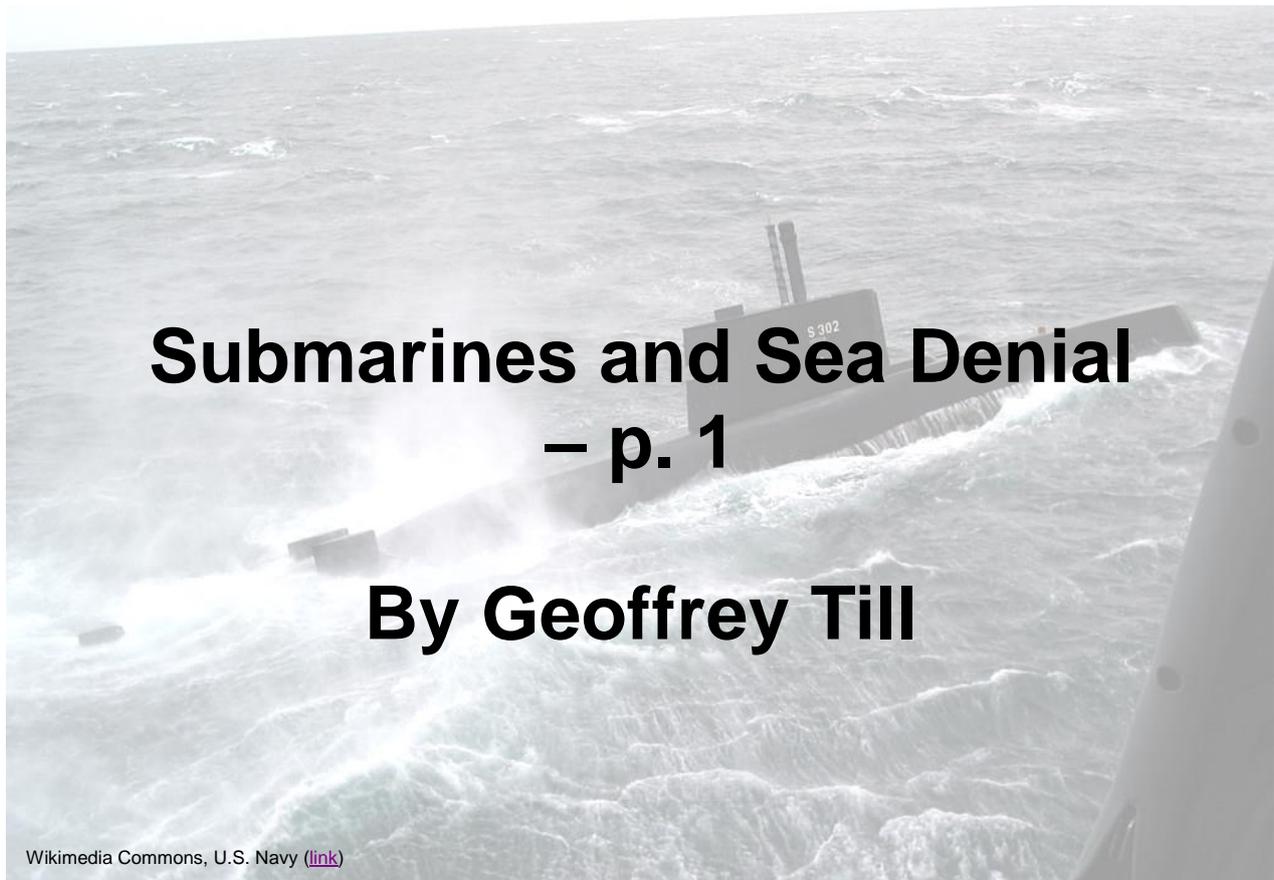


## Featured *MSP Perspective*:



### Submarines and Sea Denial – p. 1

**By Geoffrey Till**

Wikimedia Commons, U.S. Navy ([link](#))

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Sea Denial  
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# MSP PERSPECTIVES



## Submarines and Sea Denial

Geoffrey Till

Visiting Professor, Maritime Security Programme

The much expected news that [Taiwan is seriously considering building its own submarines after a long failure to acquire them from a variety of foreign sources](#) comes as no surprise. If surprise there is, it would be that they have not done this earlier.

The Taiwanese Navy suffers from having to operate some of the oldest submarines in the world. The fact that they are still capable of going to sea strictly for training purposes, and more importantly coming back safely, speaks to the Taiwanese Navy's professionalism, especially bearing in mind that the Argentine Navy had severe problems in keeping the same Guppy class submarines operational back in 1982 over 30 years ago during the Falklands war.

In addition to their two Guppys, the Taiwanese have two other Dutch-built submarines which were commissioned in the 1980s. This particular deal elicited much anger in Beijing and made all other possible suppliers of diesel submarines very wary of incurring Chinese political and economic wrath in the same way, especially given the size and attractiveness of the Chinese market from which they might be excluded. The US, on the other hand, stopped producing diesel submarines years ago and is also averse to rattling China's cage too much.

So, analysts will now be wondering whether the Taiwanese are capable of producing their own submarines in a reasonable time span and what its consequences would be if they did. Bearing in mind the quality of Taiwan's ship-building and electronic industries, and the fact that they have already built vessels ranging from very large oil tankers to seven navy frigates, it seems reasonable to conclude that they could probably acquire any specific production and design capabilities that they were not capable of delivering themselves through their covert access to the global defence market world, now including, perhaps, Japan.

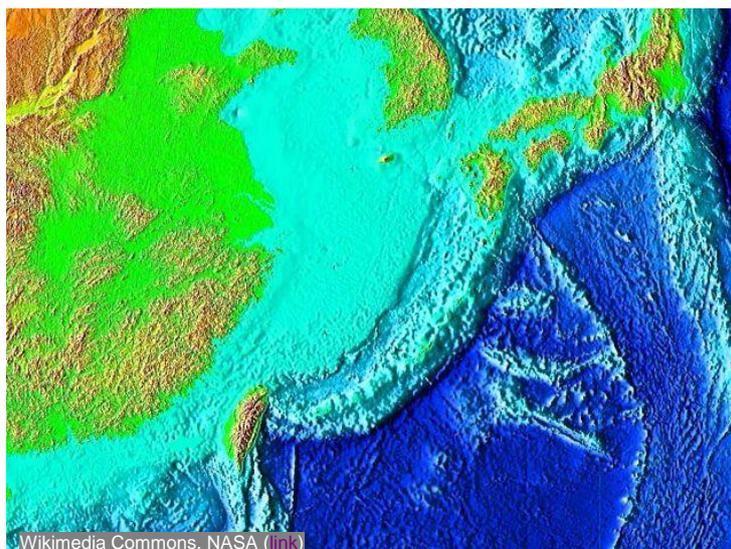
It would however still be a major and an expensive undertaking at a time when the Taiwanese defence budget is shrinking and cross strait relations between

Taipei and Beijing have much improved. So what is the motivation for the programme? It appears to be yet another response to China's growing naval power.

There is a growing sense in Taiwan that China could mount a successful invasion of Taiwan at bearable cost in the fairly near future. This is not to suggest that any such thing is expected, more that the knowledge that it could, is likely to affect the negotiation dynamics of the political discourse between the two parties in a way which reduces the prospect of the Taiwanese securing the kind of settlement they seek. Current developments in Hong Kong may be reinforcing that concern. A few submarines – the idea of Taiwan wanting eight of them in due course has been bandied about since 2001 – might make a substantial difference, because they would introduce another distinctly asymmetrical sea denial capability into PLA Navy calculations about the possible costs and risks of operations in the Taiwan Strait, alongside Taiwan's new fast attack craft and anti-ship missiles. It would thus add to the deterrent effect of Taiwan's defence preparations and could restore an element of negotiating balance between the two sides.

Beijing, on the other hand, would no doubt be furious, but would perhaps be wary of giving too much encouragement to President Ma's more independence-minded opposition by excessive blustering. For its part, the PLA Navy would doubtless take this as further evidence that having a sea denial capability within the First Island Chain is not enough. It is already developing its own sea control capabilities in the region as a kind of 'Air-Sea Battle with Chinese characteristics,' and such provocations would certainly reinforce these intentions.

# NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY



CHINA—JAPAN | 16 OCTOBER | MAINICHI

## Japan proposes dialogue with China to settle spat

The Japanese government has proposed to China to resolve the Senkaku Islands issue through intergovernmental talks, and both countries have begun adjusting their positions ahead of possible bilateral summit talks next month, it has been learned. The move is aimed at laying the groundwork for the first possible meeting between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference scheduled for November in Beijing.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 6 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

## Lost and found: Missing Malaysian navy ship located

The Royal Malaysian Navy has found one of its gunboats which was reported missing off the coast of Sabah early Monday morning. Navy chief Abdul Aziz Jaafar in a series of tweets said that the vessel was located at nearly 7 p.m. (local Malaysian time) and the crew of seven was safe, except that they were "starving".

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 6 OCTOBER | STARS AND STRIPES

## Navy debuts unmanned robotic boats with new swarm capability

Two months ago, the Navy launched a fleet of "swarm boats" against a simulated enemy target – with no sailors on board. The successful demonstration of unmanned boats offers a view how the Navy could

fight in the decades ahead, and could be fielded by next year. The August exercise simulated the transit of a large Navy vessel through a strait. The mission of the swarm boats was to protect the high-value ship as it navigated the narrow waters.

[Full Report](#)

N. —S. KOREA | 6 OCTOBER | REUTERS

## South, North Korea ships fire shots at disputed sea border

A South Korean naval ship fired warning shots on Tuesday after a North Korean patrol boat crossed a disputed sea border off the peninsula's west coast and fired shots back before retreating, a South Korean defense official said. There were no casualties on the South Korean side and none of the shots by either side was aimed at the other's vessel, he told Reuters.

[Full Report](#)

### **Vietnam, China agree to avoid armed conflicts in East Sea**

Visiting Vietnamese Defense Minister General Phung Quang Thanh and his Chinese hosts including his counterpart Chang Wanquan agreed to prevent armed conflicts from occurring between the two countries in the East Sea. The agreement was reached during the talks between the two sides in Beijing during the Vietnamese official's four-day visit that wrapped up on Sunday, General Thanh told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing eighth session of the 13th National Assembly in Hanoi on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 22 OCTOBER | BANGKOK POST (AFP)

### **China 'installs buoys' in Pacific Ocean**

China has installed 17 sets of submerged buoys in "key marine areas" of the western Pacific Ocean, state media said, a move that could exacerbate territorial tensions in the region. The mission carried out by the Chinese research vessel Kexue "marks the first time that China has put an array of submerged buoys on such a big scale", the official Xinhua news agency reported late Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA—UNITED STATES | 24 OCTOBER | NEW YORK TIMES

### **U.S. and South Korea agree to delay shift in wartime command**

The United States has moved to ease jitters among conservative South Koreans by agreeing to delay the return of wartime control of the South Korean military to Seoul until its forces are better prepared to deter North Korea's nuclear and missile threats or fight it in a war.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—UNITED STATES | 24 OCTOBER | WALL STREET JOURNAL

### **Underwater drones join microphones to listen for Chinese nuclear submarines**

Last November, an unusual experiment took place in the congested waters of Singapore just a few weeks before a Chinese nuclear attack submarine passed through the adjacent Malacca Strait. U.S. and Singaporean researchers used an underwater drone named Starfish to explore ways to monitor subsea activity in an experiment sponsored by the U.S. military and Singapore's defense ministry, say people involved.

[Full Report](#)



Wikimedia Commons, Jon Dasbach, U.S. Navy ([link](#))

JAPAN | 24 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **Japan could deploy minesweepers off S. Korea in war with North, U.S. admiral says**

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision to let Japan's military fight overseas could open the way for the country to deploy minesweepers in South Korean waters in the event of a war with North Korea, a senior U.S. admiral said on Friday.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 26 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **Taiwan eyes homegrown submarines after 13-year wait on U.S. deal**

Taiwan is moving ahead with plans to build its own submarines, with an initial design to be completed by the year-end, after lengthy delays in getting eight vessels under a 2001 U.S. defense deal and as China's navy expands rapidly. While major obstacles remain, such as overcoming significant technical challenges and what would almost certainly be strenuous objections from Beijing, a political consensus has emerged in Taiwan in recent months that it can wait no longer, officials and lawmakers said.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 27 OCTOBER | IHS JANE'S

### **CSSRC showcases plans to build floating docks for Spratly Islands**

China is developing floating docks to support its land reclamation projects in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, according to shipbuilding industry officials and information provided at the Shiptec China 2014 exhibition in Dalian.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA—VIETNAM | 28 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

**Vietnam PM seeks India support on maritime row**

Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has sought India's support to resolve territorial disputes in the South China Sea, local media reported on Monday (Oct 27), in a bid to shore up regional alliances as relations have soured with Asian giant China. Tan, who is on a two-day visit to India, is due to meet Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on Tuesday (Oct 28), and is expected to discuss strengthening regional alliances at a time when both countries have seen relations with China strained over territorial disputes.

[Full Report](#)

207 times to respond to incursions by Chinese aircraft between April and September, up from 149 cases during the same six-month period last year.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES—INDONESIA | 28 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA POST

**US seeks to improve maritime cooperation with Indonesia**

The US government has expressed interest in improving maritime cooperation with the government following the commitment expressed by President Joko Widodo to strengthen Indonesia's maritime sector. The US Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, applauded the President's commitment to strengthening the maritime sector in Indonesia, saying that it was a very positive move.

[Full Report](#)

N. KOREA —UNITED STATES | 29 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

**N Korea researching sea-based missiles, says US think-tank**

North Korea has built a test facility that may be intended to develop a marine-based ballistic missile launch capability, using submarines or surface vessels, a US think-tank said Tuesday (Oct 28). While submarines carrying ballistic missiles could provide the North Korea with a survivable second-strike nuclear capability, the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins University stressed that Pyongyang was likely "years" from achieving the required technology.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—JAPAN | 30 OCTOBER | DEFENSE NEWS

**China: Japanese aircraft scrambles endangering safety**

BEIJING — Japan's increased scrambling of military aircraft in response to Chinese flights is endangering safety between the Asian powers in the air and at sea, Beijing's defence ministry said Thursday. The defence ministry in Tokyo announced earlier this month that the country's military had scrambled aircraft a total of

# MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY



Wikimedia Commons, Melissa Maraj/U.S. Customs and Border Protection ([link](#))

GLOBAL | 27 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

## No travel, trade ban needed - IMO

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) reiterated on Friday that there should be no general ban on international travel or trade due to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, citing the recommendations of the third meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General on Wednesday, 22 October 2014.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—NEW ZEALAND | 6 OCTOBER |  
GLOBAL POST (XINHUA)

## New Zealand, Australian forces catch drugs cargo off Somalia

New Zealand and Australian forces have discovered a major cargo of illegal drugs during anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia, the New Zealand Defense Force said in a statement on Monday. The cargo of hashish, valued at 280 million AU dollars (245.76 million U.S. dollars), was found aboard a dhow that a New Zealand air force P-3K2 Orion and Australian frigate HMAS Toowoomba had trailed from the Arabian Sea to the Horn of Africa.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 7 OCTOBER | KOREA  
JOONGANG DAILY

## Prosecution releases results of Sewol probe

The prosecution yesterday disclosed the results of its months-long investigation into the Sewol ferry disaster that included damning information about the Korean Coast Guard, in charge of the search and

rescue mission, as well as the probable causes behind the ship's sinking.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 8 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

## Maritime security to be tightened: DPM Teo

More land- and sea-based physical barriers will be erected around Singapore's shores, while a review of the current maritime security regime will be undertaken to deter and prevent illegal entry, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Teo Chee Hean told Parliament on Tuesday (Oct 7).

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 9 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

## 17 dead, dozens missing in Indonesia boat sinking

At least 17 people from a wedding party, including three children, have died in a boat sinking on the way to the Indonesian island of Bali, an official said on Wednesday (Oct 8), with two dozen still missing. Officials called off the search for the day at sunset,

with eight of the 49 people on board rescued, while the remaining 24 were still unaccounted for.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 9 OCTOBER | GLOBAL POST (AFP)

### **Vietnam-flagged tanker released by pirates**

A Vietnam-flagged tanker was hijacked by gun-toting pirates who stole part of the vessel's cargo of oil before releasing the ship and its crew safely, an official said Thursday. The MT Sunrise 689 went missing en route from Singapore to the Vietnamese port of Quang Tri, falling out of contact shortly after it left port a week ago.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 9 OCTOBER | ZEE NEWS

### **'Armed cargo ships along India's coast pose security threat'**

Commercial ships with armed men on board, which navigate along India's territorial waters, pose a threat to the country's security, a senior Coast Guard official said here Thursday. "...Major challenge in the recent times is the large number of commercial ships that have armed men on board for security of these vessels (which) pose a threat to our coastal regions and the national security, as they do not declare the weaponry on board, if they are not calling on Indian ports," Inspector General Satya Prakash Sharma, Regional Commander, Coast Guard (East) said.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—MALAYSIA | 14 OCTOBER | RAKYAT POST

### **MH370: China vessel back after 216-day search**

After a 216-day search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, Chinese vessel Haixun 01 returned to its base port in Shanghai on Sunday. Known for its breakthrough in China's maritime search and rescue work, the ship was tasked to scour areas that included the Straits of Malacca, Sunda Strait, west of Indonesia and south of the Indian Ocean, having travelled a total 22,371 nautical miles and traversed more than 240,000 square metres of water.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 14 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Growth forecasted for maritime security market**

Various governments, regulatory bodies, and international trade/industry bodies are evaluating on how best to alleviate the risks in the maritime region. The risks in the maritime transportation are very high and also added up to huge losses in case of any illegal or terror activities. Maritime threats such as

terrorist, environmental destruction, illegal seaborne immigration, and transnational criminal and piracy threats have created demand to have regulated and standard maritime security systems in place.

[Full Report](#)



SOMALIA | 24 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **U.N. authorizes ship inspections near Somalia for arms, charcoal**

The United Nations Security Council authorized the inspection of boats suspected of carrying illegal shipments of charcoal or weapons to and from Somalia on Friday, though Russia and Jordan abstained from the vote over concerns about the move. The resolution, adopted by the 15-member council with 13 votes in favor, approves the use of "all necessary measures" - diplomatic code for military force - to carry out such inspections.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 24 OCTOBER | TUOI TRE NEWS

### **Police confirm piracy attack on Vietnam oil tanker, seek Interpol help**

After an investigation, investigators said there are enough grounds to determine that Vietnamese oil tanker Sunrise 689 has been hijacked as reported by the vessel's crewmembers, adding it will seek help from the Interpol to track down the pirates.

[Full Report](#)

SOMALIA | 27 OCTOBER | GULF NEWS

### **'Pirates off Somalia down, but not out'**

The threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia has diminished significantly over the last two years but the mission is not yet accomplished, a senior European Union (EU) official leading the counter-piracy operations in the region has warned.

[Full Report](#)

### **42 Indian fishermen held by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency**

Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (MSA) apprehended 42 Indian fishermen and their seven boats near Jakhau port off the Gujarat coast today, an official of the Fishworkers Forum said today. "Pakistani security agency MSA apprehended seven boats carrying 42 fishermen today near Jakhau port off the Gujarat coast in the Arabian sea," National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) secretary Manish Lodhari told PTI here.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 28 OCTOBER | DEFENCE-  
AEROSPACE (SINGAPORE MINDEF)

### **Defence Minister announces innovative solution to enhance air and sea security**

Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen announced that the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) will be deploying a tethered aerostat in a military camp early next year. This new platform is an innovative and cost-effective solution that enhances Singapore's air and maritime security by overcoming obstruction from high-rise buildings in our urban landscape. It will complement the RSAF's suite of airborne and ground-based radars.

[Full Report](#)

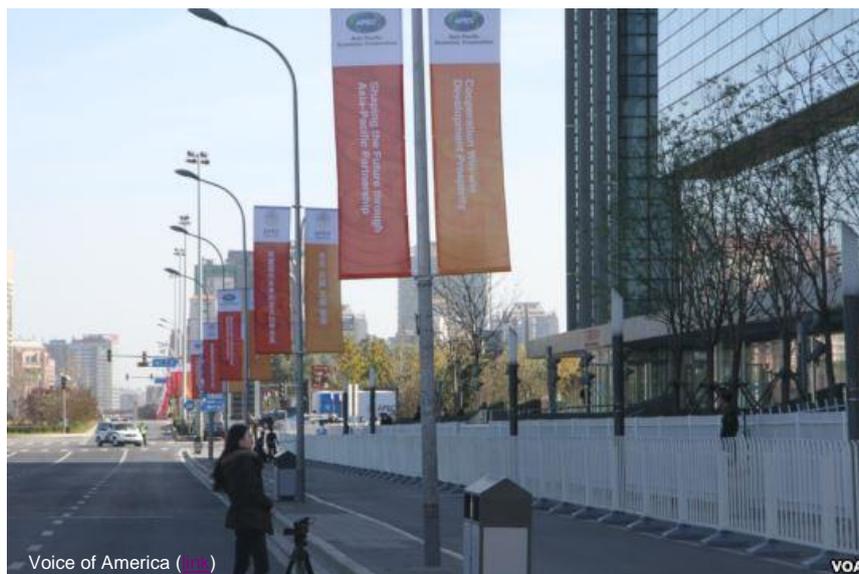
GLOBAL | 29 OCTOBER | ICC-CCS

### **IMB notes concern over small tanker attacks in SE Asia**

While pirate attacks on the world's seas have fallen for the third consecutive year, small tanker hijacks by armed gangs are escalating in Southeast Asia, reveals the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Maritime Bureau (IMB) in its latest piracy report. IMB's 2014 third quarter global piracy report notes a total of 178 incidents so far this year, down from 352 for same period in 2011.

[Full Report](#)

# SHIPPING, PORTS AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



CHINA | 15 OCTOBER | JAPAN TIMES

## China to push creation of APEC-wide free trade zone by 2025

China will be calling for a commitment by the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum toward the creation of a Pacific-rim free trade area by 2025, when they meet in November, according to a draft of a post-summit leaders' declaration. Referring to a "Beijing Road Map" for APEC's contribution to the realization of a free trade area covering the Asia-Pacific region, the draft declaration says, "We affirm our commitment to the eventual realization of an FTAAP by 2025."

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 7 OCTOBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

## Six-year logistics blueprint released

The State Council has published a sweeping blueprint for developing China's logistics infrastructure and capacity over the next six years, while approving a plan to roughly double the size of the deepwater port in Tianjin in an effort to boost import and export flows.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA | 9 OCTOBER | MARITIME TODAY

## Dry bulk drought: Asia rates fall

Rates for capesize bulk carriers on key Asian routes could continue to fall next week in the absence of major charterers although lower freight rates could tempt top iron ore miners back into the market and potentially buoy rates, brokers said. Charterers, including Vale, BHP Billiton and Fortescue Metals, kept out of the market on Thursday, shipbrokers said.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—CHINA | 13 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

## Australia, China open joint ocean engineering centre

China and Australia will work together to provide groundbreaking research into subsea engineering thanks to the new Qingdao Joint Research Centre for Marine, Subsea and Ocean Engineering and Technology, which has been launched. The joint research centre combines industry knowledge with research that aims to help move oil and gas processing offshore with production, by developing technologies and scientific advancements across all related industries.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 15 OCTOBER | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

## China taking aim at cruise industry

Carnival Corporation cruise company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) to explore the

possibility of a joint venture aimed at accelerating the development and growth of the Chinese cruise industry, with a focus on building the first-ever cruise ships constructed in China.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 15 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Vietnam gets ready to build shipbreaking industry**

The Vietnamese government is introducing a law that is aimed at building the country's shipbreaking industry amid claims that it will create serious environmental issues. The revised Law on Environmental Protection is due to take effect on January 1, 2015 and it will allow the import of ships intended for demolition.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—INDIA | 24 OCTOBER | NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

### **Beijing assures New Delhi on Silk Road security concerns**

China does not want to overstep into India's sphere of influence by bringing Sri Lanka and Maldives into the maritime New Silk Road, according to an official of the Communist Party of China (CPC). "We don't want to get into India's sphere," said Luan Jianzhang, Deputy Director General of Policy Research Office at the CPC Central Committee's International Department.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—SRI LANKA | 28 OCTOBER | XINHUA

### **China-Sri Lanka FTA to be signed in June 2015**

A proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Sri Lanka and China is to be signed in June 2015, Deputy Secretary to Treasury S. R. Attygalle said here on Tuesday. Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa also noted the same time frame during the budget presentation to parliament last Friday.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 28 OCTOBER | LLOYD'S LOADING LIST

### **Maersk imposes surcharge on Philippines port congestion**

With no let-up in congestion at ports in the Philippines, Maersk Line has imposed further charges in Manila and is limiting the number of ship calls into Batangas. In an advisory to its customers, the world's largest ocean carrier said that its operating costs in Manila have been heightened due to a slowdown in operations and an increase in vessel turnaround

times, compounded by the Philippines' peak season for imports.

[Full Report](#)



INDIA—VIETNAM | 28 OCTOBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

### **OVL, PetroVietnam ink pact for exploring 2 blocks off Vietnam**

ONGC Videsh (OVL), the overseas arm of state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp, Tuesday signed an agreement for joint exploration in PetroVietnam's two blocks in the South China Sea. "OVL signed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) with PetroVietnam Exploration Production Corp (PVEP), a wholly owned subsidiary of Vietnam Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam), for mutual cooperation for exploration in Blocks 102/10 and 106/10 of PVEP and Block 128 of OVL in offshore Vietnam, subject to due diligence and negotiations on terms of participation," ONGC said in a statement.

[Full Report](#)

ISRAEL—CHINA | 29 OCTOBER | XINHUA

### **Israel lays cornerstone of new Chinese-built seaport**

Senior Israeli ministers and Chinese businessmen laid on Tuesday the cornerstone of a new multi-million-dollar seaport in the city of Ashdod in southern Israel. The new port, which cost 3.3 billion shekels (870 million U.S. dollars), will be Israel's first privatized port and will eventually enable larger cargo ships to dock here.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 30 OCTOBER | JAKARTA POST

### **24 ports prepared for Jokowi's 'sea toll road'**

Eastern Indonesia is currently set to prepare for the acceleration of the "sea toll road" maritime program initiated by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. As many

as 11 major and feeder ports are currently being modernized to ease passenger traffic from the western to eastern parts of Indonesia and vice versa.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 30 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Milestone for Fukushima offshore floating wind farm**

Preparatory works for the installation of the 7MW oil pressure drive-type wind turbine on the three-column semi-sub floater at Onahama port, Fukushima, are almost completed, and delivery of the floater from Nagasaki to Onahama started on Thursday as part of the second term of the project.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA—MOZAMBIQUE | 31 OCTOBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

### **Asian buyers line up for Mozambican LNG**

Countries across Asia are quietly reaching deals to import liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Mozambique, which could transform its economy and give it a front-row seat in tapping rising global gas demand. The unannounced agreements, five in total, show how war-scarred Mozambique is elbowing past rivals from the United States to Australia by offering flexible contract terms on 20-year deals.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA | 31 OCTOBER | REUTERS

### **Slumping oil prices prompt re-think of high-cost Asian energy projects**

Frontier and deepwater exploration in Asia will be among high-cost energy projects most at risk from an oil price slump that has knocked 25 percent off the top of global crude prices. Asian companies embarked on a raft of new projects, including marginal fields, as oil prices held above \$100 a barrel for most of the last four years, supported by output cuts in the Middle East and North Africa.

[Full Report](#)