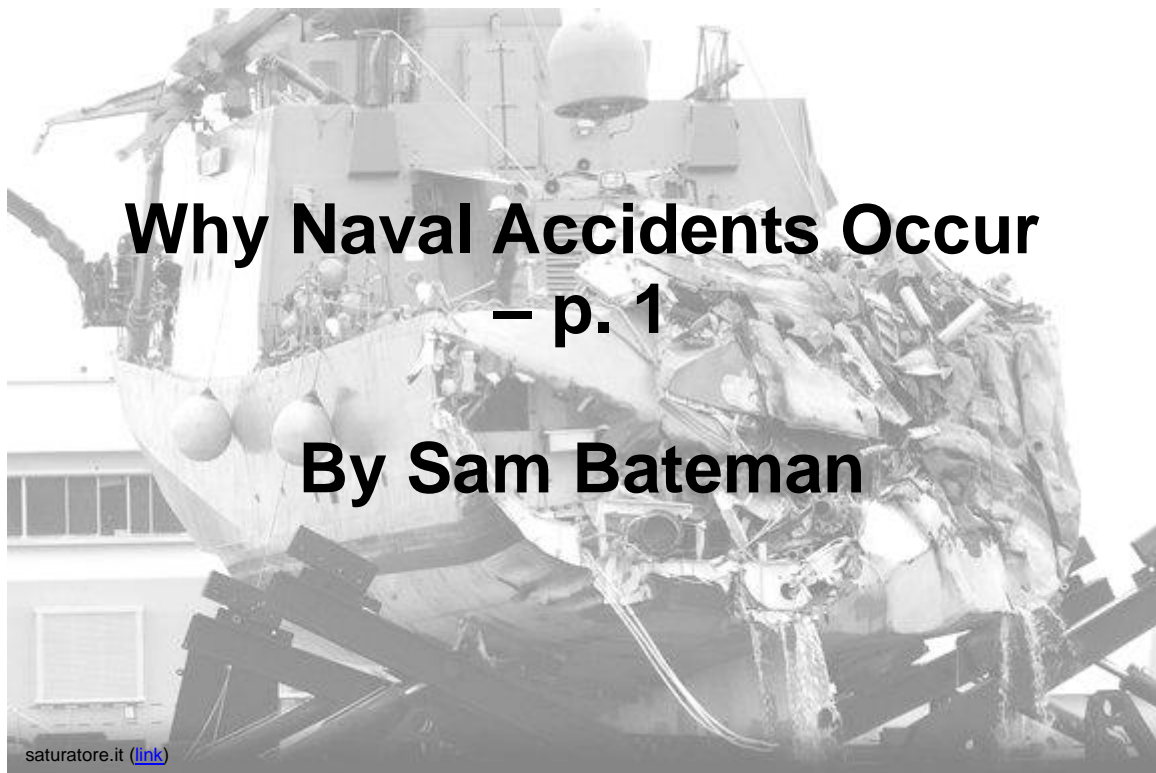


Featured *MSP Perspective*:



Why Naval Accidents Occur – p. 1

By Sam Bateman

saturatore.it ([link](#))

MSP Perspectives:

Why Naval
Accidents Occur
– p. 1

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MSP PERSPECTIVES



Why Naval Accidents Occur

Sam Bateman

Adviser and Senior Fellow, Maritime Security Programme

As shown most tragically by the sinking of the Korean ferry Sewol in April 2014 with the loss of over 300 lives, human error is a major cause of shipping accidents. Navies are not immune from this problem. A warship is a demanding technological environment requiring a high level of crew competence and experience and mistakes can occur, often with disastrous consequences, through factors such as lack of proper training, inexperience and complacency.

Two of the world's largest navies, the Indian Navy (IN) and the United States Navy (USN) have both experienced a worrying number of accidents in recent years in which human error has been the major cause. The Chief of the IN resigned in February 2014, taking moral responsibility for ten accidents involving Indian warships in the previous seven months. The accidents ranged from serious ones onboard submarines, possibly as a result of complacency and poor training, through to collisions and groundings. IN surface ship accidents included a frigate ramming a fishing vessel and several groundings. Most recently in November 2014, an IN corvette was damaged after colliding with a container ship in the Bay of Bengal.

The USN has been plagued by collisions and groundings in recent years. Fiscal year 2011 was reported to be the worst year for submarine accidents with three serious ones that could have led to the loss of the submarine. With surface ships, human error caused the grounding and loss of the minesweeper USS Guardian on a reef in the Philippines in January 2013. A Panamanian shipping company is currently suing the U.S. government to pay for repairs to one of its tankers after a USN destroyer collided with it in the Middle East. In July 2014, a USN landing Ship Dock (LSD) and an oil tanker were extensively damaged after colliding during replenishment operations off Hawaii. In December 2014, the USS Tortuga (LSD 46) ran over the top of a navigational buoy off the Virginian coast with the buoy breaking adrift and the ship damaged.

Fortunately the Republic of Singapore Navy has not experienced any recent major accidents but human error caused its worst accident. In 2003, the patrol vessel RSS Courageous was cut in two with the loss of four lives after a collision with a merchant vessel off Pedra Branca. The subsequent investigation found that the collision was caused by errors of judgment by

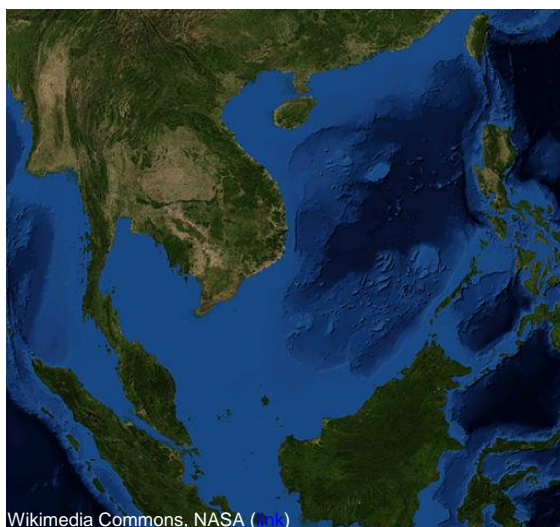
the Courageous involving loss of situational awareness and breaches of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS).

The failure to maintain a proper lookout by all means in accordance with COLREGS and a lack of situational awareness are major explanations of ship collisions and groundings. The risks of these problems have been increased by greater reliance of bridge personnel on computerised systems rather than a visual lookout. A modern ship's bridge is awash with electronic screens but a proper visual outlook remains essential. It is extremely difficult to maintain situational awareness on an electronic screen – the "Mark One eyeball" is the only truly effective means.

There is no shortage of personnel on the bridge of a warship. In fact the number of personnel can be a problem in itself. A Torres Strait pilot reported after piloting a USN guided-missile cruiser through the Strait that while there were a lot of people doing a lot of things vigorously on the bridge, 'the navigation team was consumed by the data that technology provided with very little consideration given to the importance of looking out for visual references'. The grounding of a similar vessel on a reef off Honolulu in 2009 was attributed to human error and a dysfunctional bridge team. Bridge resource management is a critical requirement if accidents are to be avoided.

The risks of naval accidents will increase as regional navies expand and shipping traffic increases. The risks are further increased when warships engage in close quarters' situations, but the effectiveness of arrangements to avoid incidents at sea, such as the Code for Unplanned Encounters between Ships (CUES) depends entirely on good seamanship and situational awareness on the ships involved. It's all very well preaching adherence to COLREGS, but accidents will still occur if bridge crews are dysfunctional and lack situational awareness.

NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY



CHINA—VIETNAM | 13 DECEMBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Beijing rejects Hanoi's legal challenge on Spratly, Paracel islands disputes

China has rejected an effort by Vietnam to protect its claims in the South China Sea, saying Hanoi's assertions to an international panel studying the Philippines' dispute with China are illegal. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei dismissed the Vietnamese action on Thursday, describing its claims over the Spratly and Paracel islands - known in China as the Nansha and Xisha - as invalid.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—JAPAN | 2 DECEMBER | REUTERS

Australia rules out open tender for new submarines, Japan in box seat

Australia will not hold an open tender to replace its ageing Collins-class submarines, government officials said on Tuesday, a decision that bolsters Japan's position as the likely builder of the new multibillion-dollar fleet. Reuters reported in September that Australia was leaning towards buying as many as 12 off-the-shelf stealth submarines from Japan despite domestic pressure to build them at home.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—INDIA | 2 DECEMBER | REUTERS

Rattled by Chinese submarines, India joins other nations in rebuilding fleet

India is speeding up a navy modernization program and leaning on its neighbors to curb Chinese submarine activity in the Indian Ocean, as nations in the region become increasingly jittery over Beijing's growing undersea prowess. Just months after a stand-off along the disputed border dividing India and China in the Himalayas, Chinese submarines have shown up

in Sri Lanka, the island nation off India's southern coast.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 2 DECEMBER | INDIAN EXPRESS

24 naval submarines involved in mishaps since 2011: Indian Govt

There have been 24 mishaps involving Indian naval submarines since 2011, claiming the lives of 22 personnel besides four others going missing, Rajya Sabha was informed on Tuesday. While Boards of Inquiry (BoIs) have been instituted in all these cases, the findings of the completed BoIs indicate "human error and technical issues as the reasons behind the mishaps", Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said in reply to a written question.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 3 DECEMBER | CHINA MILITARY ONLINE

19th Chinese naval escort taskforce sets sail from Qingdao

The 19th Chinese naval escort taskforce of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) left a military port in Qingdao, east China's Shandong

province, on the morning of December 2, 2014 for the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somali coast to succeed the 18th Chinese naval escort taskforce to conduct escort missions. The 19th Chinese naval escort taskforce is made up of the guided missile frigates "Linyi" and "Weifang" and comprehensive supply ship "Weishanhu Lake" with 2 ship-borne helicopters.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—PAPUA NEW GUINEA | 4 DECEMBER
| AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Australian Defence Minister welcomes the commissioning of HMPNGS Lakekamu

Today in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, a ceremony was held to mark the commissioning of the Landing Craft Heavy HMPNGS *Lakekamu* into service with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF). HMPNGS *Lakekamu* was formerly the Royal Australia Navy Landing Craft Heavy HMAS *Labuan*, which was decommissioned from Australian service at a ceremony in Cairns last month.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 11 DECEMBER | REUTERS

U.S. Navy laser weapon performing beyond expectations: official

A laser weapon deployed aboard the USS Ponce in the Gulf has performed beyond expectations in four months of operational testing, the chief of Navy research said on Wednesday, lifting hopes for a new U.S. defense against cheap anti-ship arms. Rear Admiral Matthew Klunder, head of the Office of Naval Research, said the \$40 million laser weapon was fully integrated into systems aboard the USS Ponce at the end of the summer for a year of testing.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—UNITED STATES | 12 DECEMBER | USNI NEWS

U.S. and China conduct anti-piracy exercise

In a rare bilateral exercise, the U.S. and China conducted anti-piracy training off the pirate-prone Gulf of Aden, the Navy said in a Thursday statement. The guided missile destroyer USS *Sterett* (DDG-104) joined at least two of People's Liberation Army Navy ships for the exercises that included visit, board, search, and seizure (VBSS) exercises, communication exchanges and "various other aspects of naval operations," read the statement from U.S. 5th Fleet.

[Full Report](#)



Wikimedia Commons, U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Antonio P. Turreto Ramos ([link](#))

UNITED STATES | 15 DECEMBER | USNI NEWS

Navy: Fleet put LCS follow-on focus on surface and sub threats, not air

Navy operators said the service's next small surface combatant (SSC) top priorities should be fighting other surface ships at longer ranges and hunting and killing submarines — not fighting fighters, striking land targets at long range or conducting ballistic missile defense (BMD), service leaders outlined last week when they briefed the follow-on to the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) to reporters.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 16 DECEMBER | TIMES OF INDIA

INS Arihant embarks on its first sea trials

The country's first indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant tested the waters on Monday with Union defence minister Manohar Parrikar flagging of its first sea trials from the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) base here. The vessel's sea acceptance trails (SATs) became a reality almost 18 months after it passed its harbour acceptance trails (HATs) at the ENC's ship building centre (SBC).

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN—UNITED STATES | 19 DECEMBER | WALL STREET JOURNAL

U.S. approves sale of ships to Taiwan

The U.S. approved the sale to Taiwan of four used warships, drawing a swift rebuke from China, which called the move damaging to Chinese security interests. A White House statement said President Barack Obama signed into law on Thursday the legislation authorizing the sale of the Oliver Hazard Perry class guided-missile frigates.

[Full Report](#)

India's LCA naval version achieves milestone

The first prototype of the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas' Naval version — LCA NP-1 — completed its maiden flight as part of the carrier compatibility tests at the shore-based test facility INS Hansa in Goa at 12.34pm on Saturday. LCA-Navy is the second Ski Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) carrier-borne aircraft in the world, after a Russian deck based aircraft.

[Full Report](#)

China building base near isles disputed with Japan, Kyodo says

China's military is building a large military base on islands about 300 kilometers (190 miles) from an islet chain at the center of a territorial row with Japan, Kyodo News reported today, citing unidentified Chinese sources. The base on the Nanji islands in Zhejiang Province is designed to enhance China's readiness to respond to a potential military crisis and strengthen surveillance over an air defense identification zone it declared in the area in November last year, the news agency said.

[Full Report](#)

Taiwan launches its first indigenous stealth corvette

Taiwan on Tuesday (Dec 23) launched its first indigenous stealth missile corvette, described by officials as Asia's fastest and most powerful warship. Weighing in at 500 tonnes, the twin-hull has been described by local media as a "carrier killer." The Tuo River-class corvette costs US\$70 million, measures 60.4 metres long and 14 metres wide and carries 41 crew members.

[Full Report](#)

Nakatani inaugurated as Japan's new defence minister

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has inaugurated Gen Nakatani as the new defence minister after his election win. This came after former defence minister Akinori Eto had refused to stay on after being embroiled in a political funds scandal. Nakatani was the only new face as the prime minister reappointed the rest of his cabinet ministers.

[Full Report](#)

MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY



INDONESIA | 6 DECEMBER | JAKARTA POST

War on illegal fishing begins

As the Indonesian Navy blew up three Vietnamese boats for illegally fishing in Indonesian waters on Friday, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti said such drastic measures would not lead to conflict with other countries in the region. “This is not a war between countries. This is about people stealing our fish and these thieves are businesspeople,” Susi told reporters on the sidelines of an anticorruption day celebration at her office.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA—THAILAND | 1 DECEMBER | IHS MARITIME 360

Hijacked vessel found off Thailand

An Indonesia-flagged tanker has been found off Narathiwat province, Thailand, after being hijacked by armed robbers for nearly one and a half months, according to a report from anti-piracy watchdog ReCAAP. Srikandi 515 with IMO number 9710828 was laden with 3,100 tons of palm oil en route to Gresik, East Java from Sampit, Indonesia before being boarded by armed robbers while underway in the Java Sea approximately 57nm south of Sampit.

[Full Report](#)

merchant vessels being boarded and sailors taken hostage in pirate raids off the coast of conflict-torn Somalia.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 3 DECEMBER | REUTERS

Maritime guns for hire adapt to changes in sea piracy

Cash-strapped maritime security firms are being forced to use fewer costly elite guards and to diversify into other businesses such as cyber security, as a steep decline in Somali pirate attacks and hotter competition erode fast-thinning margins. Hundreds of security firms sprang up over the past seven years to offer protection to shipping companies, with scores of

INDIAN OCEAN | 3 DECEMBER | IHS MARITIME 360

MH370 search continues on two fronts

While the underwater search for missing Malaysian aircraft MH370 continues in the Southern Indian Ocean, IHS Maritime has learned a search is also under way some 4,000 kilometres north of the crash site along the Indonesian coast.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA—AUSTRALIA | 4 DECEMBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

Indian Coast Guard ship in Aus to boost maritime security ties

An Indian Coast Guard patrol ship today arrived in Darwin on a five-day visit to boost maritime security cooperation with Australia, days after the two countries agreed to enhance security cooperation. Coast Guard Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel

(AOPV) Sankalp reached Darwin harbour where it was welcomed by top officials.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 5 DECEMBER | IHS MARITIME 360

Oryong 501's death toll rises

The death toll from the sinking of a South Korean fishing ship in the Bering Sea has risen to 25 as five more bodies were recovered. Seoul's foreign ministry said on Friday (5 December) that the bodies, including those of two Indonesians and three unidentified, were recovered in waters near the sunken Oryong 501.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA—MALDIVES | 7 DECEMBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

Indian Navy first to respond and help crisis-hit Maldives

The Indian Navy was first to respond and help Maldives after a fire at a desalination plant on Thursday led to an acute drinking water crisis in the island nation's capital. Responding to Male's urgent request for assistance, the navy sent the INS Sukanya with 35 tonnes of fresh water and is also equipped with reverse osmosis plants that are capable of producing 20 tonnes of water every day.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 8 DECEMBER | MALAY MAIL

Esscom: Five kidnapping attempts foiled since July

The Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCom) has repelled at least five kidnapping attempts which had been planned by criminals in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (ESSZone) during the past five months. ESSCom Commander Datuk Abdul Rashid Harun said this was the biggest success by ESSCom since the restructuring of the entity on July 15.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 12 DECEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

IMB concerned over decision to compensate pirates

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has joined other maritime organizations in expressing concern over the decision to compensate convicted Somali pirates. These criminals have been responsible for taking hostage thousands of seafarers, who were subjected to unprovoked violence and sometimes torture.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES—PHILIPPINES | 16 DECEMBER | INQUIRER

Philippines sure of US assistance in future disasters

Even if it did not have to call for international assistance in the wake of Typhoon Hagupit last week, the Philippines is assured of the assistance of the United States if another major disaster strikes the country, the Philippine ambassador to Washington said. "Had Typhoon Hagupit wrought serious damage, I am sure that the US would have dispatched assistance the same way it did during Typhoon Haiyan," Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia Jr. told the World Affairs Council of Missouri at a forum at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza here on Wednesday evening.

[Full Report](#)



INDONESIA | 16 DECEMBER | JAKARTA POST

Jokowi gets tougher on maritime issues

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo reiterated his tough stance against illegal foreign fishing on Monday, reminding people that the tight control of the country's territorial waters holds the key to the country's future. Jokowi made the statement during the commemoration of the Nusantara Day, or the Archipelago Day, which was based on the Djuanda Declaration of Dec. 13, 1957, which marked the beginning of the country being acknowledged as an archipelagic state, in Kotabaru, South Kalimantan.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE—MALAYSIA | 26 DECEMBER | AIN

Singapore, Malaysia are buying aerostats for surveillance

Recent new export orders for aerostat-mounted surveillance systems have encouraged TCOM to suggest that the market share for lighter-than-air (LTA) systems is expanding, at the expense of conventional airborne solutions. The American LTA specialist company is providing a large, radar-carrying aerostat to the Singapore Ministry of Defence early

next year, and also recently logged orders for smaller aerostats from neighboring Malaysia.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES—CHINA—INDONESIA | 29
DECEMBER | CNBC

US, China join expanding hunt for AirAsia jet

The U.S. joined the growing international effort to locate missing AirAsia flight QZ8501 as search operations entered their third day on Tuesday. The USS Sampson, a destroyer, is scheduled to reach the search area in the Java Sea later on Tuesday, according to the U.S. Navy, helping to broaden the scope of the search. Also, China late Monday said it would dispatch a naval ship and air force jet alongside Singapore, Malaysia and Australia, which have already deployed assets to assist in the Indonesia-led search involving some 30 ships and 15 aircraft.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 29 DECEMBER | MARINELINK.COM

Philippines boosts maritime security for Pope's visit

In anticipation of Pope Francis' visit to the Philippines January 15-19, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has created two maritime task forces to secure the maritime terrain where the Pope will hold activities, particularly at the vicinity of the Mall of Asia in Pasay City, Luneta Park in Manila and in Tacloban City.

[Full Report](#)

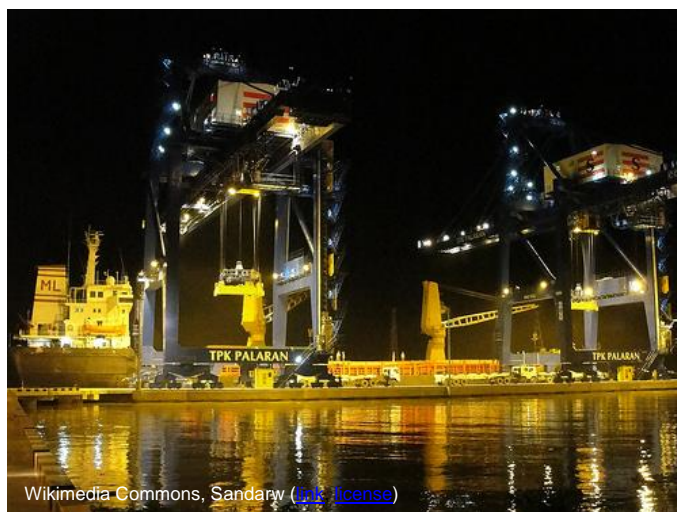
SINGAPORE—INDONESIA | 30 DECEMBER |
CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Singapore's navy ships headed for area of AirAsia debris

The Republic of Singapore Navy ships deployed for the search and locate mission for AirAsia QZ8501 are headed for the area where bodies and debris from a missing AirAsia jet has been found, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said. In a Facebook post on Tuesday (Dec 30) he said the MV Swift Rescue will also set sail to join the operation.

[Full Report](#)

SHIPPING, PORTS AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



INDONESIA | 30 DECEMBER | JAKARTA POST

Maritime-axis development to boost Indonesia's GDP

More than two months after taking office, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo has provided details of his maritime-axis agenda, hoping to float Indonesia into the upper middle-income bracket through maritime development. With the maritime-oriented development, the government aims to boost its GDP per capita from the current US\$3,592 to \$10,000.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 1 DECEMBER | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Subic to ease Manila Port congestion woes

Japan-based Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK) Line made its first direct route from Kaohsiung to the Port of Subic, the Philippines, joining other major shippers in using this free port as an alternative to the congested Port of Manila.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 2 DECEMBER | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Hong Kong Port needs more productive existing terminals

Container throughput in Hong Kong will continue to see growth in the coming years, but in order to cope with a projected future increase in throughput up to 2030, it is necessary to enhance the handling capacity of the existing container terminals and related infrastructural facilities, according to the 'Study on the Strategic Development Plan for Hong Kong Port (HKP) 2030.'

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 12 DECEMBER | SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Rare good oil for Australian iron ore miners on shipping costs

A slump in the price of oil to \$US64 a barrel for Brent crude has delivered much-needed relief to iron ore miners, who are receiving a significant discount on the cost of shipping to Asia. The cost of "bunker fuel" for the cape-sized vessels that typically carry iron ore has fallen 39 per cent since January, with most of that fall from the start of October. After spending much of the past four years between \$US600 (\$723) and \$US700 per tonne, prices for bunker fuel were fetching just \$US387 per tonne this week.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 12 DECEMBER | JAKARTA POST

Govt to provide incentives for short-sea shipping service

Transportation Ministry sea transportation director general Bobby Mamahit says the government is planning incentives for shipowners willing to operate short-sea shipping services, or inter-island sea transportation services, from Lampung to East Java

to help reduce congestion and road damage along Java's northern coastal highway (Pantura).

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—SRI LANKA | 17 DECEMBER | REUTERS

Sri Lanka opposition vows to scrap China port deal if wins election

A leader of Sri Lanka's opposition said he would scrap a \$1.5 billion deal with China Communications Construction Co Ltd to build a port city if the challenger to President Mahinda Rajapaksa wins next month's election.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE—INDONESIA | 19 DECEMBER | REUTERS

Singapore's PSA to jointly build Jakarta terminal

Singapore's port operator PSA International has joined hands with Indonesia's largest port operator and two Japanese companies to build and operate a container terminal in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, the companies said.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—ASIA | 19 DECEMBER | SEATRADE GLOBAL

China's 21st century 'Maritime Silk Road' ambitions

Leaders of state and government of 16 Central and Eastern European countries gathered in Belgrade for a summit meeting December 17 - 18 attended by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. Aim of the summit was to move forward the expansion of the region's economic, commercial and investment cooperation with China; it was the third such summit.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 19 DECEMBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Hong Kong port losing market share in South China

A report on Hong Kong's port development commissioned by the government found that the city has been facing more competition from other south China ports, including Nansha, one of the regions in the new Guanghong free-trade zone approved by the State Council last week.

[Full Report](#)



Wikimedia Commons, Photo by CEphoto, Uwe Aranas / CC-BY-SA 3.0 [link](#) [license](#)

MALAYSIA | 22 DECEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Malaysian oil project set to rival Rotterdam

Petronas, Royal Vopak and Dialog Group Berhad have agreed to develop an industrial terminal for Petronas' Pengerang Integrated Complex in the Johor district of Malaysia. The agreement is part of a larger plan to establish Malaysia as a rival to global oil hubs such as Rotterdam, Houston and Singapore.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA-EUROPE | 22 DECEMBER | LLOYD'S LOADING LIST

Asia-north Europe rates slip nearly 10%

It has now become customary in the aftermath of general rate increases for rates to fall, and the pattern continued last week on the Asia-north European trade. Following the previous week's successful price push, rates slipped 9.1%, or \$123, over the next seven days to \$1,230 per teu, according to the latest Shanghai Containerised Freight Index.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 22 DECEMBER | BANGKOK POST

Port fee rises: global shippers taken to task

Authorities are scheduled to meet with foreign shipping lines on Monday to help put the brakes on a planned rise in the terminal handling charge (THC) at the country's ports. The meeting comes after the Internal Trade Department met with the Thai National Shippers' Council (TNSC) and the Importers and Exporters Association, in which the latter two called on the department to implement the Price of Goods and Services Act to curb the THC hike.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 23 DECEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

India's major ports fight to ease congestion

India's largest container port took delivery of two new super post-Panamax rail-mounted ship-to-shore cranes this week, the largest yet to be installed in the nation. The cranes, each 115m high and weighing 1,500 tons, were delivered to Jawaharlal Nehru Port on December 20 by odd dimension cargo and heavylift specialist Super Freight.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 27 DECEMBER | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Commerce minister details scale of China's new free-trade zones

A new free-trade zone in southern China will sprawl across more than 100 sq km, mainland media reported on Friday as the State Council submitted proposal to the National People's Congress for setting up three new FTZ and expanding the existing one in Shanghai.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 30 DECEMBER | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

India revives port and inland shipping projects

The Indian government will develop 10 coastal economic regions as part of plans to revive the country's Sagarmala (string of ports) project, reports the Daily Shipping Times. The zones will be manufacturing hubs supported by port modernization projects and could cover 300-500km of coastline

[Full Report](#)