



Broader Horizons

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

Featured *MSP Perspective:*

The Indian Navy and 'Look East' Policy 2.0 in Southeast Asia – p. 1

By Ristian Atriandi Supriyanto

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MSP Perspectives

The Indian Navy and ‘Look East’ Policy 2.0 in Southeast Asia

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REGIONS are constructed entities. The geographical distinction of South Asia from Southeast Asia is therefore an artificial construct. As a result, the Indian Ocean, with India as its beating heart, tends to be seen as separate and distant from the Southeast Asian region. This is despite the fact that old civilisational links, facilitated by the sea, had bounded the two regions together for centuries. In contrast, China has emerged as a close partner for most, if not all, Southeast Asian countries. The re-emergence of India as a major power, however, could change the equation.

As regions are artificial constructs, they can be de-constructed and re-constructed anew. Announced in 1991, the ‘Look East’ Policy (LEP) was launched by India to re-connect with Southeast Asia, which has by now emerged under the ASEAN multilateral grouping. While executed mostly in economic terms, the LEP seems to cover a broader scope at the turn of the twenty-first century. “The first phase of India’s ‘Look East’ policy was ASEAN-centred and focused primarily on trade and investment linkages,” said External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, in 2003, but “the new phase...marks a shift from trade to wider economic and security issues, including joint efforts to protect the sea-lanes and coordinate counter-terrorism activities.” This new phase, or LEP 2.0, adds greater thrust to India’s re-connection with ASEAN.

Southeast Asia’s predominantly maritime geography made the role of the Indian Navy (IN) pivotal in spearheading India’s LEP 2.0 into the region. Growing naval cooperation between the IN and the navies of ASEAN should be therefore seen as a natural progression. For some ASEAN navies, cooperation with the IN is a geographical imperative since they share a common maritime boundary. This is the main reason why the navies of Indonesia, Thailand, and Myanmar conduct patrols or exercises with the IN. Others are driven by strategic imperatives to leverage on India’s re-emergence as a major power. Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines are, to some extent, leveraging on India’s maritime power ascent to counterbalance China’s perceived growing maritime assertiveness, and to alternate between other major powers, particularly the United States (US). For Singapore and Vietnam in particular, cooperation with the IN has become a regular pattern of activities and is likely to deepen further in the future.

Certainly, the naval dimension of LEP 2.0 is not progressing without problems. India’s inefficient defence bureaucracy, reluctance to engage in collective defence, and competition from other major powers are but a few examples. Inefficient defence bureaucracy has led to overly complex military procurement process within India itself, let alone in India’s arms export. Vietnam, for instance, has subtly expressed its frustration in acquiring the supersonic Brahmos cruise missiles developed jointly by India and Russia. India’s strategic culture not to enter into a collective defence or alliance also fails to reassure some regional countries of India’s resolve to stand before them during a crisis or conflict. Finally, all these factors contributed to India falling behind other major powers, such as the US, China, Russia, or possibly even Japan, to re-engage ASEAN countries in security terms.

Reversing the trend, however, would require India to reform itself domestically, while keep on projecting itself externally. ASEAN may stand ready to embrace India’s re-emergence, but only if it finds New Delhi a reliable partner. Until then, history will only be the binding factor between the two increasingly important regions.

Naval Development & Policy



CHINA | 31 JANUARY | ASAHI SHIMBUN

Beijing preparing new air defense zone in South China Sea

BEIJING--China is laying out plans to define another new air defense identification zone, but this time in the South China Sea, sources said, which could further escalate tensions in the region. The disclosure is sure to provoke Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, all of whom claim sovereignty over parts or all of the disputed territory, which includes hundreds of islands, cays, shoals and reefs.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 4 JANUARY | HERALD SUN

Australian navy's patrol boat fleet is over worked and under maintained according to a new report

EVERY time one of the navy's Armidale Class Patrol Boats departs from its Darwin base for a people smuggling patrol around Christmas Island the vessel and its crew face a 3000km journey simply to get to work. That means 136 hours or 5.6 days of steaming time from HMAS Coonawarra before the small warship and her 25-strong crew even begin the arduous task of dealing with groups of desperate people who may have invested their life savings in a one-way ticket to Australia in a leaky Indonesian fishing boat.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 7 JANUARY | DEFENSE ONE

U.S. will start cutting its submarine missile launchers next year

The United States next year is slated to begin reducing launch tubes on each of its Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, a new independent report states. The elimination of four operational launch tubes on each of the 14 submarines that make up the Navy's Ohio submarine fleet will be the first substantial reduction in U.S. strategic weapon delivery capability since the 2011 New START accord went into effect, according to Hans Kristensen, who co-authored an assessment on the current status of U.S. nuclear forces.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 9 JANUARY | TIMES OF INDIA

Navy's warhorse INS Vikramaditya berths at home base in Karwar

MANGALORE/KARWAR: India's biggest aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, which will add a new dimension to Indian Navy's operational capabilities, reached the INS Kadamba naval base in Karwar on Tuesday night. The warship, acquired from Russia at a cost of \$2.33 billion, is likely to be homeported at the naval base next week. It is currently stationed in the mid-sea off the Karwar coast.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—INDONESIA | 10 JANUARY | SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Anger grows in Indonesia as video emerges of Aust. Navy turning asylum-seeker boat around

Australia's turning back of at least one asylum-seeker boat to Indonesia has sparked political anger in Jakarta, with senior politicians warning it could further damage the already fraught relationship. The anger came as video emerged of Royal Australian Navy personnel boarding an asylum-seeker boat whose passengers claim they were intercepted near Darwin and towed back to Indonesia over a period of six days.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—FRANCE | 10 JANUARY | ASAHI SHIMBUN

Japan, France agree on development, exports of weapons

PARIS-Japan agreed with France to set up joint committees to discuss development of military equipment and management of weaponry exports in hopes of containing China's rapid expansion in the East China Sea. The decision was reached here Jan. 9 during the first "two-plus-two" dialogue between the two countries' foreign and defense ministers.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—BRITAIN | 11 JANUARY | ASIAONE

Japan, Britain to expand security ties

JAPAN- Japan and Britain have started talks on signing an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement to expand their bilateral security cooperation, it has been learned. The pact, which will allow the two key US allies to cooperate smoothly in peacekeeping operations, antipiracy missions and disaster-relief activities, comes amid China's rapid military buildup and aims to strengthen their security cooperation.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—INDIA—UNITED STATES | 12 JANUARY | TIMES OF INDIA

Japan wants to join India-US naval war games

NEW DELHI: Japan wants to be a part of the naval exercise that India and the US hold every year to make it trilateral, six years after it was kept out of it apparently because of Chinese objections. Japanese defence minister Itsunori Onodera made it clear that the proposed trilateral Malabar-series exercise was not aimed against any specific country and was important for the security of sea lanes in the region.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—CHINA | 12 JANUARY | REUTERS

Japan condemns China fishing curbs; vows to defend islands

(Reuters) - Japan on Sunday joined the United States in criticising China's new fishing restrictions in the South China Sea, saying the curbs, coupled with the launch last year of an air defence zone, has left the international community jittery. Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera made the comment after observing the Japanese Self-Defence Forces' elite airborne brigade conducting airdrop drills designed to hone their skills to defend and retake remote islands.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 19 JANUARY | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Work under way on China's second aircraft carrier at Dalian yard

China is reportedly building a second aircraft carrier, estimated to be completed by 2018, on its way to expanding its fleet to four of the massive ships. Media reports - later deleted from the internet - stated Liaoning party chief Wang Min told a panel of the provincial people's congress that the second carrier was being built in the city of Dalian.

[Full Report Available Upon Request](#)

CHINA | 20 JANUARY | XINHUA

Chinese navy starts open sea drill

SANYA, Jan. 20 (Xinhua) -- A flotilla with China's Nanhai Fleet on Monday set sail from a military port in south China's Hainan Province for a drill in the South China Sea, according to military sources. The drill, part of annual exercises, includes as combat exercises in the West Pacific Ocean and the East Indian Ocean. The three-ship flotilla consists of amphibious landing craft Changbaishan and destroyers Wuhan and Haikou.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES—CHINA | 25 JANUARY | CHINA DAILY

Sino-US naval hotline urged to tackle conflict

US Pacific Commander Samuel Locklear has called on Beijing and Washington to improve communications through a naval hotline to defuse potential conflict. Observers said on Friday the move is an attempt to deepen military relations between the United States and China. However, to achieve this the US should abandon its frequent maritime and air surveillance and reconnaissance activities against China, which have only led to distrust, the observers said.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 25 JANUARY | DEFENSE NEWS

Experts wary over news of China's 2nd carrier

TAIPEI — Experts on China's Navy are sounding cautionary tones after news surfaced last week that China is reportedly constructing a second aircraft carrier. The Chinese-language report from Hong Kong-based Ta Kung Pao, known as a veteran pro-Beijing newspaper, stated that Wang Min, a Communist Party secretary of China's northeastern province of Liaoning, has confirmed the construction of the ship, which unlike its first carrier, is homegrown.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA—CHINA | 29 JANUARY | REUTERS

Malaysia navy chief denies Chinese incursion

Malaysia's navy chief has denied a report that three Chinese navy ships patrolled an area claimed by the Southeast Asian country, saying the Chinese exercise took place hundreds of miles to the north in international waters. Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported that an amphibious landing craft and two destroyers patrolled the James Shoal on Sunday, 50 miles off the coast of Malaysia's Sarawak state, and held a ceremony in which they swore to safeguard Chinese sovereignty.

[Full Report](#)

Japan's Maritime SDF admits losing \$5 million unmanned submarine

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) has admitted that they have lost an unmanned submarine worth around \$5 million that was attached to a survey ship in the Tsugaru Strait which is between the Honshu and Hokkaido islands. The Ministry of Defense has launched an investigation into the matter after nine days of searching for the sub has not brought any results.

[Full Report](#)

Maritime Safety and Security



GLOBAL | 15 JANUARY | ICC-CCS

Somali pirate clampdown caused drop in global piracy, IMB reveals

Piracy at sea has reached its lowest levels in six years, with 264 attacks recorded worldwide in 2013, a 40% drop since Somali piracy peaked in 2011, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Maritime Bureau (IMB) revealed today. 15 incidents were reported off Somalia in 2013, down from 75 in 2012, and 237 in 2011.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 7 JANUARY | BLOOMBERG

Japan to register 280 islands as state property, minister says

Japan will register about 280 owner-less islands within its territorial waters as state property and strengthen management over them, the Minister for Ocean Policy and Territorial Issues said today. The islands are among about 500 that define the borders of Japan's territorial waters according to a survey being conducted by the government, Ichita Yamamoto said at a press conference screened on the Internet.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—INDONESIA | 8 JANUARY | THE GUARDIAN

Supplying lifeboats to asylum seekers may rile Indonesia, Australia warned

A government plan to send asylum seekers heading to Australia back towards Indonesia in supplied lifeboats has the potential to exacerbate tensions between the two countries, an international refugee law researcher has warned. Dr Sara Davies, a senior research fellow with Griffith University's Griffith Asia Institute, said the reported proposal would have "massive implications" in the region and raised questions about Australia's obligations to asylum seekers who found themselves in distress after being "aided and abetted" to turn around.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 10 JANUARY | WALL STREET JOURNAL

Beijing moves to bolster claim in South China Sea

BEIJING—China is trying to bolster the legal basis for its maritime-security forces operating in contested areas of the South China Sea, threatening to complicate fraught relations with southern neighbors and drawing quick criticism from the U.S. A new regulation enacted by the southern island province of Hainan requires non-Chinese fishing vessels wanting to operate in the South China Sea to first obtain permission from China's central government.

[Full Report Available Upon Request](#)

SEYCHELLES—EUROPEAN UNION | 10 JANUARY | MARINELINK

EU, Seychelles conduct counter-piracy exercise

On Friday 10 January, the Seychelles Coast Guard, Air Force and Police Force, together with the EU Naval Force Somalia - Operation Atalanta and EUCAP Nestor, carried out a counter-piracy exercise in the Seychelles. The exercise involved the boarding of a suspected pirate skiff that had attacked a local fishing boat. The 'pirates' were disarmed and taken into custody, along with evidence from the skiff. The Seychelles Coast Guard then handed over the pirates and evidence to the Police Force.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 11 JANUARY | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Enforcement of fishing rules in South China Sea thrown in doubt

Beijing could struggle to enforce new fishing rules in the South China Sea because of difficulties in establishing a centralised coastguard. Lin Yun, director of legal affairs for the Hainan Department of Ocean and Fisheries, said preparations to reform the coastguard were only half completed.

[Full Report Available Upon Request](#)

VIETNAM | 15 JANUARY | VIETNAMNET BRIDGE

Vietnam boosts maritime security

VietNamNet Bridge – Viet Nam has closely co-operated with countries in the Gulf of Thailand in navigation security, the commander of Viet Nam Marine Police, Major General Nguyen Quang Dam said. He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the third annual Commander's Forum – Gulf of Thailand Maritime Enforcement Interoperability Initiative yesterday, Jan 14.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 16 JANUARY | PHILIPPINE STAR

Troops ready to secure Pinoy fishermen amid China rules

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija - The government is ready to provide security escort to Filipino fishermen who will operate in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) as it continues to ignore China's new fishing policy in the disputed area. Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the Philippines would disregard the rules set by China, which has been shoring up its presence in the region.

[Full Report](#)

MYANMAR | 17 JANUARY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

ASEAN ministers urge self-restraint in South China Sea

BAGAN, Myanmar: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers have called for self-restraint in the conduct of activities in the South China Sea. During a retreat in Bagan, Myanmar, on Friday, the ministers reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation and overflight as they discussed developments in the East and South China Sea, as well as on the Korean Peninsula.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA—AUSTRALIA | 17 JANUARY | NEW YORK TIMES

Tension rises between Australia and Indonesia over migrant patrols

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An Indonesian government official said Friday that the country would increase maritime security patrols following an admission by Australia of breaching Indonesia's territorial waters this week during operations to repel boats carrying migrants. The announcement is the latest diplomatic row between the two countries over asylum seekers.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 22 JANUARY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Shipping could suffer from land air pollution

There's a lot of talk about how polluting air emissions from shipping can affect the health of people living in coastal regions. An estimated 200,000 people die prematurely. However, it's not a one-way street. Extreme air pollution in Asia appears to be making storms and cyclones stronger, according to a study by Texas A&M University and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory researchers. This implies that shipping safety could, in turn, be adversely impacted by land pollution.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 28 JANUARY | U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES, PACIFIC

Philippine Coast Guard commandant reinforces need for strengthening maritime security

PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD HEADQUARTERS, Manila, Philippines -- Senior Philippine and U.S. officials observed a maritime domain awareness demonstration at the Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters here Jan. 27. This event was the beginning of the initial phase of the first Philippine-U.S. conceptual program initiatives to enhance Philippine security and defense capabilities, and was spearheaded by the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, (MarForPac) Experimentation Center (MEC).

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 30 JANUARY | REUTERS

White House releases plan to make Arctic shipping safer

(Reuters) - As Arctic ice melts away, opening the way for greater oil development and mining, the White House outlined a plan on Thursday to promote safety and security in the region by building ports, improving forecasts of sea ice, and developing shipping rules. With warmer temperatures leaving Arctic sea passages open for longer periods of the year, billions of barrels of oil could be tapped beyond what is already being produced in the region.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 30 JANUARY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Singapore cleans up bunker spills following two ship collisions

Following the oil spillage from two collisions south of Jurong Island and off Marina South on January 29th and 30th respectively, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has been coordinating the containment and clean-up efforts. Good progress has been made since the start of the operations.

[Full Report](#)

No firing on Indian fishermen in our waters, says Coast Guard

There has been no firing on Indian fishermen in our waters, Indian Coast Guard Director General, Vice Admiral A.G. Thapliyal, said Friday. Asked about the repeated incidents of firing and arrests of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, Thapliyal said all such incidents took place in Sri Lankan waters.

[Full Report](#)



Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy

SINGAPORE | 7 JANUARY | MARITIME PORTS AUTHORITY

Port of Singapore registers good growth in 2013

As the global economy slowly returned to growth, the Port of Singapore maintained its global lead in bunker sales, and achieved good growth in annual vessel arrival tonnage, container and cargo throughput in 2013. The Singapore Registry of Ships also continued to grow in size and ranks among the top 10 worldwide. Singapore is also now home to about 130 shipping groups. The maritime cluster employs more than 170,000 people and contributes some seven per cent to Singapore's Gross Domestic Product.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 7 JANUARY | REUTERS

CNOOC plans \$1.1bn LNG import terminal in Fujian

State-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC), leader of the country's liquefied natural gas import business, plans another receiving terminal in the southeastern province of Fujian, a company official said on Tuesday. China, the world's top energy user but fourth-largest consumer of gas, is rapidly boosting supply of the cleaner-burning fuel by speeding up domestic exploration and lifting imports, both of pipelined gas and in super-chilled form shipped in tankers.

Full Report Available Upon Request

SINGAPORE | 8 JANUARY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Government to make energy and chemicals industry more competitive

Singapore will continue to grow the energy and chemicals industry, and the government stands fully behind energy and petrochemicals companies to help them succeed, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said. Mr Lee was speaking on Wednesday at the opening ceremony of ExxonMobil's Singapore Chemical Plant expansion on Jurong Island. The multi-billion-dollar expansion is the largest manufacturing investment in Singapore. The energy and petrochemicals industry contributes to a third of Singapore's manufacturing output, and has positive spillover effects into other sectors like services and logistics.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 13 JANUARY | KOREA HERALD

South Korea set to introduce electric ships

South Korea plans to introduce its first electric ships this year to help cut energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions of small fishing farms, the government said Monday. According to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, the government plans to provide 1.2 billion won (\$1.13 million) to introduce up to 40 electric ships

each costing about 50 million won. The ships, developed jointly by the ministry and the University of Ulsan, are only about one tenth as expensive to operate as fuel-powered vessels.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 13 JANUARY | SINOSHIP NEWS

Detained Chinese bulkers leave Indonesian ports

More than 20 bulkers that were detained at Indonesian ports have gained permission to leave and are leaving the ports successively after the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia intervened in the matter. Shanghai Erli International Ship Management, a bulk shipping company that operates between China and Indonesia, announced that its vessels "Aeriko" and "Royal Ocean" which were detained at a port of Southeast Sulawesi have already left the port with the help of Chinese Embassy in Indonesia. "As far as we know, currently there haven't been any more legal Chinese ships detained at the ports," the company said in an announcement.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 14 JANUARY | LLOYD'S LIST

December record Chinese oil imports give VLCC owners cause for cheer

Chinese imports of crude oil hit a record 6.33m barrels per day in December, contributing to an extraordinary year-end spike in daily earnings for very large crude carriers. China's import volume in December increased 13% on-year, according to ICAP Shipping. Import growth was driven by some Chinese refineries restarting operations following autumn maintenance and by demand to fill new commercial storage.

[Full Report Available On Request](#)

HONG KONG | 15 JANUARY | SHIP AND BUNKER

New Hong Kong sulphur rules to start April 1

New regulations to be introduced Friday in Hong Kong will reduce the cap on sulfur in locally supplied marine light diesel (MLD) to 0.05 percent starting April 1 if they move forward as planned, according to a government press release. The current limit on sulfur content in the fuel is 0.5 percent. "Marine vessels operating on 0.05 per cent sulphur diesel emit about 90 per cent less sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and 30 per cent less respirable suspended particulates (RSPs) than those operating on 0.5 per cent sulphur diesel," a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) said.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 15 JANUARY | MARITIME PORTS AUTHORITY

MPA cancels two bunker supplier licenses

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) cancelled the bunker supplier licenses of Excel Petroleum Enterprise Pte Ltd and Lian Hoe Leong & Brothers Pte Ltd with effect from 15 January 2014 for contravening the terms and conditions of the bunkering licenses. Both companies were found to have breached Clause 3 of the terms and conditions of the Bunkering License (Bunker Supplier) by allowing other companies to use their Bunker Delivery Notes to supply bunkers. With the cancellation of their bunker supplier licenses, Excel Petroleum Enterprise Pte Ltd and Lian Hoe Leong & Brothers Pte Ltd will no longer be allowed to operate as bunker suppliers in the Port of Singapore.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 18 JANUARY | LIVEMINT

India likely to build 4 LNG ships for transporting gas for GAIL

Indian shipbuilders are likely to construct four of the 14 liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers needed by GAIL (India) Ltd to transport gas from the US beginning September 2017, in a move that would allow local companies to get started in a business that is dominated by South Korea, Japan and China. The LNG ship hiring tender to be issued by the state-owned natural gas firm by the end of the month is worth \$2.8 billion as LNG ships—specifically designed to carry LNG—currently cost about \$200 million to build from scratch.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA-PACIFIC | 21 JANUARY | SHIP AND BUNKER

Asia to drive LNG bunker adoption

More than 3,000 liquefied natural gas (LNG)-powered vessels are set to be commissioned over the next 12 years, pushing the number of such ships in the global fleet up 37-fold, according to a report produced for the LNG Bunkering Summit 2014 that will be held January 27-29 in Amsterdam. The report estimates that global sales of bunker fuels were more than 350 million tonnes in 2013, with 17 percent of that volume sold in Singapore.

[Full Report](#)

MYANMAR | 23 JANUARY | SEATRADE GLOBAL

Unithai ventures into Myanmar with new shipping services

Thailand-based shipyard and logistics group Unithai is setting foot in Myanmar with a new joint venture established with Chin Corp Myanmar. The new joint venture, Unithai Chin Corp Logistics (Myanmar) Limited or Unichin, will provide an entire range of shipping and freight-forwarding services in Myanmar.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 23 JANUARY | SHIP AND BUNKER

Thai carrier buys secondhand bulker for \$19.5M

Thoresen Shipping Singapore Pte. Ltd., a subsidiary of Thoresen Thai Agencies (TTA) says it has acquired a secondhand Supramax dry bulk vessel for \$19.5 million as part of an effort to build an efficient fleet. "The acquisition is part of TTA's on-going fleet renewal plan to develop a fleet of modern and standard dry bulk vessels and increase our operating efficiencies," the company said. "TTA's short-term fleet objective is to have a balanced mix of Handymax and Supramax vessels."

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 28 JANUARY | SEATRADE GLOBAL

Nam Cheong in \$70M offshore vessel deal with Sentinel Marine

Malaysian offshore vessel builder Nam Cheong has contracted five newbuildings worth \$70m for sale to Sentinel Marine. The contracts comprise four Emergency Response and Rescue Vessels (ERRV) and one AHTS to be built under sub-contract at yards in China. The four ERRV vessels have been ordered directly from Nam Cheong, while the AHTS is part of the built-to-stock series of speculative newbuildings.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 28 JANUARY | LLOYD'S LIST

Shenzhen overtakes Hong Kong but seeks to work with rival

Shenzhen wants to set up a port complex with Hong Kong, splitting cargo according to each other's competitive edges, having overtaken its rival to become the world's third-largest container port in 2013. "Hong Kong provides higher-end services with higher charges, while both services and handling fees offered by Shenzhen are lower than those in Hong Kong," Transport Commission of Shenzhen Municipality said in a statement on the Shenzhen Ports Association website.

[Full Report Available On Request](#)

INDONESIA | 30 JANUARY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Indonesian shipping firm slashes fleet by nearly half

Indonesian oil and gas shipping firm PT Berlian Laju Tanker, which narrowly escaped bankruptcy last year, said on Thursday it has cut its fleet size by 44 percent and will transfer a stake in its subsidiary to one of its creditors. The company now has 55 tankers, down from 98 in 2011, and will maintain this level over the next two years even as it sees an improvement in its business due to rising global commodity prices, Director Kevin Wong said at a news briefing.

[Full Report](#)