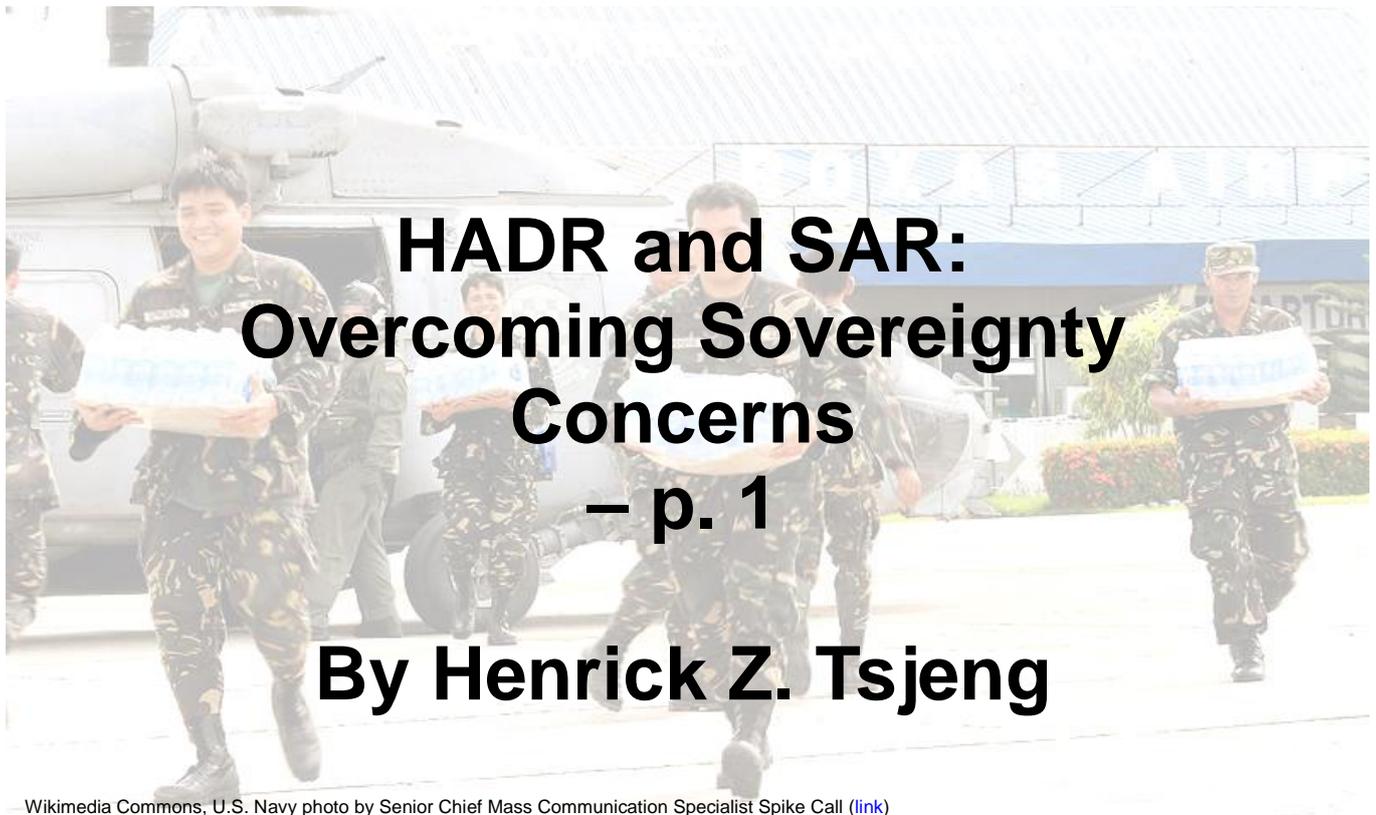


Featured *MSP Perspective*:



HADR and SAR: Overcoming Sovereignty Concerns – p. 1

By Henrick Z. Tsjeng

– Wikimedia Commons, U.S. Navy photo by Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Spike Call ([link](#))

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MSP PERSPECTIVES



HADR and SAR: Overcoming Sovereignty Concerns

Henrick Z. Tseng

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The Indo-Pacific Region is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Recent catastrophes demonstrated the urgent necessity for international cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and search-and-rescue (SAR) in the region.

However, HADR and SAR cooperation in the region is not without its challenges, including an absence of coordination and communication between parties, and the lack of effective institutional mechanisms and infrastructure to deal with a crisis. Most of all, sensitivities surrounding sovereignty considerations compounded by broader geopolitical factors could hamper international cooperation. The main casualty from such tensions is trust – the lack of which inevitably hampers the efficacy of multilateral operation.

Sovereignty concerns emerged in two recent major disasters. In the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, [Indonesia was criticised](#) by the international community for [impeding aid distribution in the stricken areas](#). The same criticism was [levelled against the Myanmar government for its failure to act adequately](#) during the Cyclone Nargis disaster. It should be noted that [Myanmar was in fact more receptive towards India's offer of aid](#), given the relatively warm relations (and high level of trust) between the two countries, and [ASEAN was heavily involved in reconstruction efforts](#) despite international condemnation of the country.

The disasters laid bare the clashing priorities of sovereignty maintenance against openness towards international aid. Sovereignty concerns are unavoidable in some cases during an HADR or SAR operation. As such, countries involved should instead seek alternatives to promote confidence and trust, which could in turn encourage regional states to be more receptive towards international relief.

ASEAN has a certain level of experience in developing a multilateral framework for HADR and SAR cooperation, ranging from the ASEAN Regional Forum and Exercises under the auspices of the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, to the establishment of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management ([AHA Centre](#)). However, both the Typhoon Haiyan and MH370 disasters revealed potential gaps in putting the discussions and lessons learnt into

practice, as well as [the effective usage of mechanisms like the AHA Centre](#). At the heart of these drawbacks were concerns over trust. This was shown when it was reported that countries involved in the search for MH370 [did not release a suitable amount of information on the plane's flight path in a timely manner](#), hinting at a lack of confidence and trust between these countries.

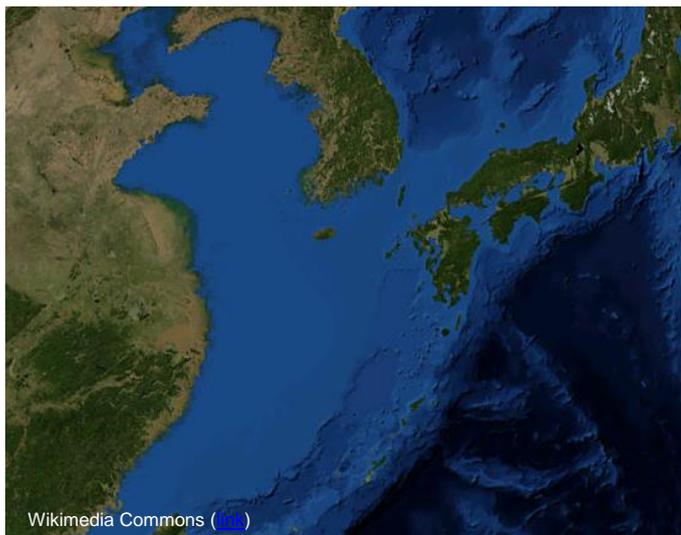
Nevertheless, there were positive indicators. For instance, Japan agreed to send naval assets to join the search for the plane – in which a majority of passengers were Chinese nationals – with China [thanking Japan for the move](#). Furthermore, Singapore's [Information Fusion Centre](#) (IFC) was also tapped to contribute to the search, which was inevitably a multilateral endeavour given the presence of International Liaison Officers in the Centre. While these are small steps towards building at least a measure of confidence, they nonetheless demonstrate that multilateral cooperation is possible despite political challenges.

Ultimately, this is about shifting local government attitudes towards multilateral efforts during a disaster, in a way that is also sensitive towards sovereignty considerations. Towards that end, confidence-building measures as well as engagement through dialogue and exercises should take place even before an incident occurs and continue throughout the course of the incident. These should be long-term efforts rather than ad hoc attempts. Only then can trust be established, which could make a stricken government more receptive to international assistance. As such, exercises or cooperative operations should be organised with trust-building as the main goal.

Other conditions are also essential, such as the existence of a coordinating centre, transparency and the maintenance of personnel-to-personnel relationships. Non-government organisations should also play a role as a neutral and impartial facilitator in HADR operations. Finally, [militaries involved should leave as little a footprint as possible](#) during the operation, so as to offset any suspicions of foreign military involvement or concerns regarding sovereignty and national control.

This item is based on a paper presented during the 3rd Annual RSIS-CNA Workshop held on 27-28 August 2014 in Singapore.

NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY



CHINA—JAPAN | 25 SEPTEMBER | BLOOMBERG

China-Japan maritime talks resume amid territorial spat

China and Japan resumed high-level talks on maritime issues, as the two nations seek to smooth relations strained by a territorial dispute. Officials exchanged views on the East China Sea and maritime cooperation in a two-day meeting held Sept. 23-Sept. 24 in the eastern China port of Qingdao, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported yesterday.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA—SINGAPORE | 4 SEPTEMBER | XINHUA (GLOBAL POST)

Singapore, Indonesia ink key maritime boundary treaty

SINGAPORE, Sept. 3 (Xinhua) -- Singapore and Indonesia Wednesday signed a key treaty on the maritime boundary between the two countries in the eastern part of the Strait of Singapore. The treaty was signed by foreign ministers of the two countries at a ceremony under the witness of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA—UNITED STATES | 8 SEPTEMBER | SEAPOWER

CNO: Malaysia offers U.S. P-8 detachment site

ARLINGTON, Va. — Malaysia has offered the use of a base in East Malaysia on the island of Borneo to the United States as a site for detachments of Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft. Speaking Sept. 8 about the Asia-Pacific strategic rebalance to an audience at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, Chief of Naval Operations

(CNO) ADM Jonathan W. Greenert said that “recently, the Malaysians have offered us to fly detachments of P-8s out of East Malaysia.”

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—CHINA | 9 SEPTEMBER | MARINE LINK

ADF deploys with Chinese Navy hospital ship

Two Australian Defense Force (ADF) medical officers have joined the Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) - Navy hospital ship Peace Ark on its medical assistance mission currently under way in the South Pacific.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—UNITED STATES | 10 SEPTEMBER | BLOOMBERG

China urges U.S. to halt close up surveillance of army, navy

The U.S. should stop its “close in” aerial and naval surveillance of China, a senior Chinese military officer told President Barack Obama's National Security Adviser Susan Rice, the PLA Daily reported. General Fan Changlong told Rice on the last day of her three-

day visit to Beijing that China hopes the U.S. can take the “correct view” of the development of China’s military, better manage and control frictions, and decrease and even stop close-in military, ship and aircraft surveillance, the state-run newspaper of the People’s Liberation Army.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 11 SEPTEMBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

China shows off advanced ship missile defence system

China has shown off the People's Liberation Army's latest hardware on primetime state television, an advanced short-range missile defence system said to have a “high success rate” destroying incoming missiles and aircraft.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 11 SEPTEMBER | ASIA ONE

Singapore Navy starts building first of 8 coastal warships

SINGAPORE - Construction has started on the first of eight locally-built warships for the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), also known as the Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV). This milestone was marked with a keel laying ceremony on Thursday at Singapore Technologies Marine in Jurong on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)



Wikimedia Commons, U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Declan Barnes (USN)

UNITED STATES | 12 SEPTEMBER | STARS AND STRIPES

Valiant Shield 2014: 18,000 servicemembers gathering for Guam joint exercise

An estimated 18,000 servicemembers are arriving in Guam for the Valiant Shield, which remained on track despite the crash of two fighter jets scheduled to participate. The biennial maneuvers, which begin Monday and continue through Sept. 23, will include personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine

Corps, according to a statement from the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

[Full Report](#)

NORTH—SOUTH KOREA | 14 SEPTEMBER | YONHAP

S. Korea spots indications of N. Korea's submarine rocket development

SEOUL, Sept. 14 (Yonhap) -- South Korea's military confirmed Sunday it has detected signs of North Korea's development of a submarine-based ballistic missile launch system. In a report to an opposition lawmaker, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said there is an indication that the North is developing a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—JAPAN | 14 SEPTEMBER | IHS JANE'S NAVY INTERNATIONAL

Australia leaning towards buying Soryu-class subs

Despite political opposition and apparently contradictory ministerial statements, it appears increasingly likely that Australia will replace its Collins-class submarines with 4,200-tonne Soryu-class submarines built in Japan.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—SINGAPORE | 15 SEPTEMBER | IHS JANE'S 360

Australia sends Armidale-class ships to Singapore for repairs

At least two Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Armidale-class patrol boats have been sent to Singapore in 2014 for repair and maintenance work, an Australian Department of Defence (DoD) spokesperson has confirmed. According to the DoD, HMAS Maryborough (95) and HMAS Bathurst (85) were dispatched to Singapore's state-affiliated shipyard ST Marine by the vessels' appointed in-service support contractor DMS Maritime Pty Ltd.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—UNITED STATES | 17 SEPTEMBER | REUTERS

U.S. welcomes China's first-time attendance at naval forum

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Top U.S. Navy officials welcomed China's first-time attendance at a 113-nation naval forum on Wednesday but made clear that despite progress in U.S.-Chinese military interaction, more work is needed to avoid incidents that could trigger a crisis.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 18 SEPTEMBER | TAIWAN TODAY

Ma oversees Han Kuang military naval exercises

President Ma Ying-jeou oversaw the annual Han Kuang military naval exercises in his capacity as commander in chief of the ROC armed forces from Keelung-class destroyer Tsoying Sept. 17 off the east coast of Taiwan. Ma's involvement in the largest joint maritime interdiction drill held in Taiwan since 1989 represented his first time presiding over a live-fire operation since taking office in May 2008.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—RUSSIA—UNITED STATES | 20
SEPTEMBER | MILITARY.COM

U.S. Navy issues warnings on Russia, China's submarine fleets

The Navy's top Atlantic Submarine Force commander said Thursday that Russia and China's ballistic missile submarine development will impact how the U.S. deploys its fleet. Navy Vice Adm. Michael Connor said global threats today are far more numerous and dispersed compared to the Cold War when the U.S. focused solely on Russia.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—PHILIPPINES | 24 SEPTEMBER |
PEOPLE'S DAILY

Philippine, Japanese navies to hold sea drills

MANILA, Sept. 24 -- The navies of the Philippines and Japan will conduct sea drills off the western Philippine province of Palawan on Thursday, a military official said Wednesday. Philippine Navy Public Affairs Officer Lieutenant Commander Marineth Domingo said the Passing Exercise (PASSEX) will involve BRP Ramon Alcaraz and a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel Japan Defense Ship (JDS) Hatakaze.

[Full Report](#)

MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY



GLOBAL | 25 SEPTEMBER | ALL AFRICA

UN urges ratification of conventions to protect global seaways

The implementation of measures ensuring shipping safety, maritime security and the protection of the marine environment can only be guaranteed if Member States ratify conventions enshrined by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations officials said today. Marking the annual observance of World Maritime Day, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon celebrated the IMO's contribution towards making global shipping "progressively safer, more secure and more environment-friendly" through over 50 conventions aimed at safeguarding the world's seaways.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—NEW ZEALAND | 3 SEPTEMBER | XINHUA (GLOBAL POST)

New Zealand, Australia jointly upgrade maritime safety surveillance

WELLINGTON, Sept. 3 (Xinhua) -- The New Zealand and Australian maritime search and rescue authorities have signed an agreement to improve emergency operations across the Pacific, Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) announced Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 6 SEPTEMBER | TIMES OF INDIA

India's air and maritime shield against terror stronger, but gaps persist

NEW DELHI: Indian airspace and coastal boundaries are still far from becoming impregnable but the armed forces are now much more confident about thwarting terror threats emanating from either "rogue" planes or militants using the sea route.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 14 SEPTEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

14 killed, 12 missing as boat sinks in Indonesia

JAKARTA: A boat sank on Sunday (Sep 14) in bad weather off eastern Indonesia, killing at least 14 people and leaving 12 others missing, an official said. The long wooden boat carrying 35 passengers went down in the waters off Sula islands after it was hit by towering waves in rough weather, National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 14 SEPTEMBER | BBC

Scores rescued after Philippines ferry sinks

At least 100 people have been rescued, and two confirmed dead, after a ferry sank in bad weather in the central Philippines on Saturday. However, the Maharlika II only had 84 people listed as being on board, so authorities cannot say how many more may be missing.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 15 SEPTEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Illegal sale of marine gas oil: 58 arrested, 6 boats seized

SINGAPORE: The Police Coast Guard has busted seven groups involved in the illegal sale of marine gas oil (MGO) since 2013, with the most recent case on May 21 this year. The Coast Guard has arrested 55 foreign crew members and three Singaporean financiers involved in these cases, the Singapore Police Force said on Monday (Sep 15). The most recent case in May revolved around a foreign-registered tugboat, which was involved in the illegal sale of 10,000 litres of MGO at the sea off Penjuru.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 19 SEPTEMBER | MARINE LOG

IMO panel drafts safety code for LNG fueled ships

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014 — An IMO panel has agreed a draft International Code of Safety for Ships using Gases or other Low flashpoint Fuels (IGF Code). The code, which would become mandatory under proposed amendments to SOLAS, sets out mandatory provisions for the arrangement, installation, control and monitoring of machinery, equipment and systems using low flashpoint fuels, such as liquefied natural gas (LNG).

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN—CHINA | 22 SEPTEMBER | WANT CHINA TIMES

Taiwan rescues four mainland fishermen in cross-strait operation

Four fishermen from mainland China were rescued by a Taiwanese fishing boat during a joint rescue operation in the waters north of the disputed Diaoyutai (Senkaku) islands, according to our Chinese-language sister newspaper Want Daily. The rescue operation began following the sinking of a Chinese fishing boat on Sept. 17. The search crew — several Chinese coast guard vessels and fishing boats — was put under the command of the Ministry of Transport's Donghai Rescue Bureau. Later on, Taiwan was also invited to join the operation.

[Full Report](#)



INDIAN OCEAN | 29 SEPTEMBER | MALAY MAIL

MH370: Search mission to enter new phase

SYDNEY, Sept 29 — The search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 enters a new underwater phase this week almost seven months after the jet went missing, with two specialist ships to join the hunt. MH370 disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8 with 239 people onboard and no trace of the Boeing 777-200 has been found despite a massive air, sea and underwater search.

[Full Report](#)

PAKISTAN—INDIA | 30 SEPTEMBER | AL JAZEERA

Pakistan arrests dozens of Indian fishermen

Pakistan has arrested 25 Indian fisherman for violating the territorial waters of the country, its maritime security agency has said. The fishermen were detained and their boats seized on Sunday morning, the agency said on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA—AUSTRALIA | 30 SEPTEMBER | ABC RADIO AUSTRALIA

Montara oil spill: Indonesia requests Australia's cooperation on resolving dispute

The Indonesian government has formally requested Australia's cooperation in resolving a dispute over an oil spill that it says had a devastating impact on coastal communities. In August 2009 the wellhead blew at the Montara platform in Australian waters and crude oil spewed out into the Timor Sea for 74 days.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES—RUSSIA | 30 SEPTEMBER | USNI NEWS

Former Coast Guard Commandant: U.S. and Russia working together In Arctic

The former commandant of the Coast Guard said that while “we work with Russia now” on fisheries

agreements and more, “we really need them for the [Arctic Council] to be effective” in ensuring safe economic development, mitigating climate change, and assisting those living in the region.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 30 SEPTEMBER | BLOOMBERG

Korea says all passengers rescued from sightseeing ship

South Korea's coast guard said it rescued all passengers and crew from a sightseeing ship stranded off the country's southwest coast today. All 105 passengers and five crew were rescued from the 171-ton 'Vacance' sightseeing vessel, which ran aground off the island of Hongdo, about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southwest of Seoul, at 9:10 a.m. today, a coast guard official said by phone in Mokpo, asking not to be named citing official policy.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA | 30 SEPTEMBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Shipping turns to private security as maritime threat rises in SE Asia

KUALA LUMPUR: South East Asian waterways are among the busiest in the world. Each year, almost 50,000 ships - carrying half the world's trade and one-third of global oil - ply the narrow Straits of Malacca across the South China Sea to meet the burgeoning demands of East Asian economies. This important shipping lane is now the world's most dangerous - the number one hotspot for piracy and other international crimes.

[Full Report](#)

SHIPPING, PORTS AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



Maersk Line, Wikimedia Commons ([link](#) and [license](#); image cropped)

ASIA | 10 SEPTEMBER | LLOYD'S LOADING LIST

Asian container ports struggle with the worst congestion in 20 years

Congestion at key Asian ports is the worst it has been over the last 20 years and the situation looks set to continue, according to two executives from one intra-Asia carrier. Speaking to Containerisation International, MCC Transport chief executive Tim Wickmann and chief commercial officer Naresh Potty said that schedule reliability was becoming increasingly difficult to maintain because of the congestion, which began around March.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 2 SEPTEMBER | XINHUA

China opens South China Sea cruise route

SANYA, Sept. 2 (Xinhua) -- A cruise route, linking the city of Sanya in the southernmost Hainan Province with the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea, opened on Tuesday afternoon. About 200 tourists are aboard the maiden voyage on the Coconut Princess, which will take 12 hours to arrive in the Xisha Islands, according to Ye Wei, deputy general manager of Hainan Strait Shipping Co., the cruise operator.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 9 SEPTEMBER | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

More work, less profit for Chinese shipbuilders

The latest data by the China Association of National Shipbuilding Industry (CANSI) reveals that Chinese shipbuilding companies received more orders but recorded declining profits in the first seven months of 2014, China Daily reports.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 8 SEPTEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Thai government approves Asia Europe shortcut

Thai authorities have given approval in principle for the Pak Bara deep sea port development that which could cut transit times from Asia to Europe. The new port on the Andaman Sea will connect by road and rail to another deep sea port in Songkhla province in the Gulf of Thailand, allowing ships to avoid the longer route via the Strait of Malacca.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA—MIDDLE EAST | 10 SEPTEMBER | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Demand in developing countries to spur liquid fuels consumption

World petroleum and other liquid fuels consumption will increase 38% by 2040, spurred by increased demand in the developing Asia and Middle East, according to projections in International Energy Outlook 2014, released on Tuesday by the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

[Full Report](#)

WEST AFRICA | 11 SEPTEMBER | LLOYD'S
LOADING LIST

Ebola could demand additional charter clauses says law firm

The British International Freight Association (BIFA) has highlighted a report by UK-based commercial law firm, Hill Dickinson, warning ship owners and charterers that they may have to draft additional clauses for charters that see ships calling in Ebola-affected countries.

[Full Report](#)



GLOBAL | 12 SEPTEMBER | WORLD MARITIME
NEWS

Shipbuilders need closer global ties

CESS, Committee for Expertise of Shipbuilding Specifics (CESS) held its annual meeting in Nantes, France on 28 August, 2014 where the member associations from Japan, Europe, China, Korea and U.S.A. gathered and discussed key issues surrounding the global shipbuilding industry, in particular, the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, where the maritime industry continues to focus on improvements for existing vessels.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—MALDIVES | 15 SEPTEMBER | CHANNEL
NEWSASIA

China's Xi wins Maldives backing for 'maritime silk route'

MALE: China's President Xi Jinping secured Maldivian support on Monday (Sep 15) for a "21st century maritime silk road" as he began a South Asian tour in the strategically located Indian Ocean atoll nation. The Maldives is best known for its tourist industry but also straddles major international shipping lanes, and Chinese investment there has grown significantly as Beijing tries to secure vital trade routes.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 15 SEPTEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Key China indicator reveals slowdown - BIMCO

The slowdown in Chinese industrial production growth adds to the existing concerns that China is going through challenging times, as Beijing aims for a soft landing and a transition of the economy. The demand for dry bulk shipping and container shipping is bound to change accordingly.

[Full Report](#)

CANADA—ASIA | 16 SEPTEMBER | WORLD
MARITIME NEWS

Canada's energy sector looking towards Asian markets

The latest HSBC Global Connections Trade Forecast – which focusses on trends in Canada's energy sector – advises that global economic activity is expected to strengthen over the coming year, and increased momentum in the US and China should lift Canada's exports in the short run.

[Full Report](#)

INDIAN OCEAN | 17 SEPTEMBER | SEYCHELLES
NEWS AGENCY

Seychelles, Mauritius and Australia announce blue economy partnerships

Seychelles and Australia have indicated their willingness to partner up in their efforts to harness the potential of the Indian Ocean. Seychelles' Foreign Minister, Jean-Paul Adam, was invited to join a high-level dialogue on maritime security and the ocean economy in Mauritius, attended by the Mauritian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Arvin Boolell and their Australian counterpart, Julie Bishop.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 19 SEPTEMBER | WORLD MARITIME
NEWS

MUA urges protection of Australian jobs in coastal shipping

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) has urged the Abbott Government to protect Australian jobs, the maritime skills base and the environment when considering changes to laws covering coastal shipping.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 22 SEPTEMBER | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Japan holds firm on whaling programme

Japan is not backing down from its decision to pursue whaling despite the non-binding decision of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to limit. Japanese 'scientific whaling' programme. Japan described the resolution as "regrettable", but said it would proceed with a new round of culls in the Southern Ocean next year.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 22 SEPTEMBER | SUN STAR

Filipino seafarers could lose jobs in EU ships if PH training schools fail audit

EIGHTY thousand Filipino seafarers employed by European vessels could lose their jobs if training facilities in the Philippines fail international standards. The European Maritime Safety Agency (Emsa) will conduct a final audit by the end of this month or early next month to determine if the Philippines complies with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification & Watchkeeping for seafarers.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 25 SEPTEMBER | REUTERS

Manila's port gridlock puts squeeze on Philippine economy

Philippine furniture maker Betiscrafts Inc should have delivered a shipment of custom-made chairs to Middle East customers last month. But a cargo from China of imported fabric needed for the upholstery has been held up by severe congestion at Manila's main port, where containers have piled up since February when a daytime ban on trucks plying the city roads came into effect.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 28 SEPTEMBER | REUTERS

China announces rule changes to jump-start Shanghai zone investment

China has introduced a fresh round of regulatory changes in the Shanghai Free Trade Zone in a bid to jump-start interest in the district, which has been struggling to attract more overseas companies, a government website said on Sunday.

[Full Report](#)