



**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*:



### **Aircraft Carriers: New Dawn or Twilight Years? – p.1**

**By Euan Graham**

#### **MSP Perspectives:**

Aircraft Carriers: New Dawn  
or Twilight Years? – p. 1

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The role of China's Aircraft  
Carrier in PLA Navy  
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# MSP Perspectives

## Aircraft Carriers: New Dawn or Twilight Years?

By Euan Graham  
Senior Fellow

China's entry into the aircraft carrier club and India's soon-expected acquisition of one second-hand carrier and up to two indigenously constructed flat-tops has stoked speculation that a new naval aviation age is dawning in Asia. China has given no official sign of following up the Liaoning "test-bed" with the construction of indigenous carriers, but the decision to serial produce the Type-52D air warfare destroyer points in that direction. Moreover, Japan has laid down its largest post-1945 warship hull for a 20,000-ton helicopter carrier, while Australia's recent purchase of two Spanish-built LHAs, each displacing around 30,000 tons, holds open the future prospect of the Royal Australian Navy acquiring the VSTOL-capable F-35B, and operating fixed-wing aircraft from ships for the first time since 1982.

By contrast, European naval aviation capabilities are atrophying. France has just one operational carrier, Charles de Gaulle, while the UK's decision to scrap Ark Royal and sell off its harrier fleet has enforced a lengthy "capability holiday" until the first of two Queen Elizabeth-class 65,000-ton replacements can enter service. Italy and Spain retain smaller, ramp-fitted "pocket" carriers, despite their fiscal woes. Britain's flip-flop decision to revert to a ramp-deck configuration and exclusively acquire the F-35B for its future carriers arguably means compromising a true carrier strike capability. The F-35B has a significantly lower payload and combat radius than the F-35C navy model, or the F/A-18E/F, which can only operate from conventionally configured carrier decks. In an era when potential adversaries are investing in 'anti-access' defences, the limited strike range and size of the UK's F-35B carrier wings will only add to the carriers' vulnerability, potentially circumscribing them to a limited amphibious support role.

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The 11 "supercarriers" of the US Navy are in a class of their own, while the Marine Corps effectively fields an independent air force, operating from 10 amphibious assault ships configured either as LHAs or LHDs. However, the USD10-12 billion outlay for each new supercarrier – roughly equal to Cambodia's GDP - has prompted claims that these resources would be better invested in more diverse strike platforms, such as Virginia-class submarines or more LHAs. The vulnerability of supercarriers in high-intensity warfare, though mitigated by the formidable layered defences of the battle group, has been re-underlined by China's emergence as potential peer competitor in the Western Pacific. The advent of Unmanned Carrier Air Vehicles is another technological challenge to the future of manned carrier aviation, under the combined weight of spiralling unit costs and the thickening coastal defence envelope. Is the aircraft carrier therefore under threat, even as it enjoys an Asian renaissance?

In fact, the political and strategic advantages of aircraft carriers tend to be optimised for mid-level contingencies, like Desert Storm or an aerial campaign to reduce Iran's nuclear capabilities, rather than high-intensity scenarios where their survivability has long been questioned. Although sometimes dismissed as status symbols, the use of carriers for signalling reassurance to allies and deterrence to potential adversaries is consistently prized by US leaders, as is their relative flexibility of deployment compared with air force assets reliant on fixed bases overseas, longer logistical chains and problematic overflight rights. To an extent, the US may suffer from the socialisation of aircraft carriers as "the big stick" of US diplomacy, and the supercarrier of old may be entering its twilight years – on cost grounds alone. However, the abiding advantages of carrier aviation are such that aspiring naval great powers will continue to make the hefty down-payments of club membership.

# Naval Development & Policy

CHINA | 16 DECEMBER | OTTAWA CITIZEN

## The role of China's Aircraft Carrier in PLA Navy formations

China's state news agency Xinhua has details on how the country's new aircraft carrier will integrate into naval formations: Judging from the warships' performances and experience, most of the main active warships of the three major fleets under the PLA Navy can be incorporated into the aircraft carrier formation, such as the guided missile destroyers "Lanzhou" (170 warship) and "Haikou" (171 warship), nicknamed the "China's aegis" of the South China Sea Fleet.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 4 DECEMBER | FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL

## China starts flight operations from first aircraft carrier

The Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has started test flights onboard its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, with Shenyang J-15 Flying Shark fighters. According to Chinese media reports, the ship and its aircraft have been conducting sea trials over the past two weeks. The ship and the J-15 aircraft "are meeting all requirements and achieving good compatibility", the Chinese Xinhua state news agency reports.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 4 DECEMBER | AFTERNOON VOICE

## Indian Navy will intervene in South China sea, if required

The Indian Navy is practicing to operate in the South China Sea to protect its economic assets. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi Admiral D K Joshi told reporters that "Where our country's interests are involved, we will protect them and we will intervene." The Eastern Naval Command - which looks at India's eastern sea board and likely to play a key role when the Navy is

deployed in South China Sea- is also being strengthened.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 4 DECEMBER | YONHAP NEWS AGENCY

## Tension lingers on Jeju Island over naval base construction

On a sunny winter day, a group of 20 people gathered for an outdoor Catholic Mass in front of barricades around a construction site on the southern resort island of Jeju [Cheju]. If completed as scheduled in 2015, the base will be able to hold up to 20 warships simultaneously, along with two 150,000-ton cruise ships. Currently, landfill operations and initial work is under way to build caissons, the foundations of a bridge pier.

[Full Report](#)

### **Military research unit showcases weapons to be commissioned**

The military's main research and development unit on Wednesday showcased a variety of its inventions, including weapon systems to be commissioned next year to beef up the country's defense capabilities. Also being displayed was the Hsiungfeng III supersonic anti-ship missile, which is described as an "aircraft carrier killer." Having been fitted on Taiwan's naval frigates, the weapon, with a range of 150 km, is the third generation of the locally developed Hsiungfeng missiles, said Chou Sheng-nan, chief engineer of the Hsiungfeng project.

[Full Report](#)

### **Secret warship base comes up on east coast**

The Indian Navy is set to partially commission a secretive new strategic base on its east coast next year that will be the home port for its warships that sail to South East Asia, the South China Sea and the Pacific. The Visakhapatnam-headquartered Eastern Naval Command, the hub for the navy's "Look East" policy, is adding warships and submarines to its fleet in numbers greater than berths available in which to dock them.

[Full Report](#)

### **Japan deploys destroyers for N. Korea rocket**

Japan on Thursday dispatched three destroyers to waters over which North Korea says its satellite-bearing rocket will travel. Television footage showed three Aegis destroyers armed with SM-3 missile interceptors leaving their base in Sasebo, some 900 kilometres (560 miles) west of Tokyo. They were reportedly bound for the East China Sea and the Sea of Japan, a stretch of water known to Koreans as the East Sea.

[Full Report](#)

### **Navy patrols waters near the Diaoyus**

Ships of the People's Liberation Army navy patrolled the waters near the Diaoyu Islands on Monday after returning from a training exercise in the West Pacific. The flotilla, two destroyers and two frigates from the Navy's Donghai Fleet, passed through the Miyako Strait and entered the West Pacific for a routine training exercise on Nov 28. After finishing a series of training operations, the flotilla sailed through a strait near the Yonaguni and Iriomote Islands and arrived in waters off the Diaoyu Islands on Monday morning.

[Full Report](#)

### **Upgrade for NZDF Frigates**

Tenders will be sought to upgrade the self-defence and sensor capabilities of the Royal New Zealand navy frigates HMNZS Te Kaha and HMNZS Te Mana, Defence Minister Dr Jonathan Coleman announced today. "The frigates are a vital part of our Defence Force but the weapons and sensor systems were designed in the late 1980s and require a mid-life upgrade," said Dr Coleman. Cabinet has approved a Detailed Business Case and a Request for Tender will be issued by the Ministry of Defence early next year.

[Full Report](#)

### **RMN's latest training vessel launched**

Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor yesterday named and launched the Royal Malaysian Navy's new training vessel K.D. Gagah Samudera at the NGV Tech Sdn Bhd shipyard in Sijangkang, here. The 76-metre ship, which has a maximum speed of 20 knots, is the first of two ships built for RMN by local shipbuilder NGV Tech Sdn Bhd in collaboration with South Korean company Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME).

[Full Report](#) military vessels to Australia five years ago, Australia's Department of Defense said in an email.

CHINA | 15 DECEMBER | NEW YORK TIMES

[Full Report](#)

### **China steps up pressure on Japan in island dispute**

A modest-looking twin-propeller Chinese aircraft loaded with radar and other surveillance equipment swooped low over the waters close to disputed islands in the East China Sea on Thursday, the latest move by China to increase the pressure on Japan over who owns the uninhabited island chain. By itself, the less than 30-minute flight by the nine-year-old plane into what Japan considers its airspace did not amount to much. Japanese F-15 jets were sent, but the Chinese plane had left by the time they got to the area.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 17 DECEMBER | PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE

### **Expert: China's submarines close to world level**

[Full Report](#)

When commentating as a guest on People's Daily Online, naval expert Li Jie said that submarines independently designed by China are close to those of the United States, Russia, Germany and Japan in performance indicators, despite slight gaps from developed countries in terms of power plant and noise. Li Jie explained that China's process of designing and building submarines has been actually getting mature and increasingly improved.

[Full Report](#)

SYDNEY | 19 DECEMBER | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL ONLINE

### **Sydney Hosts Rare Chinese Naval Visit**

A flotilla of Chinese warships made a rare visit to Australia on Tuesday, capping a year that has seen the country balance closer military ties with both the U.S. and China. Docked at Sydney's Garden Island base, the three Chinese ships—the Yi Yang, Chang Zhou and Qian Dao Hu—are returning from counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. Their four-day visit is the largest made by the Chinese navy since Beijing first sent

SINGAPORE | 21 DECEMBER | ACN NEWSWIRE

### **IMDEX Asia to host inaugural Asian edition of International Naval Engineering Conference and Exhibition in 2013**

The International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX Asia), Asia Pacific's largest dedicated international maritime defence show, will play host to the first ever Asian edition of the International Naval Engineering Conference and Exhibition (INEC) in 2013. The event is organised by Experia Events in association with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST), supported by the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 25 DECEMBER | TAIPEI TIMES

### **New Chinese destroyer ready for debut, report says**

The appearance of a picture of China's second Type 052D guided missile destroyer on the Internet recently has aroused speculation in China that the nation's most advanced version of the warship is ready for the sea. The TV station HBTV in Hubei Province reported that the vessel in the picture was decorated with Chinese flags and other trappings suggesting it was ready for launch.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 26 DECEMBER | VIETNAM NEWS BRIEF SERVICE

### **Russia conducts sea trial of submarine built for Vietnam**

The Russian state-run Admiralty Shipbuilder is conducting a sea trial for a newly-built submarine Varshavyanka 636 class in the Baltic Sea near Kaliningrad, the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) reported. The submarine named Hanoi is the first of

the six Six-kilo diesel-fuel class submarines built by Russia for Vietnam according to the \$2.1 billion deal signed by the two countries in 2009. The vessel is scheduled to be delivered to Vietnam in August next year while the remaining five submarines will be supplied to the Vietnam Naval Forces by 2016.

acquired in 2005. It has been comprehensively upgraded, refurbished and tropicalised to ensure its suitability for operations in local conditions.

[Full Report](#)

Full Report Available Upon Request

INDONESIA | 28 DECEMBER | THE JAKARTA POST

### **Naval fleets to be made into three**

Indonesian Military (TNI) chief Adm. Agus Suhartono said the government would divide the nation's vast naval territory into three fleet commands pending a revision of Presidential Regulation No.10/2010. The Indonesian territory is currently divided into two fleet commands, east and west, each is headed by two star navy admiral.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 31 DECEMBER | THAI NEWS SERVICE

### **Philippines: Contract of agreement for 3 naval helicopters signed – DND**

The Dept. of National Defense Thursday announced the contract of agreement for three naval helicopters have been signed. The three rotary wing aircraft has a net price of P1,337,176,584, officials said, one week after the reported signing. The contract was signed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and supplier AugustaWestland S.P.A. The acquisition project was done under negotiated procurement through Section 53.2 (Emergency Procurement) of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9184.

Full Report Available Upon Request

SINGAPORE | 31 DECEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

### **RSN's second Archer-class submarine back in S'pore**

The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) second Archer-class submarine is back from Sweden. The RSS Swordsman is one of two ex-Royal Swedish Navy Västergötland-class submarines that Singapore

# Maritime Safety and Security



CHINA | 27 DECEMBER | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

## China's hunger for fish upsets seas

China's growing hunger for seafood is testing relations with other countries and worrying foreign officials and scientists over the potential damage its massive fleet could do to global fishing stocks. In the latest example, Argentina said on Wednesday that it had captured on Monday two Chinese fishing vessels that it said were illegally fishing in its waters. Officials said Argentina's coast guard boarded the ships after firing warning shots to prevent them from fleeing to international waters, and that the vessels were carrying 10 metric tons of squid and fish.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 6 DECEMBER | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

## All 13 Singaporeans on board stranded Indonesian ferry safe

All 13 Singaporeans on board a Singapore-Tanjong Pinang ferry which ran aground off Lobam island on Wednesday night are safe. Ferry operator Sindo Ferry and Indonesia's Search and Rescue Agency, BASARNAS, gave this update in response to queries from Channel NewsAsia. Of the 97 passengers, one Indonesian lady is still in hospital for medical attention.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 6 DECEMBER | ASIAONE

## Angler missing after going overboard in collision

A fishing trip turned tragic for four anglers when their vessel collided with a Customs patrol boat and capsized off the waters of Pulau Dayang Bunting near here. Three of them were rescued but the skipper of the boat, Aidi Azhar Osman, 23, from Kampung Sungai Menghulu, Langkawi is still missing. Those rescued were Aidi's brother Mohd Faisol, 26, who has been

warded at Langkawi General Hospital with a fractured wrist and head injuries. Abdul Ashraf, 23, and Mazuan Abdullah, 25, were unhurt in the incident.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 11 DECEMBER | ASIAONE

## Activists convert Japanese boat for whaling campaign

Activists aiming to halt Japan's whaling fleet Tuesday revealed a new weapon for their latest Antarctic campaign - a US\$2 million ship they say was once owned by the government in Tokyo. Lockhart MacLean, captain of the renamed Sam Simon, said the militant Sea Shepherd Conservation Society was able to buy the vessel after a US company, New Atlantis, purchased it when it was advertised for sale.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 13 DECEMBER | RADIO FREE ASIA

## Island row takes flight

A nonmilitary Chinese plane was spotted in airspace over a group of islands at the center of a territory

dispute between Beijing and Tokyo on Thursday, prompting a formal protest from Japan, though China has maintained that the aircraft was simply conducting “normal operations.” The incident, which falls on the anniversary of the 1937 Nanjing Massacre by Japanese troops in China, marks the latest confrontation in the dispute over territory in the East China Sea, which has heated up as the two countries take a more nationalistic stance during a time of changing leadership.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 18 DECEMBER | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

### **Malaysia takes in 40 Myanmar shipwreck survivors**

Malaysia on Tuesday took in 40 shipwreck survivors believed to be refugees from Myanmar, ending more than a week of uncertainty for the men who were refused permission to come ashore in Singapore. The 40 men had been in limbo off Singapore aboard the Vietnamese cargo ship that saved them after their vessel sank in Myanmar waters. Singapore authorities denied entry to them, and nine other survivors rescued from the shipwreck by a Liberia-flagged freighter, highlighting the wariness among Southeast Asian governments to accept asylum seekers from a recent exodus caused by ethnic violence in Myanmar.

Full Report Available Upon Request

MALAYSIA | 20 DECEMBER | THE JAKARTA GLOBE

### **10 Indonesians drown after boat Sinks off Malaysia**

Ten illegal immigrant Indonesians, including two pregnant women, drowned when their boat capsized in rough seas off Malaysia's southern coast, maritime authorities said Thursday. The bodies of five men and five women and the rickety wooden boat they were traveling in washed ashore earlier in the week, marine police official Mohammad Muhi told AFP. The group was believed to be illegally journeying back to Indonesia from Malaysia's southern state of Johor, Muhi said.

[Full Report](#)

SRI LANKA | 24 DECEMBER | THE HINDU

### **Sri Lankan navy arrests 27 Indian fishermen**

Sri Lankan Navy has arrested 27 Indian fishermen and seized their four trawlers after accusing them of fishing inside the country's maritime area. Navy spokesman Kosala Warnakulasuriya said that the Indians were arrested on Sunday night for “poaching inside Sri Lanka international maritime border limits (IMBL) off the eastern coast”.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 26 DECEMBER | ASIAONE

### **7 rescued after ship hit by strong waves off Labuan waters**

Seven Malaysian crewmen of an oil tanker were rescued after their ship MV Ramai Dua partially sank after strong waves lashed it in shallow waters between Labuan and Sabah's western Menumbok. The seven crew members were rescued by a Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) patrol boat before being sent to Maritime Department vessel MV Adhara and on to Labuan. A spokesman for MMEA said yesterday the incident occurred at about 7.30am yesterday and the crew members were picked up at about 12.10pm.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 29 DECEMBER | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

### **27 injured in Macau-Hong Kong ferry collision**

Twenty-seven people were injured on Saturday in a collision between a Hong Kong-bound passenger ferry and a buoy in Macau, authorities said. The ferry crashed into the buoy in Macau's Outer Harbour around 10 minutes after it left the ferry terminal at approximately 12:15 pm (0415 GMT), Macau Maritime Administration senior technical officer Lam Son told AFP. All of the injured were taken to a local hospital after the ship was towed back to the terminal, Lam said.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 31 DECEMBER | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

**Three China ships in waters around disputed islands:  
Japan**

Three Chinese government ships on Monday entered territorial waters around East China Sea islands at the centre of a dispute with Tokyo, Japan's coastguard said. One of the surveillance ships entered waters around the islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China at around 1:32pm (0432 GMT), while another followed about 20 minutes later, the coastguard said. The third vessel entered the waters around the islands, controlled by Tokyo but claimed by Beijing, at about 2:35 pm (0535 GMT), it said.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 31 DECEMBER | AL JAZEERA

**Chinese fishing boat 'detained in Japan'**

Japan's coastguard has detained a Chinese fishing boat within Japanese waters, China's Xinhua news agency said, citing the Chinese consulate general in Fukuoka, a city in southwestern Japan. The captain of the boat, registered in the southeastern Chinese province of Fujian, and two crew members have been brought to the southern Japanese city of Kagoshima for questioning, Xinhua said on Sunday. It said the captain had admitted he was in Japanese waters.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 31 DECEMBER | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**Indonesia Takes In 9 Myanmar Shipwreck Survivors**

Indonesia has taken in nine shipwreck survivors believed to be refugees from Myanmar, ending weeks of uncertainty for the men, who were refused permission to come ashore in Singapore. The nine men had been in limbo off Singapore aboard the Liberia-flagged cargo ship that saved them after their vessel sank in Myanmar waters. Singapore authorities this month denied entry to them and 40 other survivors rescued from the shipwreck by a Vietnamese freighter,

highlighting the wariness among Southeast Asian governments to accept asylum seekers from a recent exodus caused by ethnic violence in Myanmar.

[Full Report](#)

# Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy

US-ASIA | 21 DECEMBER | TRADEWINDS

## US opens up to pressurised LPG shipping as export boom looms

StealthGas boss Harry Vafias says a new US Coast Guard move could lead to the transfer of ships from Asia to the US-Caribbean trade. Fully pressurised LPG carriers will not be left out of an expected boom in US exports as US Coast Guard (USCG) standards move closer to international norms for those type of ships. The move could open a door to a lucrative short-haul trade lane between the US and the Caribbean for smaller gas carriers, StealthGas boss Harry Vafias tells TradeWinds.

[Full Report Available Upon Request](#)

BANGLADASH | 4 DECEMBER | THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

## Shipping cost hard hit as volume of cargoes from Ashulia falls

Shipping companies Monday said the recent devastating fire at Tazreen Fashion Ltd. at Ashulia in Savar that killed at least 124 workers is affecting their business. Shortage of cargoes from factories of Ashulia and its peripheral areas has caused a deep frustration among them, they said. The Maersk Line that carries to, and from, Chittagong more than 20,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot equivalents) of consignments a month has already informed its Bangladesh office about the decline of cargo movement due to the blaze at Tazreen Factory.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 5 DECEMBER | LIVE MINT

## India's top iron ore port hit by Goa mining ban

Bangalore: Mormugao port on India's west coast has been hit by the ban on iron ore mining in Goa with some 2,600 employees and about 4,000 pensioners facing an uncertain future. "Our financial position position is very precarious," said deputy chairman

Biplav Kumar. "We are currently earning about Rs.10 crore per month without any iron ore", the port's chief commodity. The port needs about Rs.15 crore a month for wages and pension liabilities, he said. "We are running a deficit of about Rs.15 crore a month for general operating expenses including upkeep and maintenance of the port.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 5 DECEMBER | THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Lack of infrastructure dampening India's foreign trade: JNPT chief

MUMBAI: "Inadequate infrastructure such as roads, railways and ports, delay in environmental clearances and lack of co-ordination among the related agencies are severely hampering India's foreign trade. Indian trade is burdened with 14-15% logistics cost as against 7-8% in the developed countries eroding the competitiveness of Indian exports in the international markets,"

[Full Report](#)

IRAN | 6 DECEMBER | REUTERS

### **Exclusive: Iran shipping signals conceal Syria ship movements**

Iranian oil tankers are sending incorrect satellite signals that confuse global tracking systems and appear to conceal voyages made by other ships to Syria, which, like Iran, is subject to international sanctions. The two countries are close allies and have helped each other deal with shortages by swapping badly needed fuels such as gasoline for diesel. Sanctions imposed on Iran to hamper its nuclear program have blocked sales of its oil to the West and made it increasingly difficult for Iran's fleet to obtain insurance and financing for deals with Asian buyers in China, India and South Korea.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 6 DECEMBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

### **Two major ports to be built as companies**

The Shipping Ministry is expected to bring the Cabinet note on two new major port projects within a week. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh recently took stock of the status of transport projects in the various sectors including shipping and ports. Contracts for the two ports are targeted to be awarded by March 2013. The government has set a target of adding a capacity of 245 million metric tonne per annum by the end of this financial year. However, it will need to take up issues regarding security clearances and land transfer with cabinet secretary and concerned ministries.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 14 DECEMBER | SEENEWS SHIPPING

### **South Korea weighs sanctions against N Korea's shipping sector**

(SeeNews) - Dec 14, 2012 - South Korea is contemplating imposition of further sanctions against North Korea in the shipping sector, Arirang Radio said today, citing unnamed South Korean government official. The considered sanctions include prohibition of

entry in South Korean waters of ships having previously called in North Korea.

[Full Report](#)

ABU DHABI | 15 DECEMBER | GULD BASE

### **Abu Dhabi opens \$7.2bn Khalifa Port**

The Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC), a master developer and regulator of ports and industrial zones, has officially opened the \$7.2billion Khalifa Port. UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who inaugurated the facility, expressed his pride at the completion of projects that are of benefit to the citizens of the homeland and that strengthen the national economy.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 16 DECEMBER | THE DAILY STAR

### **Time to improve water transport system**

Classnk, a global ship classification society, targets Bangladesh as the country plans to buy 21 new ships by 2021 to upgrade its ageing fleet. "We see Bangladesh as a good market," Shosuke Kakubari, executive vice president of the society, told to The Daily Star at an interview at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka recently. Currently, ten out of the 13 ships of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation are older than 25 years.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 16 DECEMBER | REUTERS

### **Indonesia's clogged ports strain growth prospects**

At Jakarta's infrastructure monitoring nerve center, live TV cameras track traffic flows on port access roads and highways, satellite images show cloud cover, and a Twitter feed allows officials to respond in real time to any public complaints. But the only movement comes from the flowing screen images, since there is no one working at the room's empty desks.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 17 DECEMBER | ASIAONE NEWS

### **MPA cancels G-Fuel Pte Ltd's bunker supplier licence**

SINGAPORE - The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has cancelled G-Fuel Pte Ltd's bunker supplier licence with effect from Dec 15. The cancellation of the licence follows G-Fuel Pte Ltd contravening the terms and conditions of the bunkering licence. The company was found to have breached Clause 3 of the terms and conditions of the Bunkering Licence (Bunker Supplier) by allowing another company to use G-Fuel's Bunker Delivery Notes to supply bunkers to the customers of that company.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 21 DECEMBER | TAIPEI TIMES

### **Tatas to the rescue at Haldia port**

Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp (陽明海運), the nation's second-largest container shipper in terms of fleet size, expects revenue to grow about 10 percent next year on the back of rising demand driven by a mild global economic recovery, a company official said yesterday. The container shipper also looks to be returning to the black this year, after it sold a 30 percent stake in Kao Ming Container Terminal Corp (高明貨櫃碼頭) — its container terminal operator subsidiary in Kaohsiung Harbor — to three Chinese shipping companies for US\$135 million on Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 22 DECEMBER | CENS.COM

### **Chinese Firms Acquires 30% Stake in Terminal No.6 of Kaohsiung Harbor for NT\$4.05 B.**

Taipei, Dec. 22, 2012 (CENS)--Thanks to the cross-strait bilateral Investment Protection Agreement (IPA), part of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, three Chinese government-linked companies have decided to together spend NT\$4.05 billion on acquiring a 10% stake each in the container Terminal No.6 of Kaohsiung Harbor, southern Taiwan. The three Chinese

companies, namely China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company, China Shipping (Group) Company and China Merchants Holdings (International) Co., Ltd., will carry out the investment project via the Hong Kong-based Cheer Dragon Investment Ltd.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 24 DECEMBER | REUTERS

### **China's Rongsheng Warns of Full-Year Loss in 2012**

China Rongsheng Heavy Industries Group, China's largest private shipbuilder, issued a surprise warning that it expects to post an annual net loss for 2012 on sharp declines in orders and prices of new vessels after the shipping industry took a downward turn during the year. The warning contrasted with a consensus estimate for a 584 million yuan (\$93.76 million) net profit for the year ending December 2012, according to 11 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 24 DECEMBER | MK BUSINESS NEWS

### **Hyundai Heavy Group wins orders to build 5 LNG carriers worth \$1.05 bn**

South Korea's conglomerate Hyundai Heavy Industries Group, said Sunday it won contracts worth \$1.05 billion to build a total of five liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers. The group's representative subsidiary, Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI), signed a contract with state-run Brunei Gas Carrier (BGC) to build a 155,000 cubic-meter LNG carrier last Friday. Another subsidiary Hyundai Samho Heavy Industries was awarded an \$840 million order to construct four units of 174,000 cubic-meter LNG carriers by Maran Gas Maritime (MGM), the gas carrier arm of Greece-based Angelicoussis Shipping Group, last Thursday in Paris, France.

[Full Report](#)

**SLPA designs third, fourth phases**

“Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has designed the third and fourth phases of the Hambantota Port with more than 20 million TEU annual capacity to handle containerized cargo with a view to cater for the growing demand in the East-West main shipping route.” Dr. Priyath Wickrama, Chairman Sri Lanka Ports Authority expressed these views speaking at the Sea Trade Middle East Maritime Conference held recently in Dubai on the subject ‘Modern Container Terminals’.

[Full Report](#)