum titled Expert Consultation on Effective Surveillance and Law Enforcement to Combat Illegal, Unreported and unregulated (IUU) Fishing, in Jakarta, on Monday. Sharif stated that during this time IUU fishing is not being a concern of many parties in the world.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA&AUSTRALIA | 1 DECEMBER 2011 | THE AGE

People-smuggling accused to return home

The Commonwealth has dropped an aggravated people-smuggling charge in another case involving a young Indonesian man, the second in as many weeks, following a decision in the Melbourne magistrates Court today. Syrafudin Min maintained that he was 17 years old when he was working as a deck hand and cook on a boat intercepted by the Royal Australian Navy in international waters some distance from Christmas Island in July 2010. In a disputed age determination hearing between Syrafudin Min and the Commonwealth, Magistrate Ann Collins ruled that on the balance of probabilities he was under-age.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA&TAIWAN | 6 DECEMBER 2011 | TAIWANN NEWS

Chinese fishing boats to be fined for fishing in Taiwan waters

Chinese fishing boats that fish in Taiwan's territorial waters will be fined between NT\$50,000 (US\$1,655) and NT\$500,000 in the future, after the Legislative Yuan Tuesday passed a draft amendment to the Act Governing Relations between People of the Taiwan Area and Mainland Area. The Taiwan Coast Guard Administration was not entitled to impose administrative penalties and could only seize fishing equipment, detain crewmembers or ask fishing boats to leave Taiwanese waters under the existing law.

[Full Report](#)

S.KOREA,JAPAN&CHINA | 4 DECEMBER 2011 | KBS WORLD

Horizons- August Issue

SK, Japan to Jointly Respond to Chinese Fishing Vessels

The Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Ministry says South Korea and Japan will jointly respond to the issue of Chinese ships deliberately interfering with South Korean and Japanese boats fishing in Russian waters. The two nations coordinated this stance at a working-level meeting on supervising their fishing operations held in Tokyo, Japan for two days beginning November 30.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA&INDONESIA | 6 DECEMBER 2011 | ABC

Boats intercepted amid people smuggling crackdown

A boat carrying more than 160 asylum seekers has been intercepted off Christmas Island, the second boat stopped in as many days. It comes as Australia hands over three high-speed boats to Indonesia to help patrol its waters. Home Affairs and Justice Minister Brendan O'Connor is in Jakarta for the handover and confirmed that a boat carrying a large number of people had been intercepted. It is believed to have originated from Indonesia.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 5 DECEMBER 2011 | THE JAKARTA GLOBE

Kupang Fishermen Go Up Against a Big Fish

At home in his fishing village on the outskirts of Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, a fisherman, Saring, furrows his brow as he studies a map given to him by Australian authorities. "I was in Indonesian waters," he says emphatically. "The Australian patrol entered Indonesian waters. Before we leave we always look at the maps to see where the maritime borders are, and we use a GPS when we are out at sea." Like 220 Indonesian fishermen over the past four years, Saring was arrested for allegedly entering Australian waters. His boat was burned and he was detained in Darwin for three months.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINE&CHINA | 4 DECEMBER 2011 | ASIA ONE

Philippines holds six Chinese for 'illegal fishing'

Philippine naval authorities have detained six Chinese fishermen for alleged poaching in the country's territorial waters, police said Sunday. The fishermen's vessel was intercepted Thursday off the coastal town of Balabac in Palawan, a western island facing the South China Sea where both countries have overlapping territorial claims. "Recovered from their possession and control were eleven sea turtles, fish nets and other paraphernalia," national police spokesman Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz said.

[Full Report](#)

S.KOREA&CHINA | 13 DECEMBER 2011 | KOREA TIMES

Seoul to get tough on Chinese fishing

President Lee Myung-bak ordered Cabinet ministers Tuesday to take "strong measures" against China's illegal fishing in Korean waters. He also said the government "must" come up with fundamental measures to crack down on Chinese trawlers that are increasingly poaching off the coast here. The remarks came one day after a coastguard was stabbed to death by the captain of a 66-ton Chinese boat illegally fishing in Korea's Exclusive Economic Zone — the second such fatality in less than four years. Another coastguard sustained critical injuries during an operation to seize the vessel.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 17 DECEMBER 2011 | REUTERS

Boat with illegal migrants sinks off Indonesia, 300 missing

A boat carrying illegal immigrants heading for Australia sank off the coast of east Java in Indonesia and over 300 people were missing with many feared dead, a senior emergency official said. Only 76 people of 380

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people on board had been rescued, said Sahrul Arifin, the head of emergency and logistics at the East Java Disaster Mitigation Center.

[Full Report](#)





Rules and Regulations

SOUTHEAST ASIA | 9 DECEMBER 2011 | LLOYD'S LIST

Interferry and IMO push Southeast Asia ferry safety plan

SOUTHEAST Asia should improve accident investigation procedures and information sharing in the wake of its still-too-numerous ferry disasters, according to an action plan drawn up at the first meeting of a new Regional Forum on Domestic Ferry Safety, organised by the International Maritime Organization and trade association Interferry. Aimed at national maritime administrations and ferry operators in Southeast Asia, the event was held in Bali, Indonesia, on December 6-7, attracting 74 participants.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA | 9 DECEMBER 2011 | LLOYD'S LIST

China raises tax on arrivals by bigger ships

The rush to insert larger and larger vessels into global trade has caught the eye of China's tax authorities. China's state council said that commercial ships of 50,000 tonnes and over arriving in China will be hit by a 14% increase in tax to Yuan5.30 (\$0.83) per tonne beginning on January 1, 2012. The previous rate was Yuan 4.65 per tonne, according to statement posted on the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration's website.

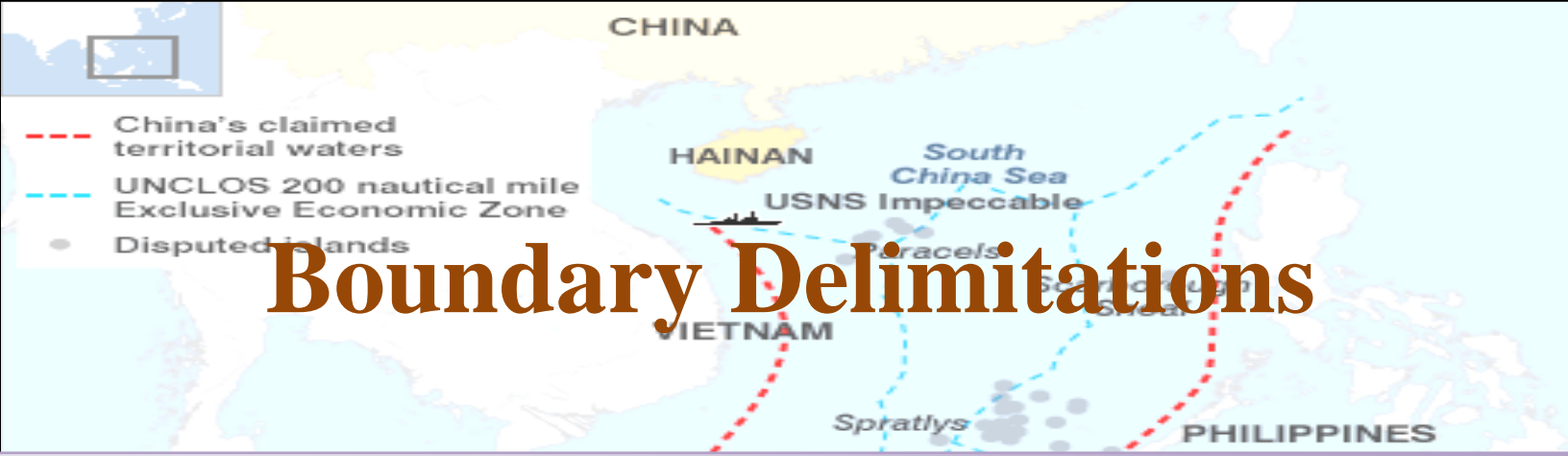
Full Report Available Upon Request

GLOBAL/PHILIPPINES | 23 DECEMBER 2011 | LLOYD'S LIST

ICS issues reminder to shipowners of new STCW standards

Shipowners have been reminded that major revisions to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, labelled the Manila amendments, enter into force on January 1, 2012, with a five-year transitional period until 1 January 2017. For the first time under STCW, mandatory limits for alcohol consumption are being introduced (a limit of not greater than 0.05% blood alcohol level or 0.25 mg/l alcohol in the breath), although individual flag states may choose to apply stricter limits.

Full Report Available Upon Request



Boundary Delimitations

PHILIPPINE|9 DECEMBER 2011|THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Phl maintains call for peaceful solution to sea dispute

Malacañang yesterday insisted on a peaceful and multilateral solution to the West Philippine Sea dispute amid reports that Chinese President Hu Jintao had urged his country's navy to prepare for combat. Insofar as the Philippines was concerned, it had spelled out its policy that "what is ours is ours; what is disputed, we can discuss," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said. Lacierda noted the Chinese leader had called on its navy to prepare for military combat amid growing regional tensions over maritime disputes and a US campaign to assert itself as a Pacific power.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN&CHINA|13 DECEMBER 2011|CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Japan lawmaker eyes base on China-claimed islands

Japan should consider building a military base on islands disputed with China to counter Beijing's rising assertiveness, a leader of Japan's opposition said Monday on a visit to the United States. Nobuteru Ishihara, sometimes seen as a future prime minister if his Liberal Democratic Party returns to power, said that Japan should also look more broadly at stepping up defense spending in the face of a rising China.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA&INDIA|8 DECEMBER 2011|ECONOMIC TIMES

Indian activities in South China Sea commercial in nature:Govt

The Government today said it had clearly conveyed to China that the oil and gas exploration activities by Indian companies in the South China Sea off the Vietnam coast are purely commercial in nature and the dispute should be sorted out in accordance with international laws. Oil exploration activities by India's ONGC Videsh in South China Sea waters off Vietnam had recently irked China, which claims the region as its own and says activities by foreign companies in its waters undermine its sovereignty.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA&ASEAN|9 DECEMBER 2011|NEW STRAIT TIMES

Horizons- August Issue

Malaysia wants situation in South China Sea resolved in fair manner

Malaysia regards the situation in the South China Sea as one that needs to be resolved in a fair and equitable manner based on the principles of international law. The Defence Ministry, in a statement, said Malaysia considered China's agreement and participation in the implementation of the Declaration of Conduct (DOC) as an important contribution towards the process, and this should contribute towards a win-win situation for Asean and China.

[Full Report](#)

MYANMAR&BANGLADESH|13 DECEMBER 2011|NEWS TODAY

Myanmar navy chief for resolving sea-limit disputes bilaterally

Visiting Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar Navy Vice Admiral Nyan Tun said his country wants to resolve land and maritime disputes with Bangladesh bilaterally through discussions, reports UNB. The Myanmar Navy chief expressed the desire when he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban Monday night.

[Full Report](#)

UN&CHINA|7 DECEMBER 2011|XINHUA

China to make greater efforts to build harmonious oceans: diplomat

China will take advantage of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to make greater efforts together with other countries to build harmonious oceans, Wang Min, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, said here on Tuesday. Addressing the meeting of the 66th General Assembly on the theme of oceans and the law of the sea, Wang said that the Chinese government attaches great importance to the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

[Full Report](#)

RUSSIA&JAPAN|19 DECEMBER 2011|RIA NOVOSTI

Russia to build two military posts in disputed Kuril Islands

The Russian Federal Agency for Special Construction will build two military posts in the disputed Kuril Islands, the agency's chief said on Friday. "We are currently designing two military posts in the islands of Iturup and Kunashir, our task is to complete the project's design in 2012 and begin construction in 2013," Grigory Naginsky said. Construction costs are estimated at 12 million rubles (about \$377 million).

[Full Report](#)

CHINA&VIETNAM|15 DECEMBER 2011|REUTERS

China's Xi to visit Vietnam in test for tricky relationship

China's Vice President Xi Jinping, likely to take over as top leader late next year, will visit Vietnam for three days from Tuesday in what could be a test of how he handles festering territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin also said on Friday Xi will then make a three-day visit to Thailand, according to the ministry's website (www.mfa.gov.cn). The brief announcement gave no details about what issues or agreements Xi will take up in either country.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA&SE ASIA|17 DECEMBER 2011|WALL STREET JOURNAL

China's Xi Starts Diplomacy Test

China Vice President Xi Jinping, the man expected to take over as China's top leader next year, will face one of the first serious tests of his diplomatic acumen next week when he visits Vietnam, which is now forging closer ties with the U.S. due to an increasingly tense territorial dispute with Beijing. Mr. Xi will also go to Thailand, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Friday, while top Chinese foreign-policy official Dai Bingguo will visit Myanmar in what diplomats and analysts see as an attempt by Beijing to improve ties with its

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neighbors following Washington's unveiling last month of a strategic shift toward Asia.

[Full Report](#)





Marine Environment

INDONESIA | 12 DECEMBER 2011 | THE JAKARTA POST

Divers to boost coral monitoring in Bali

The Nusa Dua Reef Foundation and the Association of Water Tourism in Badung (Gahawisri) will enhance the monitoring of coral reefs in Nusa Dua and Tanjung Bena by establishing a special team in an effort to conserve marine resources in the areas. The team will be tasked with monitoring coral reefs in the two areas once every four months. The results of the monitoring will be evaluated every year to find better ways of managing the marine resources.

[Full Report](#)

NEW ZEALAND | 3 DECEMBER 2011 | NEW ZEALAND HERALD

Refuge for sharks proposed for Cooks

Auckland-born marine scientist Stephen Lyons is an unlikely candidate for the job of creating the world's largest shark sanctuary - he has had a crippling fear of sharks since age 5. As fishermen from his Cook Islands home increasingly report dwindling shark numbers, the University of Auckland-educated Mr Lyons has proposed an ambitious conservation project.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 14 DECEMBER 2011 | THE COURIER-MAIL

Toxic cocktail traces found in harbour fish

TEN metals including aluminium, iron and zinc, and the chemical DDT have been found in Gladstone Harbour fish but state government scientists say they are not at sufficiently high levels to cause a problem. DDT is a long-life agricultural pesticide that has been illegal in Australia for more than two decades. Fisheries Queensland yesterday released preliminary toxicological results on three barramundi, warning the sample is so small it is difficult to draw firm conclusions.

[Full Report](#)

Horizons- August Issue

TAIWAN | 26 DECEMBER 2011 | CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY

Group warns of looming ecosystem crisis in Taiwan's waters

Taiwan's marine ecosystem showed signs of crisis this year because of a notable decline in the variety of coral reef marine life, the Taiwan Environmental Information Association said Monday. In its annual overall review of Taiwan's coral reefs, the association said that while most of reefs were healthy, fish and invertebrate animals that serve as indicators of the health of the ecosystem were rare

[Full Report](#)

NEW ZEALAND | 21 DECEMBER 2011 | XINHUA

New Zealand authorities lay new charges against grounded ship's officers

New Zealand shipping authorities have laid further charges against the Filipino master and second officer of the cargo vessel *Rena*, which run aground on a reef off the east of North Island. Both men appeared Wednesday in the Tauranga District Court and were remanded on bail without plea on all charges until Feb. 29, 2012. The men, whose names and identities were suppressed in a court order, have been charged under the Crimes Act with willfully attempting to pervert the course of justice by altering ship's documents subsequent to its grounding on Astrolabe Reef off Tauranga on Oct. 5.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 30 DECEMBER 2011 | REUTERS

CNOOC to set up environmental fund after oil spill

China's top offshore oil and gas producer CNOOC Ltd said on Friday that its parent plans to set up an environmental protection fund following a recent oil spill at the listed company's Penglai 19-3 oilfield operated by partner ConocoPhillips. "The oil spill

incident has reminded us that safety and environmental protection risks always exist," CNOOC Ltd's newly appointed Chief Executive Li Fanrong said in a statement.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN/ANTARCTIC | 27 December 2011 | CNN

Activists using drones against Japanese whalers

Activists trying to combat Japanese whaling have gone high-tech. The longstanding battle against whaling has mostly been a game of wait, watch, chase and hope for the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. But activists are now hoping they'll be able to chase down whaling vessels before they ever make their first kill – with the help of drone aircraft. Two of Sea Shepherd's ships are outfitted with long-range drones fitted with cameras and detection equipment, which help the ships scan hundreds more miles of ocean for whaling vessels, thanks to a donation from Bayshore Recycling Corp. of Woodbridge, New Jersey.

[Full Report](#)