

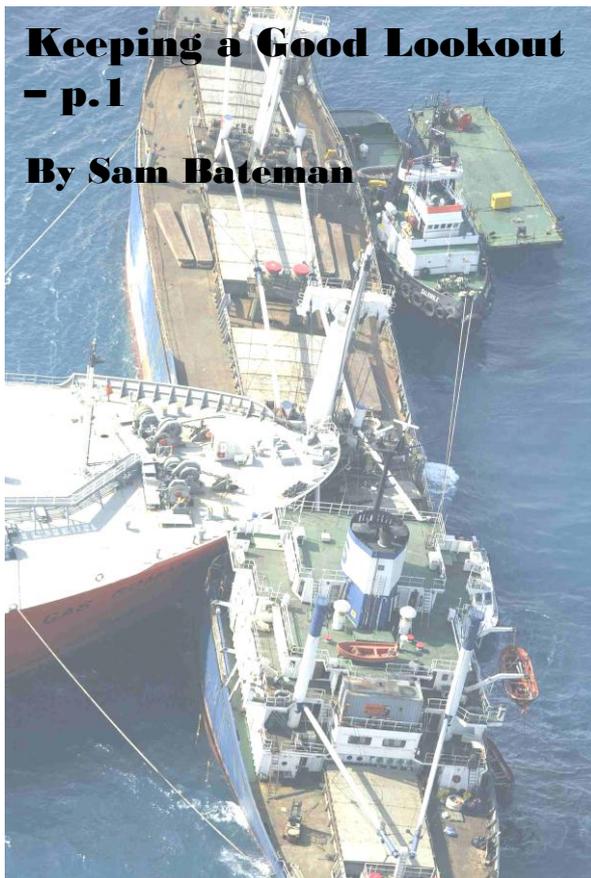


**S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**
A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

Broader Horizons

A Monthly Maritime Bulletin and Perspectives of the Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Featured *MSP Perspectives*:



**Keeping a Good Lookout
- p.1**

By Sam Bateman



Save Our Oceans - p.2

By Jane Chan



**Indonesia's Fast Attack
Craft Programme - p.3**

By Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto

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Naval Development & Policy:

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Japan braces for possibility of curbing Iran oil imports – p. 13

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MSP Perspectives

KEEPING A GOOD LOOKOUT

By Sam Bateman
Advisor, Maritime Security Programme

Shipping accidents continue to occur because watchkeepers on the bridge of ships fail to keep a good lookout. In a recent incident, [the Singapore-flag bulk carrier *Prabhu Daya* has been accused by Indian authorities of sinking an Indian fishing vessel in the Arabian Sea killing two fishermen with another three missing](#). The incident occurred in the early hours of 1 March twenty nautical miles off Kochi harbour.

Information gathered by the surveillance systems of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Mumbai and other agencies was analysed to [identify the *Prabhu Daya* as the vessel most probably responsible for the incident](#). Having been ordered to proceed to a convenient Indian port, the *Prabhu Daya* agreed to divert to Chennai for a preliminary investigation. Even if it turns out that the *Prabhu Daya* was not responsible, the tragedy was nevertheless caused by a larger vessel running down the fishing vessel. Collisions such as these between large merchant ships and fishing vessels occur all too regularly. In January this year, a similar accident occurred in the Qiongzhou Strait when a Chinese general cargo ship ran down and sank a fishing vessel killing three fishermen.

Larger ships should keep clear of fishing vessels. Rule 18 of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS) states clearly that a power driven vessel underway shall keep out of the way of a vessel engaged in fishing. Recent accidents have also occurred when ships have run aground on reefs that should have been visible to people on the bridge of a ship. This was the case with the grounding of the container ship *Rena* in the Bay of Plenty in New Zealand last year, and also with the bulk carrier *Shen Neng 1* when she ran aground in the Great Barrier Reef in April 2010.

A common cause of these collisions and groundings is bridge personnel becoming fixated on their electronic navigational aids rather than also keeping a good visual watch of what lies ahead of their vessel. Technology has revolutionized the navigation of ships with integrated computer screens displaying electronic navigational charts, the ships position by satellite navigation system, the radar picture of nearby contacts, and the identity and location of other vessels by automatic identification systems (AIS). The efficiency of these systems can breed complacency. This leads to increased risk of human error and accidents and a threat to safety and security, particularly in busy sea lanes. The situation is further aggravated because ships' bridges can be fully enclosed and bridge watchkeepers are reluctant or even unable to go outside to keep a traditional visual and audio lookout.

Maritime education and training must stress the limitations of electronic equipment and the need to maintain full situational awareness with a good visual lookout.

Maritime education and training must stress the limitations of electronic equipment and the need to maintain full situational awareness with a good visual lookout. As 'Rule 5 of COLREGS states, *'every vessel shall at all times maintain a proper look-out by sight and hearing as well as by all available means appropriate in the prevailing circumstances and conditions, so as to make a full appraisal of the situation.'*

SAVE OUR OCEANS

By Jane Chan

Research Fellow, Maritime Security Programme

There lies a very close nexus between the health of the oceans and our economic [development, prosperity and way of life](#). A critical function of the oceans is their determining role in the [climate system and climate change](#). Even slight changes in the marine environment could impact on global temperatures, have long lasting effects on marine ecosystems, the incidence of natural disasters and the availability of fresh water resources on land.

Recognizing that much needs to be done to better manage the preservation, protection and exploitation of the world's oceans, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono made a strong call to 'rescue the ocean' during the World Ocean Conference held in Manado, in 2009. More recently, the President of the World Bank Robert Zoellick pushed the '[SOS: Save our Oceans](#)' button at the World Ocean Summit held in Singapore in February 2012, where he announced the World Bank's latest initiative - the [Global Partnership for Oceans](#), committed to addressing various threats to the oceans. The Republic of Korea will be hosting the [East Asian Seas Congress 2012](#) later this year, looking at the crucial role of coastal and ocean resources in support of the global commitments to enhance human welfare and environmental sustainability while pursuing economic growth. The value and vulnerability of the oceans is well understood, at least at the leadership level. However, the transboundary nature of the various threats to the marine environment is such that effective solutions require commitment and cooperative efforts by all countries and stakeholders alike.

While illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is the major problem in Southeast Asia, it has been exacerbated by the serious degradation of coastal habitats. Coastal states in the region are increasingly concerned about protecting the marine environment, particularly from illegal dumping at sea and ship-sourced marine pollution. These pose general threats to the

fishing industry, coastal tourism and fragile marine environments, with [knock-on impacts for transnational crime and regional security](#).

The preservation and protection of this environment, the conservation of species, and the exploitation of its resources is also seriously complicated by conflicting and overlapping claims to maritime jurisdiction and the lack of agreed maritime boundaries. Pending settlements of those disputes, regional countries need to explore and undertake cooperative activities to manage regional waters. There is an obligation under Part IX of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), for countries bordering enclosed or semi-enclosed seas to cooperate. As a consequence of extended maritime jurisdiction under UNCLOS, virtually all sea areas in Southeast Asia are enclosed as territorial sea, exclusive economic zones or archipelagic waters. Hence, under Article 123 of UNCLOS, littoral states bear a strong obligation to cooperate with regard to the management of marine living resources, the protection of the marine environment and marine scientific research.

The welfare of the oceans is a shared responsibility. Regional countries should capitalise on opportunities arising from the shared interest to cooperate. Stakeholders could start on matters concerning ocean policy formulation and ocean governance, with the need to define comprehensive and integrated approaches that will bring together law, politics, economics, research and development, to inform national and regional policy-making towards sustainable development of our oceans. Whilst it is important to maintain momentum created by new global initiatives, more needs to be done to support long standing regional initiatives such as those implemented and facilitated by the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA). Both are complementary processes which should take place simultaneously.

...regional countries need to explore and undertake cooperative activities to manage regional waters.

INDONESIA'S FAST ATTACK CRAFT PROGRAMME

By Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto
Research Analyst, Maritime Security Programme

On 17 February 2011, the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) received its [second locally-made KCR-40 Fast Attack Craft \(FAC\), KRI Kujang, with a plan to procure 14 units by 2014](#). Assistant for Planning for The Navy Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Sumartono, said [the boats would be deployed in the western part of Indonesia and North Sulawesi](#). They further augment TNI-AL's fleet of FAC which numbers around 18 boats (4 *Todak*-class, 4 *Kakap*-class, 4 *Singa*-class, 4 *Mandau*-class, and 2 *Selawaku(ex-Waspada)*-class). Nonetheless, with such a small number, the FAC are unlikely to become the backbone of TNI-AL's force posture, which aims to acquire more corvettes, frigates, submarines, and amphibious vessels based on the "Green Water Navy 2024" plan. Rather, this is only part of Jakarta's efforts to have a 'balanced fleet' capable of carrying out various naval tasks, ranging from maritime anti-crime patrols to coastal defence. Still, the FAC will give an asymmetric leverage should they be armed with advanced anti-ship cruise missiles, which Indonesia is also trying to develop.

[In March 2011, Indonesia and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) which paved the way for closer defence cooperation, including a joint missile production](#). Indeed, Jakarta has been trying to develop its indigenous naval missile technology to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers. It recently bought an undisclosed number of Russian SS-N-26 'Yakhont' supersonic anti-ship missiles [for \\$1.2-million apiece to replace Harpoon missiles on its frigates](#), despite some argue that [having such a capability is destabilising and could intensify regional naval arms competition](#). In April 2011, the Yakhont was successfully tested and destroyed a designated target over 250 kilometres away. Indonesia also acquired and tested a substantial number of Chinese C-802 missiles

and installed them aboard *Todak*-class FAC and *Ahmad Yani*-frigates. Regarded as more lethal than the C-802, Indonesia now aims for C-705 and has become its first overseas customer. With a range of 75-170 km and smaller than the C-802, the C-705 is appropriately fitted for the smaller KCR-40 FAC. Based on the MoU, [Indonesia would build a plant to manufacture the C-705](#). Jakarta also aims to manufacture 1,000 RHan 122 indigenous short-range shipborne missiles starting from 2014. In addition, the Navy has ordered four 130-tonne 52.5 m long trimarans from a local shipyard, with four anti-ship missile launchers in its hull, to be delivered by 2014.

These assets will bolster Indonesia's sea denial capabilities. Together with naval mines and submarines, the FAC will support the TNI-AL's [Archipelagic Sea Defence Strategy \(Strategi Pertahanan Laut Nusantara, SPLN\)](#). They would also be effective to patrol maritime choke-points, such

as the Malacca and Singapore Straits, and disputed waters in Sulawesi Sea. Thus, the FAC are likely going to be based in the Riau Islands and North Sulawesi, where the Navy has two main naval bases (*Pangkalan Utama Angkatan Laut*, Lantamal): Lantamal IV/Tanjung Pinang and Lantamal VIII/Manado, respectively. Operationally, they are suitable for Indonesia's complex maritime geography, with many gulfs, bays, estuaries, coves, and islets scattered across the archipelagic landscape. This operating environment will also enable easier force dispersion and concealment when deployed against a better and larger adversary fleet. [Costing over IDR73 billion \(USD7.98 million\) each](#), the KCR-40 FAC provide a cost-effective means for the TNI-AL to, on one hand, increase its presence in the two strategically vital, but criminally prone, maritime areas, as well as maintain its naval warfighting orientation, on the other.

The FAC will give an asymmetric leverage should they be armed with advanced anti-ship cruise missiles, which Indonesia is also trying to develop.

Naval Development & Policy

CHINA | 14 FEBRUARY | REUTERS

Analysis: New China landing vessels point to Pacific rivalry

(Reuters) - As looming budget cuts force the Pentagon to plan for a smaller U.S. navy, China is accelerating the launch of new, increasingly capable warships as part of a sustained drive to become a major maritime power. Shanghai's Hudong Zhonghua Shipbuilding Company late last month launched the fourth of China's new 071 amphibious landing ships according to reports carried by Chinese military web sites and the state-controlled media.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 7 FEBRUARY | THE VOICE OF RUSSIA

China is flexing its muscles in the Pacific Ocean

China's Navy ships moved to the Western part of the Pacific for military exercise. In response Tokyo expressed its concern about the growing naval activity of the Chinese Armed Forces in that region. According to Japanese mass media, a group consisting of four battle ships (frigates) of the Chinese Navy passed through the waters between the Japanese islands of Okinawa and Miyako. The Chinese Defence Ministry already made a statement that the tour of the ships is connected to the preparation of the annual military exercise of routine nature.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 6 FEBRUARY | THE JAKARTA POST

RI submarines on par with neighbours after overhaul

The capabilities of Indonesian submarines are now on par with those fielded by neighbouring countries after undergoing an overhaul in South Korea, Navy chief of staff Adm. Soeparno said Monday. He was speaking at a ceremony welcoming the return of KRI Nanggala 402, which had been undergoing an overhaul process for

the past 24 months by Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME) in Busan, South Korea.

[Full Report](#)

[See RSIS Commentary](#)

INDONESIA | 17 FEBRUARY | THE JAKARTA POST

Navy launches second locally made guided-missile boat

The Indonesian Navy accepted delivery of its second locally made KCR-40 guided-missile fast boat at a handover ceremony at Batu Ampar Port in Batam, Riau Islands, on Thursday. The KRI Kujang, made in Indonesia by PT Palindo Marindo, will join the KRI Clurit, the first KCR-40 that the private shipyard made for the Navy. Defence Minister Purnomo Yusgiantoro, Indonesian Military (TNI) chief Adm. Agus Suhartono, Navy chief Adm. Soeparno and lawmakers Mahfudz Siddiq and Max Sopacua from House Commission I overseeing defence attended the ceremony.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 7 FEBRUARY | ANTARA

RI Navy Expects to Have Five Submarines by 2015: Chief

Surabaya - The Indonesian Navy should ideally have at least 12 submarines but because of budget constraints it hopes to have acquired five by 2015, the force's chief said. "When we speak about our need, I can say that we should ideally have at least 12 submarines but we understand that there are not enough state budget funds to meet this ideal number," Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Soeparno said here Monday.

[Full Report](#)
[See RSIS Commentary](#)

INDONESIA | 5 FEBRUARY | ANTARA

RI navy's submarine returning from S. Korea after repair

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - The Indonesian Navy's submarine "KRI Nanggala-402" has arrived in Indonesian waters after undergoing a comprehensive repair for two years in South Korea, a navy officer said. "KRI Nanggala which is expected to dock at Ujung Surabaya pier of the Navy's Eastern Fleet Command on Monday has probably arrived in Java Sea," the Navy's Spokesman Commodore Untung Soropati said here on Sunday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-INDONESIA | 20 FEBRUARY | ANTARA

Indonesia, China establish missile technology transfer

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - Indonesia and China have agreed to step up the missile technology transfer process. Defence Ministry spokesman Brigadier General Hartind Asrin said on Monday that the technology transfer process has become the main requirement in every major equipment purchase of foreign weapons systems, including missiles from China. "Besides that we are also exploring cooperation in missile production," he said.

[Full Report](#)

RUSSIA-INDIA | 8 FEBRUARY | RIA NOVOSTI

Russia Completes Final Trials of Indian Frigate

The Yantar shipyard in Russia's Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad has completed the final tests of a missile frigate for the Indian navy, the company's spokesman Sergei Mikhailov said on Tuesday. Russia and India signed a \$1.6 billion contract on construction of three modified Krivak III class (also known as Talwar class) guided missile frigates for India in 2006. The first frigate, the Teg, was scheduled for delivery in April 2011, but funding shortfalls have delayed the work.

[Full Report](#)

RUSSIA-VIETNAM | 15 FEBRUARY | RIA NOVOSTI

Russia, Vietnam to Jointly Manufacture Anti-Ship Missiles

Russia and Vietnam are planning to start in 2012 joint production of a modified anti-ship missile, head of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation Mikhail Dmitriyev said on Wednesday. "We are planning to build facilities in Vietnam for the production of a version of the Russian Uran [SS-N-25 Switchblade] missile in a project that is similar to joint Russian-Indian production of the BrahMos missile," Dmitriyev said.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 20 FEBRUARY | DEFENSE NEWS

Taiwan Navy Asks for Funds for 8 New Subs

TAIPEI — Taiwan's navy will ask parliament to fund the purchase of up to eight new submarines within the next two months, reviving an acquisition that has been in limbo for over a decade, local media said Feb. 20. The navy may not necessarily buy U.S. technology and is looking at three different countries as potential suppliers, the United Daily News reported. In April 2001, then-U.S. President George W. Bush approved the sale of eight conventional submarines as part of Washington's most comprehensive arms package to the island since 1992.

[Full Report](#)
[See RSIS Commentary](#)

TAIWAN | 22 FEBRUARY | DEFENSE NEWS

Taiwan to Arm Subs with U.S. Missiles: Report

TAIPEI — Taiwan's navy will arm its submarines with anti-ship missiles for the first time ever beginning next year, a report said Feb. 22, as the island boosts its defence capabilities against rival China. The Taipei-based United Daily News said the navy, which ordered the U.S.-built Harpoon missiles in 2008, recently test-fired the weapons in the United States, in preparation for installing them on its two Dutch-built submarines. "The missiles will become operational on the two submarines next year," the newspaper said, citing an unnamed naval source.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 25 FEBRUARY | THE BANGKOK POST

Sukumpol presses ahead with U—boats plan

Defence Minister Sukumpol Suwanatat wants to submit the navy's proposals to buy second-hand submarines to the cabinet next week. However, he said he was unsure whether they will be submitted in time for the cabinet meeting on Tuesday. The minister said a few more days are needed to discuss the proposals before they can be forwarded to the cabinet. ACM Sukumpol said it was a race against time as Germany, which makes the submarines, has given the government until the end of the month to decide whether to buy them or not. ACM Sukumpol says he supports the navy's position that it needs the submarines to fulfil its maritime defence missions.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 24 FEBRUARY | FIRSTPOST

India needs strategic planning in maritime affairs: Mehta

New Delhi: Noting that India "lacks" strategic thinking in terms of maritime affairs, former Navy chief Admiral Sureesh Mehta today emphasised the need for

advance planning to counter Chinese moves in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Interacting with reporters in New Delhi, Admiral Mehta, who recently took over as the chairman of Navy's think-tank National Maritime Foundation (NMF), said the country needs to work on a long-term Indian Ocean policy.

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA | 17 FEBRUARY | KOREA JOONGANG DAILY

Navy to add submarines in answer to North's fleet

The Navy will launch a defence headquarters for undersea operations and build more operational submarines to defend against North Korea's military. "Launching a headquarters for submarines is urgent, because of the gaping difference between South and North Korean Navy forces," an official at the National Assembly told the JoongAng Ilbo on condition of anonymity. "A submarine is classified as a strategic weapon by its ability to sneak into the enemy's waters, but we only have about 10 submarines while the North Korean Navy has more than 70."

[Full Report](#)

KOREA | 16 FEBRUARY | THE KOREA HERALD

Navy to get new unit for submarines by 2015

The South Korean military will establish a new submarine command within the Navy by 2015 as part of its efforts to strengthen its underwater operational capabilities. In a related development, the navies of South Korea and the U.S. will be holding a five-day joint anti-submarine drill from Feb. 20 in the West Sea. The exercise is aimed at increasing the allies' ability to counter North Korean submarines and to familiarize the troops with a variety of drills.

[Full Report](#)

KOREA | 16 FEBRUARY | KBS WORLD

Navy Aims to Set up Submarine Command

The Navy is seeking to establish a command for its submarines. A senior Navy official said on Thursday that the Navy was budgeted 639 million won from the National Assembly this year to set up the command by

2015. Currently, the Navy has around a dozen submarines.

[Full Report](#)

US-CHINA | 11 FEBRUARY | CHINA DAILY

Military ties on US navy admiral's agenda

BEIJING - The US navy admiral nominated to become the next commander of the US Pacific Command (PACOM) said on Thursday that he plans to improve the country's military relationship with China, should Congress approve his nomination. Samuel Locklear III, who currently serves as commander of the US Naval Forces in Europe, made the statement on Thursday during a confirmation hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee. If his nomination is approved, he will succeed Robert Willard as the chief of about 325,000 military personnel.

[Full Report](#)

US-PHILIPPINES | 20 FEBRUARY | THE PHILIPPINE STAR

US formally offers 2nd warship to AFP

MANILA, Philippines - A top military official bared yesterday that the United States has formally offered to the Philippines a second warship that is expected to boost the country's territorial defence capability. Navy chief Vice Admiral Alexander Pama said the US sent last week a letter notifying them about the availability of another US Coast Guard cutter, Dallas. "They (US) sent a letter offering us formally (the ship). They are telling us this is available and their government has approved (the giving of the ship to the Philippines). They are asking us if we are interested," Pama said.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 17 FEBRUARY | TIME

Chinese Navy Steps up Anti-Piracy Training

(BEIJING) — China's fast-modernizing navy is stepping up training for anti-piracy patrols off the coast of

Somalia in a sign of its growing long-term commitment to overseas missions. The first two-week course for 84 leading officers began this week at the Naval Command College in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing, the website of the military newspaper Liberation Army Daily said Friday. The officers will run drills and discuss military theory and experiences from China's previous anti-piracy missions, it said.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 1 FEBRUARY | THE SUNDAY INDIAN

'Milan' exercises begins in Andaman

The multi-national maritime exercise 'Milan' began on Wednesday with the biggest gathering of 15 countries and nine foreign naval warships. The exercise is going to focus on sharing ideas about anti-piracy and other issues affecting the participating countries. Maldives, Seychelles, and Mauritius are participating for the first time. Speaking to reporters, Rear Admiral Monty Khanna, the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff, Foreign Cooperation said, "We are looking at Gun running, anti-narcotics, and humanitarian issues apart from maritime security in terms of piracy."

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 7 FEBRUARY | THE DAILY INQUIRER

PH's newest warship completes first patrol

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY— The Philippines' newest hand-me-down warship from the United States completed a patrol of the West Philippine Sea and made a port call here to open its doors to the public. The BRP Gregorio del Pilar went on patrol in areas being claimed by the Philippines in the highly volatile Spratly Islands but a Navy official said it didn't stray into territories being claimed by China.

[Full Report](#)

Maritime Safety and Security

GLOBAL | 8 FEBRUARY | LLYOD'S LIST

Somali piracy costs world economy \$7bn

As much as 80% of the bill falls on shipping, researchers say. The economic cost of Somali piracy last year came to \$6.6bn-\$6.9bn, with about 80% of the bill falling on the shipping industry, according to research compiled by a US non-governmental organisation being published today.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA-S. KOREA | 7 FEBRUARY | THE KOREA TIMES

China seeks to appease Korea over illegal fishing

China has taken stronger action against illegal fishing by its fishermen in Korean waters, details of which were delivered in a letter to the South Korean Embassy in Beijing, a Seoul official said Sunday. The official letter from the Chinese agricultural ministry was sent to the Korean Embassy on Jan. 18, several weeks after Beijing drew fire for its lukewarm response to the Dec. 12 killing of a South Korean Coast Guard officer by a Chinese fisherman in the Yellow Sea.

[Full Report](#)
[See RSIS Commentary](#)

BRUNEI-VIETNAM | 7 FEBRUARY | BRUDIRECT

9 Vietnamese Fined For Illegal Fishing

Bandar Seri Begawan - Nine Vietnamese fishermen were each fined after they pleaded guilty to fishing illegally in Brunei waters before the Bandar Seri Begawan Magistrate's Court yesterday. Master vessel Le Van Hang was slapped with a \$10,000 fine or in

default of payment, a year behind bars. His crew - Vo Dui Rin, Trang Nhu Hoai, Vo Hoi, Vo Thanh That, Tran Van Dung, Vo Cao Nam, Tniong An Dung and Nguyen Van Phu - were each fined \$750. If they fail to settle the fine, they will be jailed for a month.

[Full Report](#)

BRUNEI-MALAYSIA | 4 FEBRUARY | THE BRUNEI TIMES

Fishermen fined, vessels seized

TEN men were sentenced by the Magistrate's Court yesterday to a fine after pleading guilty to illegal fishing in Brunei waters last month. The court also ordered the vessels used by the fishermen to be seized, to prevent other fishermen from committing the same offence. The cases involved two fishing boats that were sighted by the Royal Brunei Navy vessel KDB Ijhtihad vessel on January 18.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 25 FEBRUARY | JIJI PRESS

Japan to Give More Power to Coast Guard Officers

Tokyo, Feb. 25 (Jiji Press)--The transport ministry will draw up a bill to give more power to Japan Coast Guard officers by enabling them to conduct investigations and arrest suspects onshore on remote uninhabited islands, informed sources said Saturday. The bill to amend the law governing activities of the Coast Guard will be adopted at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday for submission to the ongoing regular Diet session, the sources said.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 15 FEBRUARY | THE MAINICHI DAILY NEWS

Japan eyes ordering foreign ships to leave without inspections

TOKYO (Kyodo) -- The government is considering enabling the Japan Coast Guard to order foreign ships to leave Japanese territorial waters without onboard inspections by revising relevant laws, government sources said Tuesday. The government came up with the plan as a measure designed to tighten sea patrols in response to incidents such as the 2010 high-profile collisions between patrol vessels and a Chinese trawler near disputed islands in the East China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA-VIETNAM | 22 FEBRUARY | BERNAMA

Illegal Fishing: MMEA Seizes Two Boats, Detains 16 Vietnamese

PASIR PUTEH, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) seized two boats with fishing materials and dried cuttlefish worth RM1 million and detained 16 Vietnamese fishermen for encroaching into Malaysian waters, yesterday. Tok Bali MMEA Commander, Zainin Abdul Majid said the two boats were detained about 110 nautical miles from Tok Bali waters at 12.40pm.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA-TIMOR LESTE | 24 FEBRUARY | ANTARA

Six Indonesian fishermen repatriated from Timor Leste

Jakarta (ANTARA News) - The Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries has negotiated the repatriation of six fishermen from Sinjai, South Sulawesi and Alor Island, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), who had earlier been captured by the Timor Leste's Navy. "

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 21 FEBRUARY | THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Coast Guard saves 9 Vietnamese fishers off Palawan

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on Monday said it rescued nine Vietnamese fishermen off the coast of Palawan after their vessel drifted to shallow waters due to bad weather over the weekend. Reports reaching the PCG showed the fishing vessel, the Qng 95712, encountered rough weather on Saturday, causing it to drift to Bowen Island southeast of Palawan and north of Bugsuk Island.

[Full Report](#)

CAMBODIA | 16 FEBRUARY | THE PHNOM PENH POST

Men 'bribed' group of illegal fishermen

Two men have been arrested and charged after allegedly impersonating fisheries inspectors for more than a year and collecting about US\$30 per month from 20 unsuspecting illegal fishermen, police said yesterday. Seng Sokcheat, chief of police in Kandal province's Sa Ang district, said Chhin Chhorn, 23, and Sdoeung Tuor, 42, would face court today after being caught in the act of extorting money.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 22 FEBRUARY | THE AUSTRALIAN

Navy stops two new asylum-seeker boats carrying 200 passengers and crew

AUTHORITIES have intercepted two boats in Australian waters carrying almost 200 suspected asylum-seekers. The vessels, carrying 198 people between them, were the seventh and eighth to arrive in as many days. They bring total asylum-seeker arrivals this year to 1196 almost four times the number during the same period in 2011.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-MALAYSIA | 3 FEBRUARY | THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Asylum seekers die near Malaysia

IMMIGRATION Minister Chris Bowen said he was saddened by yet another boat tragedy involving asylum seekers heading to Australia, with yesterday's incident in Malaysia highlighting the need to reinstate the government's refugee swap. The bodies of eight men, believed to be from Afghanistan and Pakistan, were washed ashore in Malaysia after an overcrowded boat carrying 25 asylum seekers capsized, the *New Straits Times* reported.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 11 FEBRUARY | SKY NEWS

Boat with 125 asylum seekers stopped

The Navy has intercepted a boat carrying 125 asylum seekers north of Christmas Island. HMAS Maryborough, operating under the control of Border Protection, intercepted the boat on Saturday morning. Two crew members were also aboard. The suspected asylum seekers will be sent to Christmas Island for security, identity and health checks.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 9 FEBRUARY | THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

Australia boatpeople bill tops \$1 billion

Sydney, Feb 9, 2012 (AFP) - - Australian Immigration Minister Chris Bowen on Thursday defended a steep rise in the cost of Canberra's mandatory detention of asylum-seekers, saying a surge in boatpeople arrivals had stressed the system. Bowen said the near-quadrupling in the government's four-year contract with private detention centre provider Serco from Aus\$280 million (US\$300 million) to more than Aus\$1 billion reflected the opening of 10 new facilities to meet demand.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-MALAYSIA | 3 FEBRUARY | THE AUSTRALIAN

Malaysian boat disaster raises asylum pressure

A BOAT with up to 30 asylum-seekers has sunk off the coast of Malaysia, claiming at least eight lives. The incident has intensified pressure on Labor and the Coalition to cut a deal on asylum policy. Malaysian authorities were last night scouring the waters for survivors after the 11m craft sank seven nautical miles off the coast of Johor on the southeastern tip of Malaysia.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-MALAYSIA | 3 FEBRUARY | THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Malaysia wants cooperation to halt boats

The Malaysian government says the deaths of at least nine asylum seekers who drowned while trying to make it to Australia highlights the need for international cooperation in combating people smuggling. Authorities have recovered the bodies of nine asylum seekers who drowned when the vessel, which was carrying Afghan and Iraqi men, capsized off the coast of southern Malaysia.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 22 FEBRUARY | THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Two asylum seeker boats intercepted

Another two boats carrying almost 200 asylum seekers have arrived in Australian waters, taking the total for the year so far to well above 1000 people. The vessels - one carrying 98 passengers and the other 96 - were both intercepted north of Christmas Island on Tuesday night.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 25 FEBRUARY | THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Court rules against 'turn back the boats' policy

A EUROPEAN court verdict that Italy breached international law by pushing back asylum seekers at sea highlights the perils of the Coalition's policy to "turn back the boats", the Greens and federal government said yesterday. Italy and Australia are the most prominent countries to have implemented push-back policies to stem asylum seeker boat arrivals. Labor opposes the practice, but it is Coalition policy.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 17 FEBRUARY | FREE MALAYSIA TODAY

Australia denies rolling out 'red carpet'

SYDNEY: Australia today denied rolling out the "red carpet" for asylum-seekers, saying the televisions, DVD players and microwaves installed in their temporary homes were "basic household goods". Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said boatpeople were not given packages worth thousands of dollars for free once they arrived in Australia, as claimed by Sydney's Daily Telegraph.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 20 FEBRUARY | ANTARA

Govt to close down ports used for Smuggling: Hatta

Pekanbaru - The government will close illegal ports often used by smugglers in order to fight smuggling activities which harmed the people's economy in Riau, a minister said. "In the near future, based on a coordination meeting held by the central government, ports which have no operational permits will be closed down," Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Hatta Rajasa said here over the weekend.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 4 FEBRUARY | ANTARA

Customs service steps up patrol to prevent sand smuggling

Karimun, Riau Islands (ANTARA News) - Customs officers from Riau Islands province are increasing patrols to prevent sand smuggling to Singapore. "So far, patrol activities have increased to prevent smuggling into the country of used items, but now they are also aimed at preventing the smuggling of sand out of the region," head of the service's enforcement and operations means of the special regional office of the Directorate General Customs and Excise of Riau Islands, M Rofiq, said here on Saturday.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 15 FEBRUARY | THE JAKARTA POST

Soldiers face jail and dismissal for alleged role in people smuggling

Five soldiers are facing imprisonment of between five and 15 years and dismissal from the military over their alleged involvement in the smuggling of immigrants that led to the deaths of many in a shipwreck. The five soldiers are Chief Warrant Officer Sosiali, Chief Sergeant Choirul Anama and Chief Corporal Kariadi, Second Sergeant Cornelis Nama and Second Sergeant Ilmun Abdul Said.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA | 15 FEBRUARY | THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Soldiers may get 15 years for boat tragedy

Five Indonesian soldiers accused of involvement in organising an asylum-seeker boat that sank on its way to Australia, leading to the deaths of as many as 200 people, could be jailed for up to 15 years. The development comes as a senior officer with the Indonesian Military (TNI) said efforts would be stepped up to weed out corrupt elements within the ranks, including those linked to people-smuggling operations.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 15 FEBRUARY | BERNAMA DAILY

MOF Foils Diesel Smuggling Attempt

JOHOR BAHRU, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- The Marine Operations Force (MOF) Region Two Command crippled an attempt to smuggle 29,850 litres of diesel after they detained a tanker and two lorry tankers in Sungai Santi, Kampung Lepau, Pengerang, near Kota Tinggi, early this morning. Its commander ACP Zainul Abidin Hasan said the arrests were carried out by an officer and eight MOF personnel at 3am.

[Full Report](#)

Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy

JAPAN | 5 JANUARY | WALL STREET JOURNAL

Japan Braces for Possibility of Curbing Iran Oil Imports

Japan is bracing for the possibility of curbing its imports of Iranian oil, in the face of increasingly intense pressure to join sanctions proposed by the U.S. and Europe. A Japanese government official said Thursday the country will likely have to reduce oil imports from Iran substantially, though it hopes to avoid an embargo that would completely cut off its fourth-biggest supplier of oil. Meanwhile, an executive of Japan's petroleum association said that refiners are already looking for alternative sources to replace some of the nearly 10% of crude imports that the country now buys from Iran.

[Full Report](#)

EU-IRAN | 29 FEBRUARY | WALL STREET JOURNAL

EU Sanctions Impede Iran Oil Shipments to Asia

European Union sanctions are impeding the shipment of oil to Asia from Iran, in a threat to Tehran's hopes to find new buyers for its top export. Some Asian shippers say they have stopped sailing to Iran, and Japan's largest tanker-fleet owner said it is assessing whether it will do the same, because of difficulty maintaining insurance coverage by associations that are subject to EU laws.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 24 FEBRUARY | SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT NEWS

Neptune Orient reports loss after falling 11%, the biggest in 3 years

Neptune Orient Lines Limited, a Singapore-based global shipping company, reported its highest share fall of 11% since March 2009, and the biggest loss in 10 years. The company's stock had fallen 7.4% at SG\$1.32

as of 10:32am Singapore time. It had been the star performer in the Straits Times Index during the last six months ending February 22, 2012.

Full Report Available Upon Request

TAIWAN | 21 FEBRUARY | FOCUS TAIWAN

Taiwanese ports record 4-year-high in throughput in 2011

Taiwan recorded 5.4 per cent growth in container throughput at its international commercial ports in 2011, a higher growth rate than that posted in the competing economies of Singapore and Hong Kong. The volume of containers handled by Taiwanese ports rose to a four-year high of 13.42 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit) last year, according to data released by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 22 FEBRUARY | REIDIN

US\$351 million Manila Port Investment Project is Registered

Trade and Industry Secretary Gregory L. Domingo welcomed the investment registration of the Manila North Harbour Port, Inc (MNHPI) project. The P14.89 billion (US\$352 million) project will develop and manage the Manila North Harbor Port, the largest and leading domestic port in the Philippines. Investments in ports and logistics have long term impact.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA/N. KOREA | 15 FEBRUARY | YONHAP NEWS

China secures right to use 3 piers to be built on N. Korean port for 50 years

China has secured the rights to build three new piers in a special economic zone in North Korea's northeast and use them for 50 years, sources said Wednesday. China will also build an airfield and a thermal power plant in the special economic zone known as Rason, as well as a 55-kilometer railway track between China's northeastern city of Tumen and Rason.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 15 FEBRUARY | VIETNAM NEWS

Vietnam: Vung Tau seaports receive few vessels despite huge investments

Despite a number of modern container seaports with investments worth several billions of US dollars established in its waters, the Cai Mep – Thi Vai area in Ba Ria – Vung Tau Province has docked a modest number of container vessels. This grim reality runs counter to the investors' high expectations of developing Ba Ria – Vung Tau into an urban port with high container-loading capacity.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 14 FEBRUARY | PLATTS COMMODITY NEWS

S Korea's Hyundai secures \$1.1 bil orders for 4 LNG carriers, FSRU

South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries said Tuesday it has received orders totalling \$1.1 billion to build four LNG carriers and an LNG floating storage regasification unit or FSRU. Hyundai will build two LNG vessels, each with a capacity of 162,000 cubic meters, for Golar LNG of Norway and two LNG carriers with same capacity for an unidentified European shipowner, the shipbuilder said in a statement.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA | 10 FEBRUARY | TRADEWINDS

Owners stick to VLOC newbuild plans despite Chinese port ban

China's ban on megasize vessels from calling at its ports is not preventing shipowners from pressing ahead with their new buildings, including those for Brazilian mining giant Vale. It is also reported that the STX Pan Ocean-owned Vale Beijing , which developed cracks in its hull while loading at Ponta da Madeira, Brazil, is preparing to set sail for the Middle East after undergoing repairs.

Full Report Available Upon Request

JAPAN | 3 FEBRUARY | TRADEWINDS

Japan on for shake-up in shipbuilding

A new mega-shipbuilder that will be born out of the merger between IHI Marine United (IHIMU) and Universal Shipbuilding has set itself up to be a vehicle for consolidation within Japan's shipbuilding industry. IHIMU president Shigemi Kurahara opened the door to co-operation with other Japanese shipbuilders following the finalisation of the agreement.

Full Report Available Upon Request

SOUTH KOREA | 2 FEBRUARY | CARGONEWS ASIA

Korea's container throughput crosses 20m mark

South Korea's annual volume of cargo handling at domestic ports attained the highest level in 2011 by recording 1.3 billion tonnes, reported Maeil Business Newspaper. In addition, the nation's volume of container cargo handling reached 21.55 million TEUs, crossing the 20-million TEU landmark for the first time.

Full Report Available Upon Request

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 22 FEBRUARY | WALL STREET JOURNAL

Minister Sees Need For Port Expansion In Indonesia

Indonesia needs to move quickly to expand and modernize its ports to keep up with a recent increase in exports and imports generated by the archipelago's sustained growth, the country's trade minister said. The country's current ports are overstretched and will become bottlenecks to further trade expansion if Indonesia doesn't build better infrastructure, Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan told a group of reporters Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 24 FEBRUARY | THE SUN STAR

Iloilo commercial port up for expansion

THE Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) has included the Iloilo Commercial Port complex in the department's port expansion project. Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog said DOTC Secretary Mar Roxas has included the port of Iloilo, along with the ports of Ormoc, Leyte and Tabaco, Albay, as key ports in the country. The project has more than P500-million allocation

[Full Report](#)**Choppy waters ahead as Maersk posts \$3.6b net loss**

The container shipping industry is in for another stormy year after Danish giant AP Moller Maersk reported that it would record a net loss this year. The firm, the largest container line in the world, racked up a net loss of US\$2.87 billion (\$3.6 billion) for 2011 with more to come. The container result for 2012 will be 'negative' as overcapacity will continue to hurt the market, Maersk said.

Full Report Available Upon Request

[Full Report](#) INDONESIA | 29 FEBRUARY | TODAY**Indonesian shipper Berlian Laju defaults on debt instruments**

Berlian Laju Tanker, Indonesia's largest oil-and-gas shipping group, said it had defaulted on six of its debt instruments, both dollar-denominated debt and local-currency bonds, due this month. Berlian Laju is the latest shipping company to buckle in the face of a weak global market. Late last month, it said it was freezing payments on its debt of US\$2 billion (\$2.5 billion), while it talked to creditors about restructuring its operations and finances.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 29 FEBRUARY | FOCUS TAIWAN

Management of seaports to separate tasks to modernize services

Operation practices of Taiwan's commercial seaports will undergo major reforms after the inauguration of the Maritime and Port Bureau (MPB) and the Taiwan International Ports Corporation (TIPC) on Thursday, officials said Wednesday. While port policymaking and operations are presently dealt with by the nation's four harbour bureaus in Kaohsiung, Keelung, Taichung and Hualien, the separation of authorities will modernize port services, said Premier Sean Chen.

[Full Report](#)

As Export Contracts Plunge, Shipbuilders Gird For Long Slump

Japan's shipbuilding industry received export orders for 13 vessels totalling just 651,000 tons in January, according to monthly statistics issued by the Japan Ship Exporters' Association. This represents a 56.7 per cent drop from a year earlier as measured by gross tonnage and marks the second month in a row that export contracts have declined.

[Full Report](#)
[See RSIS Commentary](#)

Factbox: Why oceans are key to the global economy

Oceans carry the bulk of the world's trade, are a major source of food and employment and help regulate the planet's climate but they are under threat from pollution, over-fishing and global warming. Governments and businesses are increasingly aware of the value of oceans but are struggling to address the many threats that imperil seas around the globe.

[Full Report](#)
[See RSIS Commentary](#)

World Bank Launches Global Oceans Alliance

Outgoing World Bank President Robert Zoellick announced a global alliance on Friday dedicated to managing and protecting the world's oceans, pledging as much as \$1.5 billion to the initiative over five years. Though oceans provide about 15% of the world's animal protein—with fish being the world's single most-traded food product at \$25 billion a year—Mr. Zoellick said seas have become overexploited, with booming populations in coastal cities and climactic changes adding to the oceans' depletion.

[Full Report](#)