



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

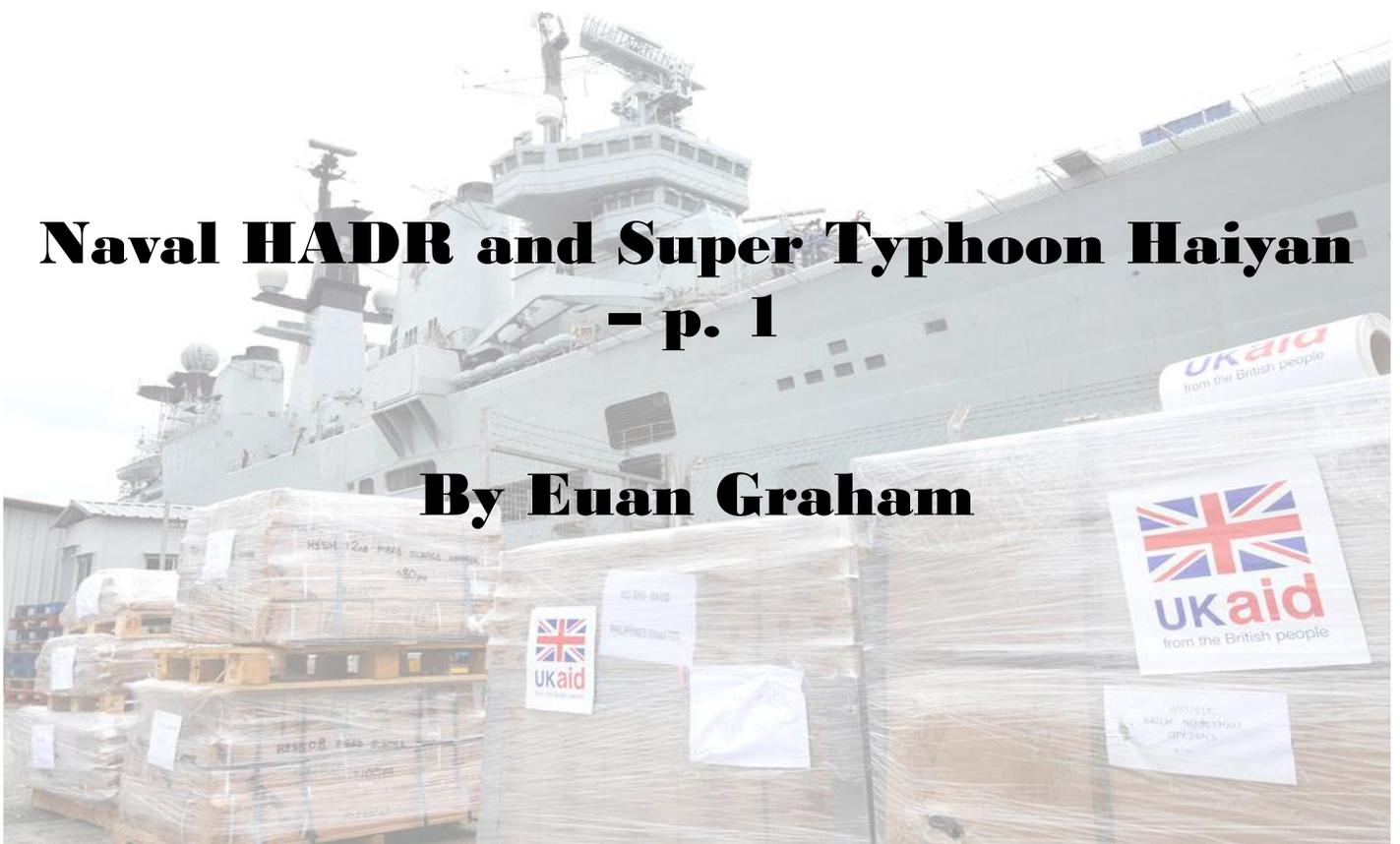
# Broader Horizons

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

## Featured *MSP Perspective*:

### Naval HADR and Super Typhoon Haiyan – p. 1

**By Euan Graham**



**MSP Perspectives:**

Naval HADR and Super Typhoon Haiyan  
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# MSP Perspectives

## Naval HADR and Super Typhoon Haiyan

By Euan Graham  
Senior Fellow, Maritime Security Programme

THE international response to Typhoon Haiyan, which cut a swath of destruction through the central Philippines on 8 November, has underscored the naval dimension to Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in Asia. The U.S., U.K. and Japan all deployed military assets commensurate with their large civilian aid efforts. Several ASEAN members also deployed defence assets, bilaterally, to support the relief operation. However, questions remain about the lack of a coordinated response within Southeast Asia, given the prominence that HADR cooperation has had within ASEAN itself, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ADMM-Plus.

Naval assets are only one part of the HADR toolkit, which remains civilian-led. But navies are often first on the scene. Suitably trained and equipped, they bring ready-made capabilities and skilled personnel for damage assessment, delivering emergency supplies directly to the point of need. Ship-based communications can help to direct the wider relief effort when land-based civilian infrastructure is insufficient.

Navies' ability to operate autonomously offshore confers unique advantages. It can help overcome land-based logistical bottlenecks. Politically, it can also mitigate the sensitivities of local populations towards a foreign military presence. Beyond the "first response" phase, a floating presence just out of sight gives relief workers and vulnerable evacuees temporary respite in a safe "rear area" that carries its own force protection.

As was the case following the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004, a U.S. aircraft carrier and its accompanying escorts were able to respond quickly. The USS George Washington commenced relief operations in the Philippines within the first week, ferrying emergency supplies and fresh water to affected areas. The 21 helicopters within its group, augmented by U.S. Marine Ospreys deployed from Okinawa, provided an indispensable front-end airlift capability for the relief effort. Although the carrier group has now departed, the U.S. Navy's hospital ship USS Mercy is expected to join the relief effort in December after crossing the Pacific.

The U.K. Royal Navy, after a prolonged absence from the region, was fortuitously well placed to respond. HMS Daring, a Type-45 destroyer, was diverted from the South China Sea to deliver assistance near Cebu. HMS Illustrious, with a complement of seven helicopters, was also committed to the relief effort. While Illustrious brings far more capability, the fact that Daring and her crew were able to respond immediately demonstrates the flexibility of other warships in the HADR role.

The naval element is also prominent in Japan's largest peacetime overseas deployment of the Self Defense Forces, involving 1,100 personnel, 16 military aircraft and three ships, including the flat-topped JDS Ise, which can carry several helicopters and a large volume of stores. China's navy also belatedly dispatched a hospital ship to the Philippines.

The more surprising omission was ASEAN, given its recent focus on HADR. For example, an ARF exercise in Thailand this May was designed to "rapidly provide coordinated and effective disaster relief". In June, Brunei and Singapore co-hosted a combined military medicine/HADR exercise "to enhance interoperability and understanding through cooperation and contribution of military assets and personnel from ADMM-Plus nations." ASEAN's Secretary General is also dual-hatted position as ASEAN's Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator.

Singapore, Brunei, Thailand and Indonesia provided mostly air transport in terms of military assistance. ASEAN's Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management did manage to pre-position personnel in the Philippines. However, comments attributed to the Thai and Indonesian foreign ministers in Bangkok on 14 November suggested mounting frustration that ASEAN's response was materialising more slowly than those from extra-regional countries. Thai Foreign Minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul proposed that "a quick response team is needed for ASEAN, the 10 countries have human resources and enough equipment, so it is time to share and cooperate."

At the national level, while ASEAN's armed forces capabilities are limited, even niche contributions can be useful, provided personnel are trained and that a coordinated response plan is worked out in advance. Having made HADR the centrepiece of recent defence cooperation exercises, ASEAN's piecemeal response to the real-life disaster in the Philippines has exposed a need to operationalise HADR rapid response among its members, not only leveraging upon the capabilities of their external partners.

# Naval Development & Policy

CHINA | 27 NOVEMBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

## **Aircraft carrier Liaoning begins drills in sensitive South China Sea with battle group**

China's first aircraft carrier has set off for training exercises in the politically sensitive waters of the South China Sea. It is the first time the Liaoning has carried out drills in the area, parts of which are claimed by Vietnam and the Philippines. Beijing is currently embroiled in a diplomatic row with Japan after Chinese forces set up an air defence zone over the East China Sea over the weekend which includes disputed islands also claimed by Tokyo.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—JAPAN | 1 NOVEMBER | SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

## **Japanese ships disrupt Chinese military exercises**

China's Defence Ministry said on Thursday it has lodged a formal diplomatic complaint over what it called "dangerous provocation" by Japan for shadowing Chinese military exercises in the western Pacific. Sino-Japanese ties have been strained for months by a dispute over tiny islands in the East China Sea believed to be surrounded by energy-rich waters.

[Full Report](#)

NORTH KOREA | 5 NOVEMBER | BBC

## **North Korea reveals warship sinking**

North Korea has revealed that one of its warships sank last month, killing a number of sailors, in a rare admission of military failure. State media reported a visit by leader Kim Jong-un to a naval cemetery for the crew of "submarine chaser No 233". Photographs showed Mr Kim surrounded by more than a dozen gravestones inscribed with the date 13 October. The report said the vessel had been performing combat duties but gave no more information about what happened.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA—UNITED STATES | 5 NOVEMBER | DEFENSE NEWS

## **India, U.S. launch annual Malabar exercises in Bay of Bengal**

NEW DELHI — The Indian and US navies began conducting their annual Malabar joint exercises today in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Tamil Nadu, an annual event since 1992. The exercises will run through Nov. 11. The exercises will include gun-firing, fighter combat operations from aircraft carriers, combating terrorism and maritime interdiction operations exercises.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 7 NOVEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

### **Japan putting missiles on Pacific gateway islands**

TOKYO: Japan is putting missiles on islands marking the gateway to the Pacific, officials said on Thursday, as part of a huge military drill that has unsettled Beijing. The exercise, aimed at bolstering Japan's defence of remote islands, has already seen a launching system and a loader for Type-88 surface-to-ship missiles installed on Miyako island, complete with two missiles.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 18 NOVEMBER | MILITARY NEWS

### **USS Freedom departs from Singapore for final time**

SINGAPORE -- USS Freedom (LCS 1) departed Singapore's Changi Naval Base, Nov. 16, for the final time as part of her maiden overseas deployment to Southeast Asia. Freedom has used Singapore as a logistics and maintenance hub since arriving there April 18. Though Freedom is departing Singapore, she is expected to remain in the region over the coming weeks before beginning the transit back across the Pacific Ocean to her homeport in San Diego.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES--UNITED STATES | 19 NOVEMBER | THE STAR

### **Dramatic U.S. humanitarian effort in Philippines aids Asia 'pivot'**

MANILA/TACLOBAN, Philippines (Reuters) - The U.S. military's response to the devastation wrought by one of the world's most powerful typhoons has been breathtaking. About 50 U.S. ships and aircraft have been mobilized in the disaster zone, including 10 C-130 transport planes, 12 V-22 Ospreys and 14 Seahawk helicopters air-dropping supplies from an aircraft carrier.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 20 NOVEMBER | KYODO NEWS

### **Philippines to build pier, harbor at naval base facing S. China Sea**

The Armed Forces of the Philippines plan to build a pier and harbor at a naval base in Palawan, the island province closest to the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, according to officials and a defense document. Military officials confirmed Wednesday to reporters the plan to build "pier, harbor and support facilities" in Oyster Bay -- the navy's shipyard directly facing the South China Sea.

Full Report Available Upon Request

PHILIPPINES--JAPAN | 21 NOVEMBER | WALL STREET JOURNAL

### **Japan deploys Self Defense Forces to aid Philippines**

TACLOBAN, Philippines—Japanese forces joined international efforts on Wednesday to airlift citizens out of this hard-hit city, vying for greater influence in Asia near the site of a crushing naval defeat in World War II. The Japanese Air Self Defense Forces were set to be joined Friday by three warships of Japan's Maritime Defense Force in what will be one of the Japanese military's largest overseas relief operations.

Full Report Available Upon Request

### **Typhoon Haiyan: China sends navy hospital ship to Philippines**

ZHOUSHAN, China (AP) - Military flags fluttered in the wind aboard China's navy hospital ship Peace Ark as it began a goodwill mission to the Philippines on Thursday, nearly two weeks after the Southeast Asian country was struck by a devastating typhoon that killed more than 4,000 people. The mission was announced earlier this week following days of critical media reports that compared the international outpouring of aid with tepid early offers of assistance from Beijing, which is embroiled in a conflict with Manila over maritime territory.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 25 NOVEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **China's 'destabilizing' move on East China Sea airspace**

Japan and ally the United States sharply criticized China's move to impose new rules on airspace over islands at the heart of a territorial dispute with Tokyo, warning of an escalation into the "unexpected" if Beijing enforces the rules. China's government-run Xinhua news agency published coordinates for a newly established "East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone," which covers most of that sea and includes the skies over the disputed islands.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM—INDIA | 25 NOVEMBER | THANH NIEN

### **India trains Vietnamese navy to handle new Russian subs**

India's navy is training over 500 Vietnamese submariners as part of the countries' resolution to expand bilateral military ties, the Times of India reported last week. During talks between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Communist Party general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong last Wednesday, it was decided that India would issue Vietnam a US\$100 million line of credit for the purposes of enabling the latter to acquire four naval patrol vessels from the former, the report said.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 27 NOVEMBER | THE HINDU

### **INS Vikramaditya sets sail for India**

Ten days after it was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the North Russian shipyard of Sevmash at Severodvinsk, INS Vikramaditya left the yard's pier, setting course for its homeport at Karwar in Karnataka on Tuesday. Commanded by Captain Suraj Berry, Vikramaditya is at the outer anchorage at the time of filing this report, completing customs clearance formalities and bunkering.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 27 NOVEMBER | MINISTER FOR DEFENCE

### **Contract signed to upgrade Collins Class Submarines**

Defence Minister Senator David Johnston today announced the Defence Materiel Organisation has signed a multi-million dollar contract with ASC Pty Ltd to update the control management and monitoring system for the Royal Australian Navy's Collins Class submarines.

[Full Report](#)

**China's presence looms amid massive U.S.-Japanese AnnualEx war games**

USS George Washington, East China Sea (CNN) -- The deafening roar of state-of-the-art warplanes being catapulted into the air from its huge flight deck signaled that the USS George Washington was back in combat mode after its recent detour to the Philippines to take part in the aid effort in the wake of Super Typhoon Haiyan.

[Full Report](#)

# Maritime Safety and Security



SINGAPORE | 30 NOVEMBER | MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY

## **Singapore re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization**

Singapore has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) at the 28th Regular Session of the IMO Assembly in London, on 29 November 2013. Minister for Transport Mr Lui Tuck Yew, who led the Singapore delegation to the IMO Assembly, said, "Singapore is honored to be re-elected to the IMO Council and appreciates the support of our fellow IMO Member States. Singapore takes our responsibility as a Council member seriously and will continue to contribute actively towards the IMO's goal of safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans."

[Full Report](#)

SOMALIA | 2 NOVEMBER | WALL STREET JOURNAL

## **World News: Somali pirates shift course**

Piracy off the coast of Somalia, one of the world's crucial shipping lanes, has plunged this year because of aggressive military and intelligence steps that have made it too costly for seafaring bandits to operate, regional diplomats and naval officials said. The success, however, has had an unintended consequence: The Somali crime lords behind the pirate networks have shifted to other illicit trade, sometimes in partnership with al Qaeda-linked militant groups like al-Shabaab, aiding terrorism in the Horn of Africa, diplomats and intelligence officials said.

Full Report Available Upon Request

MALAYSIA | 8 NOVEMBER | SUN DAILY

## **MMEA steps up patrols to check maritime crime**

KUALA LUMPUR (Nov 8, 2013): The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) is intensifying patrols to check maritime crime, including the abuse of the Malaysian fishing licence by foreign fishermen as well as the use of trawl nets. MMEA Criminal Investigation Branch director First Admiral Datuk Zulkifili Abu Bakar said it was an offence for local fishermen to lease their fishing licence to foreigners as well as use the trawl net as this could destroy marine life.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA—AUSTRALIA | 9 NOVEMBER | JAKARTA POST

## **RI, OZ in maritime standoff**

Indonesia and Australia were involved in a maritime standoff on Friday after Jakarta declined to accept a group of asylum seekers rescued by an Australian vessel. Agus Barnas, a spokesman for the Office of the

Coordinating Political, Legal, and Security Affairs Minister, said the government's policy was that Indonesia should no longer accept asylum seekers from Australia.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA—SINGAPORE | 11 NOVEMBER | BLOOMBERG

### **Pirates take tanker in Strait of Malacca near Singapore**

Pirates hijacked a second tanker in a month off the Malaysian coast near Singapore, Asia's biggest oil-trading hub, according to the International Maritime Bureau. Ten pirates armed with guns and knives boarded a vessel about 7.3 nautical miles (13.5 kilometers) west of Malaysia's Pulau Kukup in the Strait of Malacca, forcing the crew to transfer its gasoil cargo to another ship, the IMB's Piracy Reporting Center said in a Nov. 7 incident report on its website.

[Full Report](#)

SOMALIA—JAPAN | 15 NOVEMBER | KYODO NEWS

### **Somali officials visit Japan Coast Guard for maritime security tips**

YOKOHAMA, Nov. 15 -- Somali government officials visited a Japan Coast Guard base Friday in Yokohama to learn about maritime security strategies which the East African country hopes can help its battle against piracy. Around 20 officials from Somalia saw training facilities and inspected a patrol ship docked at the base, which has been dispatched to areas around the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea at the heart of tensions between Tokyo and Beijing.

Full Report Available Upon Request

SRI LANKA | 15 NOVEMBER | THE HINDU

### **U.S. maritime-security firm wary of "high-crime" Sri Lankan waters**

U.S.-based AdvanFort — the crew on board its ship MV Seaman Guard Ohio was recently arrested by the Tamil Nadu police for trespassing — has announced that it was avoiding the "high-crime" Sri Lankan waters in a bid to protect clients, crew and cargo. It had taken heed of United States Department of State's "Threats to Safety and Security" advisory which warned about the increasing and "ongoing criminal activity around the country, including murder and kidnapping" in Sri Lanka, said the company in a statement posted on its website.

[Full Report](#)

CAMBODIA—JAPAN | 16 NOVEMBER | BANGKOK POST

### **Japan, Cambodia to boost maritime security**

PHNOM PENH - Japan and Cambodia agreed during their summit Saturday that they will seek to enhance maritime security by establishing the principle of the rule of law to settle disputes in the Asia-Pacific region. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Cambodian counterpart Hun Sen also decided to advance cooperation between their defence authorities and work together to improve health and medical care in Cambodia, according to a joint statement released after their meeting in Phnom Penh.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 18 NOVEMBER | SUN STAR

### **Yolanda death toll nears 4000; damage climbs to P10.4B**

Official death toll from Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) that ravaged Central Philippines last week jumped to almost 4,000, based on the latest report of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC). NDRRMC Executive Director Eduardo del Rosario said that based on the disaster bureau's 6 p.m. update on Monday, the death toll has risen to 3,976. Eastern Visayas reported 3,725 deaths. Around 1,602 are still missing and 18,175 were reported injured. The total cost of damage in Yolanda-hit regions has reached P10,384,690,061 with the agriculture sector suffering the largest loss at P9,089,181,461.00.

[Full Report](#)

MALDIVES | 24 NOVEMBER | HINDUSTAN TIMES

### **Maldivian terror alert spurs coastal security review**

Five years after Ajmal Kasab and nine other Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists sneaked into Mumbai via sea from Karachi and wreaked the havoc of 26/11, a Maldivian alert has prompted an intense coastal security review. A few months ago, the Maldivian government shared precise information that they had arrested eight of their citizens lined up by the Lashkar to mount a terror attack in India. What's more, the Lashkar had trained three of these eight recruits in Pakistan.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 25 NOVEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Oil tankers remain at anchorage at Qingdao port following explosion [Update]**

Asia's top oil refiner Sinopec has cut production for at least two of its refineries in China's eastern Shandong province after the pipeline blast which killed 55 people on Friday, industry sources said. The adjustments are part of a juggling of oil refining operations across its plants after the disaster, which has sparked a public backlash and an apology from Sinopec, saying it will conduct safety checks on all its more than 30,000 km of pipelines.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 26 NOVEMBER | MANILA BULLETIN

### **PCG contains bunker fuel leak in Davao**

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has moved to contain the bunker fuel that leaked and spread in the waters off Berth 10, Sasa Wharf in Davao City. Joint forces of PCG Davao Station and Sasa Sub-station were able to recover 350 liters of bunker fuel in their oil containment efforts. In a report reaching the PCG main headquarters in Manila, the bunker oil was declared by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) as used oil owned by Wave Industrial Sales Corp.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 26 NOVEMBER | JAKARTA POST

### **RI to strengthen maritime security by building more patrol boats**

Indonesia's Maritime Safety Coordination Board (Bakorkamla) aims to build more patrol boats to maintain security at sea, an official says. "We have two patrol boats and will build six others by 2014," Bakorkamla

spokesman Vice Adm. Bambang Suwanto said on Tuesday in Manado, North Sulawesi, as quoted by Antara news agency.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA–INDONESIA | 28 NOVEMBER | THE AUSTRALIAN

### **Asylum-seeker disaster risk high as navy stays out of Jakarta's zone**

Indonesia has withdrawn search and rescue co-operation as a consequence of the spying controversy and a vast area of Indonesia's southern search and rescue zone is now virtually without naval monitoring or assistance for asylum-seeker boats in trouble. Fearful of exacerbating tensions with Indonesia, the Australian navy has effectively withdrawn all vessels from the area.

Full Report Available Upon Request

SINGAPORE–MALAYSIA | 30 NOVEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

### **S'pore, M'sia to form sub-committee to look into maritime boundaries**

SINGAPORE: Singapore and Malaysia are to set up a new sub-committee to look into the delimitation of maritime boundaries at Pedra Branca, Middle Rocks and South Ledge. The two sides decided on this when they met to discuss the judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Pedra Branca, Middle Rocks and South Ledge.

[Full Report](#)

# Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy

SINGAPORE | 6 NOVEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

## Experts remain optimistic about opportunities in the shipping industry

The shipping industry is going through choppy waters - currently at the deep end of the down cycle. But industry experts remain optimistic about the opportunities going ahead, and more is being done to support human capital growth in the maritime industry. With more companies pursuing environmentally friendly production practices, shipping companies are aiming to take a slice of their business by going green themselves.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 1 NOVEMBER | SHIP AND BUNKER

## Increase in ship operating costs predicted

Vessel operating costs are expected to rise by more than 3 percent in 2013 and 3.2 percent in 2014, according to a survey by Moore Stephens International. Respondents, largely shipowners and managers in Europe and Asia, predicted that crew wages and P&I insurance costs will each rise by 2.4 percent in 2013 and 2.5 percent in 2014, while lubricant expenses will increase by 2.2 percent each year.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA-INDIA | 4 NOVEMBER | NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

## Indian Ocean countries to boost cooperation: Australian minister

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries have agreed to a stronger collaborative effort on maritime security, economic growth and sustainable development across the regions at their Perth meeting, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Monday. Australia assumed the chairmanship of the annual Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) from India for a two-year term, during the meetings from Oct 30 to Nov 1, 2013, reports Xinhua.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 7 NOVEMBER | MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY

## Singapore moves ahead in the development of LNG bunkering standards

Singapore has taken a significant step forward in the development of the practical operational procedures and standards for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) bunkering operations. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and its appointed consultant, Lloyd's Register, have completed its study on the Technical Standards and Procedures for LNG bunkering in the Port of Singapore.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 12 NOVEMBER | THE HINDU

### **Mumbai ports looking at sites to set up bunker terminal**

Mumbai port proposes to set up a bunker terminal to supply fuel to ships calling at the port. The Port Trust has commissioned consultancy firm i-maritime to prepare a detailed project report, Chairman Rajeev Gupta told Business Line. Currently bunkering is done at the port through barges. "Traditionally, India has never been an attractive place for establishing a bunker terminal. However, the recent reductions in excise and custom duties on fuel give us the feeling that the time is right for a facility in Mumbai," Gupta said.

[Full Report](#)

DENMARK | 13 NOVEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Maersk upbeat on container market**

Danish shipping and oil group A.P. Moller-Maersk raised its earnings forecast after a strong third quarter, pointing to an upturn in the container shipping market that should augur well for the global economy. The group's Maersk Line unit, the world's largest container shipping line and accounting for about 50 percent of group revenue, said its transported volumes rose 11 percent in the third quarter. The business is seen as a bellwether for the global economy as its vessels make up around 15 percent of the world's container shipping capacity.

[Full Report](#)

SRI LANKA | 13 NOVEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Sri Lanka moving forward with port city**

Sri Lanka will sign \$2 billion worth foreign direct investment (FDI) deals, including the \$1.3 billion investment from China Communications Construction Co Ltd to build a port city, the island nation's investment minister said on Wednesday. Along with the port city, Sri Lanka will sign two mixed-development projects totaling \$700 million on Thursday, Investment Promotion Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardhena told reporters in Colombo.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 19 NOVEMBER | SINOSHIP NEWS

### **Xiamen port makes plans for a large petrochemical terminal**

Xiamen port is planning to build a 300,000 tons-class petrochemical berth, the Guleinan No.3 berth. The Gulei port area is destined to be developed as a deepwater port area, mainly servicing the petrochemical industry in the region. The total port project includes 90 productive berths, 61 of them are deepwater berths.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 19 NOVEMBER | SHIPPINGWATCH

### **Alphaliner: South Korea's major ship owners in deep crisis**

The crisis has now gotten a solid hold on the Korean carriers, whose poor finances risk impacting their global expansion plans, says Alphaliner in a new analysis. Since the beginning of the year the stock value of the two biggest carriers Hanjin Shipping and Hyundai Merchant Marine has been trickling down, having declined by

USD 2.4 billion so far, while the third carrier, STX Pan Ocean, has been deferring payments since June and is in the process of selling the remainder of its container fleet.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 19 NOVEMBER | SINOSHIP NEWS

### **Giant iron ore berth set to open in Dandong**

A giant 300,000 dwt class iron ore berth is set to open at Dandong Port before the end of the year. The Lioining outpost on the border with North Korea is positioning the dedicated iron ore berth as a facility to cut costs for steel mills with businesses in the northeast provinces.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 21 NOVEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Paralyzed Philippine port resumes operations**

The Port of Tacloban resumed full commercial operations about 12 days after super typhoon Yolanda partially paralyzed port operations in the entire Samar and Leyte provinces. The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), along with International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI), have been working double time to restart operations at the port, which is expected to become the 'relief hub' in the next couple of days.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 21 NOVEMBER | REUTERS

### **Essar ship with China bound ore arrested in Singapore**

A vessel owned by Essar Shipping carrying iron ore bound for China was arrested in Singapore on Sunday due to a dispute with a bunker fuel supplier, according to sources and the city-state's Supreme Court website. The 106,438-deadweight tonne vessel Kishore, which was on its way to China from Brazil, was arrested by the Supreme Court sheriff because of a dispute with Singapore-based Bunker House Petroleum, two sources said on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

IRAN | 25 NOVEMBER | NEW YORK TIMES

### **Oil prices dip on Iran deal, but exports may not rise**

LONDON — Oil prices dipped and stocks around the world rose on Monday after the news of an agreement to temporarily freeze Iran's nuclear program, but few specialists expected any significant change to consumer energy prices, at least in the short term. Under the interim deal brokered between the United States and other world powers with Tehran, little has changed in market fundamentals.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA—CHINA | 29 NOVEMBER | KOREA TIMES

### **S. Korea, China agree to joint research in Antarctica**

South Korea and China have agreed to strengthen their maritime cooperation that will include the mutual use of their assets in the Antarctic for joint research, the South Korean government said Friday. The agreement came at the latest bilateral talks on maritime cooperation held in Beijing on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.

[Full Report](#)

**Tough times are here to stay for shipping**

Analysts paint bleak prospects for December's Asia-Europe rates hike. Shipping lines will have a tough time making their December Asia-Europe general rate increases last as prices continue to decline and as they face continued volatility in 2014, say analysts.

Full Report Available on Request