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A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

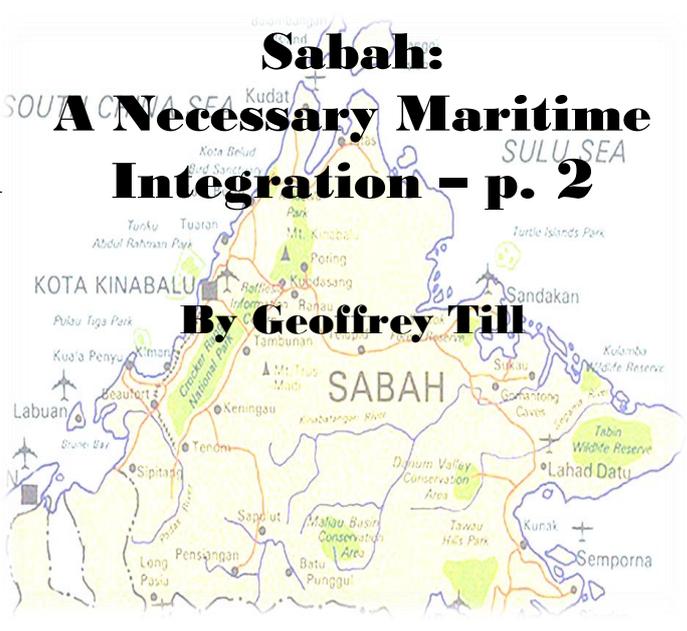
Broader Horizons

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

Featured *MSP Perspectives*:



**Australia-Indonesia:
Toward a Maritime
Strategic Partnership – p. 1**
By Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto



**Sabah:
A Necessary Maritime
Integration – p. 2**
By Geoffrey Till

MSP Perspectives:

Australia-Indonesia:
Toward a Maritime
Strategic Partnership – p. 1
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Naval Development & Policy:

Asia’s Naval Procurement
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**Shipping, Ports, & the
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MSP Perspectives

Australia-Indonesia: Toward a Maritime Strategic Partnership

By Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto
Senior Analyst, Maritime Security Programme

BEING maritime neighbours, Australia and Indonesia should expand their defence cooperation in the maritime domain, especially in light of three new emerging trends in the regional strategic environment. First, the world's economy is gradually gravitating toward Asia, which leverages more strategic weight for regional countries to engage in [military modernisation and maritime force buildups](#). In response to this trend, the US has engaged in the "Rebalancing," including repositioning more [maritime forces](#) in Asia, to maintain regional stability. Second, the US military rebalancing also emphasises [Australia's role](#) as a US ally. Aside from the US Marines deployed in Darwin, the rebalancing also involves rotational deployments of US navy and air force in Western Australia and Northern Territory. This could prod China, as a potential US adversary, to respond by deploying forces southward through the Indonesian archipelago to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) activities within Australia's territorial waters, especially in [the exclusive economic zone \(EEZ\)](#). Third, the Indonesian archipelagic waters could become more [saturated](#) by transiting foreign maritime forces, particularly along the maritime chokepoints like the Sunda and Lombok Straits. Due to a greater depth and less volume of commercial shipping traffic than the Malacca Strait, the Sunda and Lombok Straits offer an attractive alternative for maritime forces to make transits.

As a result, the Sunda and Lombok Straits, as well as the maritime areas along the Australia-Indonesia boundary, could become more congested and crowded by submarines and other types of maritime units from different countries. As littoral countries, Australia and Indonesia have direct interests to prevent incidents in these maritime areas. For example, a collision between maritime units, like nuclear submarines, could result in politically and militarily destabilising effects which undermine the security of littoral states, apart from creating an environmental disaster. Moreover, these areas harbour a large number of offshore infrastructures, which could be at risk of collateral damage from incidents at sea between naval forces. In response to these trends, Australia-Indonesia should deepen defence cooperation in the maritime domain, especially along their shared maritime boundary, as provided for by Article 14 of the 2006 Australia-Indonesia Security Cooperation Framework Agreement, also known as the [Lombok Treaty](#).

In the strategic level, both governments should form a maritime strategic partnership agreement. To start with, Australian and Indonesian strategic policy-makers could hold more substantive and frank discussions that lead to a genuine 'strategic trust' about the potential implications of [Australia's role](#) in the US military rebalancing on Indonesia's national security, as well as China's potential military responses. For example, there should be a consultation about whether and how they could be militarily involved in regional flashpoints, such as the territorial disputes in the South and East China Seas. In the operational and tactical levels, both countries may translate their strategic initiatives into joint operational arrangements. For example, a joint maritime surveillance system could improve mutual situational awareness, which should include a joint operational command and control centre.

Of course, there are challenges to this partnership, especially on the Indonesian side. Many would criticise and protest that Indonesia has abandoned its "free and active" foreign policy by joining a coalition to contain China's military rise. Like Australia, Indonesia might as well reject choosing between the US and China. However, juggling between the US and China indefinitely is also impossible. Indonesia's central position along the Indo-Pacific rim means it could be caught in the crossfire during a Sino-US conflict. By partnering with Canberra, Jakarta could at least have a cushioning buffer down under from the potential flashpoints to its north.

Sabah: A Necessary Maritime Integration

By Geoffrey Till

Visiting Professor, Maritime Security Programme

On June 14th 2013 the MV *Lady of Carmel* on its four hour voyage from Albay to Masbate in the Philippines [sank in the darkness](#), in calm seas and good weather, with some loss of life. The vessel does not seem to have been over-loaded with passengers, though a number of vehicles on board may have been badly stowed. This disaster appeared almost the same day as a World Wild Life report which pointed out just how vulnerable the world's oceans are to the increasing threat of ship-wreck, especially in areas where the amount of ill-regulated shipping and the area's environmental sensitivity are both high. The so-called 'Coral Triangle' in the South China Sea is just such a place. When this is combined with the continuing environmental threats of cyanide fishing, rising tensions over in jurisdictional disputes, the consequences of oil and gas exploration and exploitation, trafficking in people, drugs and arms, and threats of terrorism, and the risks to good order at sea are high.

This combination of episodes shows the extent to which governments, and the maritime policies they seek to frame, are increasingly at the mercy of private individuals and their particular activities, whether they are fishermen operating illegally, less than well prepared ferry operators or political activists such as Kiram III. The latter's recent 'invasion' of Sabah could, for example, have done irreparable damage to the relations between Malaysia and the Philippines though fortunately good sense prevailed and it did not. Nonetheless, both governments were caught by surprise and had to improvise their responses very rapidly with every possibility of major strategic error.

The lessons seem obvious. A prepared and proactive policy is safer than a reactive one, however sensible. Maritime policy has to be holistic and take all angles into account, including the possible maritime consequences of social, political or economic issues ashore. Finally, maritime domain awareness needs to be capable of delivering warnings of possible trouble before it happens rather than afterwards. All of this reinforces the need for agencies (whether coastguards or navies) to be strong, properly co-ordinated and sufficiently well organised and equipped to do their jobs.

Encouragingly, there are plenty of signs that suggest that both governments have learned the lesson. The news that the Philippines has taken delivery of its second Hamilton class cutter from the United States and seems to be continuing its long-overdue revamp of its maritime forces certainly gives that impression. In Malaysia a substantial beefing up of the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) has been announced – an interagency maritime organisation headed, interestingly, by an Immigration official- to improve the extent to which the Royal Malaysian Navy and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency are [integrated in defence](#) of the country's interests on the area. The failure to detect the passage of several hundred activists across the Sulu Sea has led to a three-fold increase in the level of patrolling done and also energised Malaysia's search for enhanced means of maritime surveillance. Reportedly the government has expressed interest in significant investment in maritime patrol and surveillance aircraft, to the extent indeed of further delaying the Malaysian Air Force's project to [replace its Mig-29 fighter aircraft](#). Such responses suggest a lively awareness that weakness at sea can be as dangerous to regional order as excessive strength, and illustrate both the difficulties of balancing between traditional and non-traditional security requirements and the sometimes fuzzy distinctions between the two.

Naval Development & Policy

ASIA-PACIFIC | 19 MAY | DEFENSE NEWS

Asia's Naval Procurement Sees Major Growth

SINGAPORE — Asia-Pacific nations are modernizing their surface and underwater naval capabilities by buying stealthy warships, attack submarines, patrol vessels, sensors, radars, missiles and unmanned systems. That much was clear at last week's biennial International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) in Singapore.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 5 MAY | THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

JSFs, submarines still in Australian government's plans

Australia is sticking to ambitious plans to beef up its defence capabilities with cutting-edge Joint Strike Fighters, 12 new submarines and "Growler" warfare electronic technology, despite questions about the government's long-term ability to fund the plans. In its latest Defence white paper, the Gillard government has also conspicuously softened its language regarding the strategic danger posed by China's economic rise.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA - US | 6 MAY | REUTERS

Espionage fuels China's fast-paced military buildup: Pentagon

China is using espionage to acquire technologies to fuel its fast-paced military modernization program, the Pentagon said on Monday in an annual report that for the first time accused Beijing of trying to break into U.S. defense computer networks. In its 83-page annual report to Congress on Chinese military developments, the Pentagon also cited progress in Beijing's effort to develop advanced-technology stealth aircraft and build an aircraft carrier fleet to project power further offshore.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-US | 7 MAY | NAVY.GOV.AU

HMAS Sydney joins USN Carrier Strike Group

HMAS Sydney has joined the US Navy's 7th Fleet to spend the next three months embedded with the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group, based in Yokosuka, Japan. During her embed, the crew of the Royal Australian Navy Guided Missile Frigate (FFG) will gain invaluable hands-on experience operating in a strike group whose primary function is to protect the Nimitz Class Aircraft Carrier the USS George Washington.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA-US | 7 MAY | DEFENSE NEWS

Top US Admiral Says Shift to Asia on Track Despite Budget Cuts

WASHINGTON — Plans to expand the American naval presence in the Pacific with new ships and hi-tech weaponry will go ahead despite steep budget cuts, the US Navy's top officer said before a trip to the region. Adm. Jonathan Greenert told AFP in an interview he will seek to "reassure" partners during a nine-day trip to Japan, Singapore and South Korea that mounting pressure on military spending will not derail Washington's much-publicized shift towards Asia.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 16 MAY | REUTERS

Australia military looks at long-range Triton patrol drone

Australia is set to buy up to \$3 billion worth of long-range maritime patrol drones and said on Thursday it had asked close ally the United States for detailed information and costings on the U.S. Navy's MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft. Australia wants to buy "unmanned aircraft capable of undertaking broad area maritime surveillance and fleet overwatch", Defence Minister Stephen Smith said, with the Triton already at the top of the military's wish list.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 14 MAY | DEFENSE NEWS

India To Add Navy Bases, Expand Coastline Security Sensors

NEW DELHI — Addressing the top commanders of the Indian Navy on Tuesday, Defence Minister A.K. Antony announced that additional naval bases and air stations are required to extend the Navy's reach. "Antony said the construction of additional bases and naval air stations in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep & Minicoy Islands is necessary to further extend our operational reach," said a Defence Ministry statement.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-US | 15 MAY | THE ECONOMIC TIMES

India gets first Poseidon-8 I jet to keep watch over Indian Ocean region

NEW DELHI: India's long range maritime snooping and anti-submarine warfare capabilities will get a huge boost when the first of the eight contracted Poseidon-8 I aircraft touches down at the Arakkonam naval air station in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday. Under the \$2.1 billion deal inked with the US aviation major Boeing in January 2009, the second and the third P-8 I aircraft will reach the naval air station INS Rajali in August and November, with the other five scheduled to be progressively delivered by 2015.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PHILIPPINES | 21 MAY | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Philippines boosts military to resist "bullies"

MANILA - Philippine President Benigno Aquino on Tuesday announced a US\$1.8-billion military upgrade to help defend his country's maritime territory against "bullies", amid an ever-worsening dispute with China. In thinly veiled comments referring to China, Aquino vowed during a speech to mark the navy's 115th anniversary that the armed forces would be given the resources necessary to protect Philippine sovereignty.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PHILIPPINES | 22 MAY | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Philippines protests to China over 'illegal' sea presence

MANILA: The Philippines said Tuesday it had protested to China at the "illegal" presence of a Chinese warship and other vessels at a shoal occupied by Filipino marines in the South China Sea. The stand-off is the latest in a growing dispute between the two countries over rival claims to parts of the sea. The Philippines said China occupied another Filipino-claimed shoal last year.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 26 MAY | DEFENSE NEWS

Japan Plans More Aggressive Defense

TOKYO — After almost seven decades of maintaining a limited defense posture, Japan should develop its amphibious and pre-emptive strike capability while bolstering sea- and ground-based ballistic-missile defenses, according to policy proposals by the country's ruling party. The proposals, obtained by Defense News and released to a select group last week ahead of widespread distribution, were drawn up by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA | 26 MAY | YONHAP NEWS

S. Korea to buy 20 maritime patrol aircraft

SEOUL, May 26 (Yonhap) -- The South Korean military has approved a plan to buy 20 maritime patrol aircraft to improve the Navy's surveillance capabilities of North Korea, a military source said Sunday. The Joint Chiefs of Staff has recently approved the Navy's request to add 20 maritime patrol aircraft to supplement the aging squadron of 16 Lockheed Martin P-3C Orions.

[Full Report](#)

BANGLADESH-US | 28 MAY | NAVAL-TECHNOLOGY.COM

US Coast Guard transfers ex-Hamilton-class cutter to Bangladesh Navy

The US Coast Guard (USCG) has successfully transferred its decommissioned 3,300t Hamilton-class high endurance cutter Jarvis (WHEC 725) to the Bangladesh Navy, during a ceremony held on Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California. Powered by two Pratt & Whitney gas turbines and two Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines, the 378ft-long cutter was commissioned in 1972 and will be replaced by Legend-class National Security Cutters (NCS) for the USCG.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PHILIPPINES | 31 MAY | THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Chinese general reveals 'strategy' for Panatag takeover

MANILA, Philippines - A Chinese military general has revealed their strategy to take over Panatag Shoal (Scarborough) off Zambales province. China Daily Mail reported that in a recent television interview, Major General Zhang Zhaozhong said that China's navy has been wrapping the disputed island like a "cabbage" with warships. China calls the shoal, which is within the Philippines' 200-nautical miles exclusive economic zone, as Huangyan Island. It claims virtually the entire South China Sea and West Philippine Sea.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 2 JUNE | FINANCIAL TIMES

Chinese navy begins US economic zone patrols

China has vowed to continue military patrols of waters where it has territorial claims, amid rows with neighbours over the South China Sea and islands controlled by Japan. Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo, the deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, said the patrols were legitimate and China's sovereignty was undisputed.

Full Report Available Upon Request

CHINA | 2 JUNE | AL JAZEERA

China defends patrolling disputed waters

China has vowed to continue military patrols of waters where it has territorial claims, amid rows with neighbours over the South China Sea and islands controlled by Japan. Lieutenant General Qi Jianguo, the deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, said the patrols were legitimate and China's sovereignty was undisputed.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-JAPAN | 7 JUNE | PEOPLE'S DAILY ONLINE

China, Vietnam set up naval hotline

The defense ministries of China and Vietnam have agreed to establish a naval hotline, Hanoi's deputy defense minister said on Thursday. Analysts said the move signals a stronger will for communication and cooperation between the two neighbors, whose ties have been strained by maritime disputes.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 9 JUNE | THE TIMES OF INDIA

Tangled in red tape, India's submarine fleet sinking

NEW DELHI: The navy's desperate attempts to rescue its sinking underwater combat arm have been dealt a double whammy. First, the ongoing project to construct six Scorpene submarines has been delayed by another 14-18 months, with the first vessel now slated to roll out of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) by November 2016 at the earliest.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN-PHILIPPINES | 16 JUNE | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Taiwan, Philippines agree to avoid force in disputes

TAIPEI: Taiwan and the Philippines have pledged not to use force in fishing disputes, officials said, as they tackle a row over the killing of a Taiwanese fisherman by Filipino coastguards. The agreement was reached during their first preparatory meeting on fishery cooperation held in Manila on Friday, Taiwan's foreign ministry said in a statement.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES-US | 26 JUNE | REUTERS

Manila plans air, naval bases at Subic with access for U.S., officials say

(Reuters) - The Philippine military has revived plans to build new air and naval bases at Subic Bay, a former U.S. naval base that American forces could use to counter China's creeping presence in the disputed South China Sea, senior navy officials said. The proposed bases in the Philippines, a close U.S. ally, coincides with a resurgence of

U.S. warships, planes and personnel in the region as Washington turns its attention to a newly assertive China and shifts its foreign, economic and security policy towards Asia.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN-PHILIPPINES | 27 JUNE | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Japan vows to help Philippines amid China sea row

MANILA: Japan pledged Thursday to help the Philippines defend its "remote islands", as both governments expressed concern over China's robust moves to stake its claims to disputed Asian waters. Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said China's contentious claim to nearly all of the South China Sea and its territorial dispute with Japan in the East China Sea were discussed during top-level talks in Manila.

[Full Report](#)

Maritime Safety and Security



PHILIPPINES | 22 MAY | FOXNEWS

Fishermen pay the price in Asia's web of volatile territorial conflicts

Along the northwestern Philippine coast, poor children with claw hammers clamber aboard an abandoned fishing vessel to pry loose and steal rusty nails from its deck. It's become a familiar sight in villages where some fishermen have been forced to give up their livelihoods since China took control of their fishing haven last year. Fishermen say Chinese maritime surveillance ships have shoed them from the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea and roped off the entrance to the vast lagoon that had been their fishing paradise for decades.

[Full Report](#)

BANGLADESH | 4 MAY | KHABARSOUTHASIA.COM

Rising piracy threatens coastal Bangladesh

After she heard the terrible news of her son's murder at the hands of pirates on March 25th, Ayesha Khatun, the mother of fisherman Enamul Haq, 24, could not forgive herself for sending him to sea. "He did not want to go, but I insisted. How could I have done this? I have lost everything now," Khatun, of Shekherkil union in southeastern Bangladesh, told Khabar South Asia.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-VIETNAM | 7 MAY | THANH NIEN NEWS

China sends giant fleet to East Sea, endangering fish stocks

China has sent one of its largest fishing fleets on record to the disputed Spratly (Truong Sa) Islands, AFP quoted Chinese media on Tuesday, amid tensions over Beijing's increasingly aggressive claims over the entire East Sea. Analysts say by doing so, China is sending a message that it will continue to exploit fishing resources in the East Sea, internationally known as the South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PHILIPPINES | 8 MAY | PHILIPPINES GLOBAL INQUIRER

PH intensifies monitoring in West Philippine Sea after sighting of China ship

The Philippine military has intensified its monitoring activities after China sent one of its largest fishing fleets to disputed islands in the West Philippine Sea or South China Sea. “The Philippine Navy is closely monitoring the developments in reported setting of sails of said Chinese fishing boats,” said Navy spokesman Colonel Edgardo Arevalo in a statement Wednesday. Arevalo said Philippine Navy ships were patrolling the area and they “shall serve as our eyes and ears.”

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES-TAIWAN | 10 MAY | PHILIPPINES GLOBAL INQUIRER

Philippines admits to shooting at Taiwan boat

The Philippines admitted Friday that its coast guard fired at a Taiwanese fishing boat in an incident that authorities in Taipei said left a crewman dead and triggered widespread outrage on the island. Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou demanded that the Philippines apologize for Thursday’s shooting, which the Taiwanese government said killed a 65-year-old fisherman and badly damaged the vessel.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES-TAIWAN | 11 MAY | MANILA STANDARD TODAY

Shooting in high seas sparks diplomatic row

Taipei on Friday demanded an apology from Manila for the shooting death of a fisherman by the Philippine Coast Guard, but the Philippine government refused, accusing the Taiwanese fishing vessel of trying to ram its ships that were enforcing the country’s sovereignty off the waters of Batanes. Deputy presidential spokeswoman Abigail Valte said Coast Guard personnel on board a ship of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had spotted four foreign vessels within the country’s archipelagic waters and had tried to board one of them around 10 a.m. Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-JAPAN | 17 MAY | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Chinese ships in disputed-islands waters: Japan

Three Chinese government ships entered the waters of disputed islands on Friday, Japan's coastguard said, more than a year after the then-Tokyo governor set off the row by announcing plans to buy them. The Chinese maritime surveillance vessels were spotted off the Senkaku islands, which China calls the Diaoyus, in the East China Sea at around 2:30 pm (0530 GMT), the coastguard said.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 21 MAY | RAPPLER

30 Chinese vessels, 1 warship sighted in Palawan

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesman Raul Hernandez confirmed on Tuesday, May 21, that around 30 Chinese fishing vessels, including 3 Chinese government ships, have been sighted for more than a week at Ayungin Shoal, part of the Kalayaan Island Group off Palawan. Hernandez said the DFA has already filed a protest with the Chinese Embassy in Manila on May 10 over “the provocative and illegal presence” of the Chinese government ships, two China Marine Surveillance (CMS) ships and one warship, around the shoal.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-PAKISTAN | 24 MAY | THE HINDU

Pakistan releases 45 Indian fishermen

Pakistan on Friday freed 45 Indian fishermen as a gesture of goodwill, but confusion surrounded their release as Indian authorities here were not informed about it. The fishermen were freed from a jail in Karachi and put on a bus that will take them to the eastern city of Lahore. However, official sources said Pakistani authorities had not formally informed the Indian High Commission about their release.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-VIETNAM | 28 MAY | BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK

Vietnam Says Chinese Vessel Rammed Fishing Boat Off its Coast

Vietnam said a Chinese ship rammed a fishing boat off its coast and demanded compensation, marking the first incident between the neighboring countries since China announced a unilateral fishing ban earlier this month. The May 20 clash involved a Vietnamese vessel from the central province of Quang Ngai carrying 15 fisherman, according to a statement posted yesterday on the website of Vietnam’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It took place within Vietnam’s exclusive economic zone, according to the statement, which didn’t specify an exact location.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 28 MAY | ASIAONE

Five rescued after three days adrift

Five men who had been adrift at sea since Friday when their boat ran out of fuel returned ashore safely after they were rescued by a fishermen about 34 nautical miles off Tok Bali here yesterday. Mazlan Mohamad, 43, Mohd Fadzuan Suhaimi, 25, Mohd Osman Mohamad, 36, and Mohd Masdi Che Hassan, 40, were taken to Maritime Enforcement Agency jetty in Tok Bali here at 10.30am. The other victim, Mohd Firdaus Suhaimi, 18, was transferred to a marine police boat and taken to Pengkalan Kubor jetty in Tumpat to get treatment for stomach ache.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 29 MAY | THE NEW STRAITS TIMES

Maritime agency thwarts human trafficking in Kota Tinggi

The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) thwarted an attempt by a human trafficker to smuggle 14 illegal immigrants out of the country in a boat at the waters off Tanjung Pengelih in Kota Tinggi on Tuesday. The illegal immigrants aged between 20 and 45 were detained together with the human trafficker, a local aged 25. MMEA district operation director (Tanjung Sedili) Commander Mustapa Kamal Abas said an enforcement party was patrolling near the area when they found the boat about 10pm.

[Full Report](#)

GULF OF ADEN | 11 JUNE | DEFENCE WEB

EU NAVFOR thwarts Somali pirates

European Union Naval Force warships have rescued fourteen Indian sailors after their dhow was taken over by Somali pirates. On June 5 the master of an Indian dhow sailing in the Gulf of Aden had sent out an alert, saying that his vessel was under attack from 12 armed pirates.

[Full Report](#)

GULF OF ADEN – GULF OF GUINEA | 18 JUNE | BBC NEWS

West Africa piracy overtakes Somali ship attacks

Piracy off the coast of West Africa has now overtaken Somali piracy, a report by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and other seafarers' groups says. It says 966 sailors were attacked in West Africa in 2012, compared with 851 off the Somali coast. West African pirates mostly steal fuel cargo and the crews' possessions, often resorting to extreme violence.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA - VIETNAM | 20 JUNE | CHINA DAILY

Talks establish China-Vietnam fishery hotline

Agricultural authorities from Beijing and Hanoi agreed on Wednesday to establish a fishery emergency hotline, as the leaders of the two countries vowed to prevent disputes from derailing ties. On his first official trip to China, Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang and President Xi Jinping also witnessed the signing of another nine agreements in areas including defense, economy and public diplomacy.

[Full Report](#)

Poor leadership, planning led to USS Guardian hitting reef near Philippines, report finds

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — A series of errors, bad leadership decisions and poor planning contributed to the grounding in January of the USS Guardian on a protected Philippine reef, a Navy investigation released Thursday concluded. The grounding damaged the reef — a World Heritage Site — and caused irreparable hull breaches to the \$212 million ship, which was subsequently decommissioned.

[Full Report](#)

Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy

SINGAPORE | 9 MAY | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Port of Singapore wins 'Best Seaport in Asia' Award

The Port of Singapore once again clinched the 'Best Seaport in Asia' award at the Asian Freight and Supply Chain Awards (AFSCA), retaining its crown as Asia's port of choice. The award was presented to Singapore for an unprecedented 25th time at the 27th AFSCA, which was held in Beijing on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 5 MAY | THE SAIGON TIMES

Vinalines fails to sell debt-laden ships

Vietnam National Shipping Lines (Vinalines) in the first quarter was able to sell only three out of 23 ships put up for sale as the firm is still struggling with debts related to those ships. In a report submitted to the Ministry of Transport, Vinalines said the three ships sold out are Ha Dong of Vinaship, Transco Sun of Transco and New Phoenix of Vinashinlines.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 9 MAY | SHIP & BUNKER

Singapore Starts Commercial LNG Operations

Singapore has started operations of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility with its first commercial LNG delivery, the Wall Street Journal reports. BG Group Plc. (BG) delivered the LNG to state-run Singapore LNG Corp. Pte. Ltd.(SLNG)'s Jurong Island facility, which was built with the goal of making Singapore into a hub for LNG supply in Asia.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 13 MAY | SHIP & BUNKER

Hong Kong Port Strike Had No Impact on Bunker Demand

The recent 40-day strike at Hong Kong's Kwai Tsing container terminal had no impact on bunker demand, bunker suppliers have told Platts."I haven't seen the demand drop (in bunker fuel), only vessels got delayed," a Hong Kong based supplier said. However vessels' bunkering schedules were said to have been impacted by the

strike, which ended last Monday, and although container terminals remained operational, it was at lower rates resulting in delays to loading and discharging schedules.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 16 MAY | BLOOMBERG

Hong Kong April Port Volume Fell 12 % as Strike Diverted Traffic

Hong Kong container throughput fell 12 percent in April from a year earlier as a 40-day strike at billionaire Li Ka-shing's port operations diverted traffic and slowed business at Hongkong International Terminals Ltd. The facility handled 1.734 million TEUs in last month, compared with 1.976 million TEUs in the same period last year, according to data from the Port Development Council. Throughput at the world's third-largest container port declined 7.8 percent from the previous month as workers walked out on March 28, demanding higher wages.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 16 MAY | SHIP & BUNKER

Four Charged in Singapore Bunker Fraud Case

Four people have been arrested in Singapore after authorities acted on information pertaining to illegal bunkering activities in the country earlier this year, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has said. The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) and the MPA found that the vessel *MT Ivory* deliberately delivered a shortfall of fuel to the *MT Front Splendor*, which documentation indicated should have received bunkers totalling 2,662.389 metric tonnes (mt).

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-GREECE | 19 MAY | ZEENEWS

Greece to buy 142 new ships from China

Greek ship owners have recently signed contracts to buy 142 new ships from Chinese shipbuilding companies, notwithstanding the serious economic crisis being faced by Athens. The orders, which were signed in April, accounted for more than 60 per cent of the recent global orders of Greek ship owners.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 20 MAY | THE BULLETIN PANAMA

China Shipping outstripping Maersk in largest container ships

When it seemed that the roof of container capacity was set by Maersk Line when it imposed its Triple-E series, there came a surprise from a Chinese shipping company with an order for five mega container carriers exceeding by 400 containers measured in 20-foot units (TEUs) over the ships of the Danish giant.

[Full report](#)

WORLD | 22 MAY | REUTERS

Maersk seeks to double shipping rates in fragile market

A.P. Moller-Maersk , owner of the world's biggest container shipping company, is "100 percent certain" it can more than double freight rates in July despite market weakness that has seen prices fall by a third since March. Shipping has taken a hammering in the past five years, hit both by the broad weakness of the global economy and a boom in orders for huge new freighters put in by major players just as the 2008 financial crisis hit.

[Full report](#)

WORLD | 23 MAY | CHINA ECONOMIC NET

Container shipping market shows signs of recovery

On the occasion of A-share listed companies releasing their first quarter reports, investors have focused their concerns on the recovery of the shipping industry performance, which suffered the greatest losses in 2012 according to the annual reports of the listed companies. Recently, some "State-owned" shipping companies have also shown their "report cards" of the first quarter this year.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 28 MAY | REUTERS

Money from China? Then “Made in China”, shipowners told

Chinese banks have sharply increased loans to global shipowners as European lenders retreat from the market but some are driving a hard bargain: the finance often comes with the condition that vessels be built in China. The financing has given China's shipyards a lifeline after new orders dropped to a seven-year low in 2012.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 28 MAY | ASIAONE

FutureShip sets up research centre with help of Maritime Cluster Fund

Maritime engineering and consultancy maritime consultancy FutureShip has launched its ECO Research Centre in Singapore with the support of Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) under its Maritime Cluster Fund (MCF). The Centre aims to conduct research to strengthen the GL subsidiary's energy efficiency solutions for its Asian clients.

[Full Report](#)

Nicaragua gives Chinese firm contract to build alternative to Panama Canal

Nicaragua has awarded a Chinese company a 100-year concession to build an alternative to the Panama Canal, in a step that looks set to have profound geopolitical ramifications. The president of the country's national assembly, Rene Nuñez, announced the \$40bn (£26bn) project, which will reinforce Beijing's growing influence on global trade and weaken US dominance over the key shipping route between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

[Full Report](#)

Singapore's Oil trader Hin Leong to spend \$3 bln on Asia expansion

SINGAPORE, June 7 (Reuters) - Singapore oil trader and shipper Hin Leong plans to spend up to \$3 billion to build oil terminals and distribution facilities in emerging Asian markets, including fresh investments in Myanmar and Indonesia, to meet rising oil demand from the region. Projects proposed in the two Southeast Asian nations would account for around \$300 million to \$400 million on top of \$2.7 billion to be spent on storage and terminal assets in China and East Timor, Hin Leong Chairman O.K. Lim said in an interview.

[Full Report](#)

DMCA Inks MoU with Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

The nation's major container shipping companies aim to return to the black this year by deepening cooperation. This collaboration comes at a time when the companies are aiming to find a balance between continuous service expansion and capacity control, and dealing with the oversupply issue that has plagued the industry this year.

[Full report](#)

Oil Spill Response Limited Opens Singapore Base

Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), a global oil spill response cooperative funded by more than 160 environmentally responsible oil and energy companies, announced the opening of a new base with enhanced response capabilities at Loyang in Singapore. The opening of the base is a milestone event for the maritime and oil and gas industries in the Asia Pacific region, bringing together expert personnel and equipment resources in a single place so as to deliver an integrated, swift and effective response to an emergency oil spill incident.

[Full Report](#)