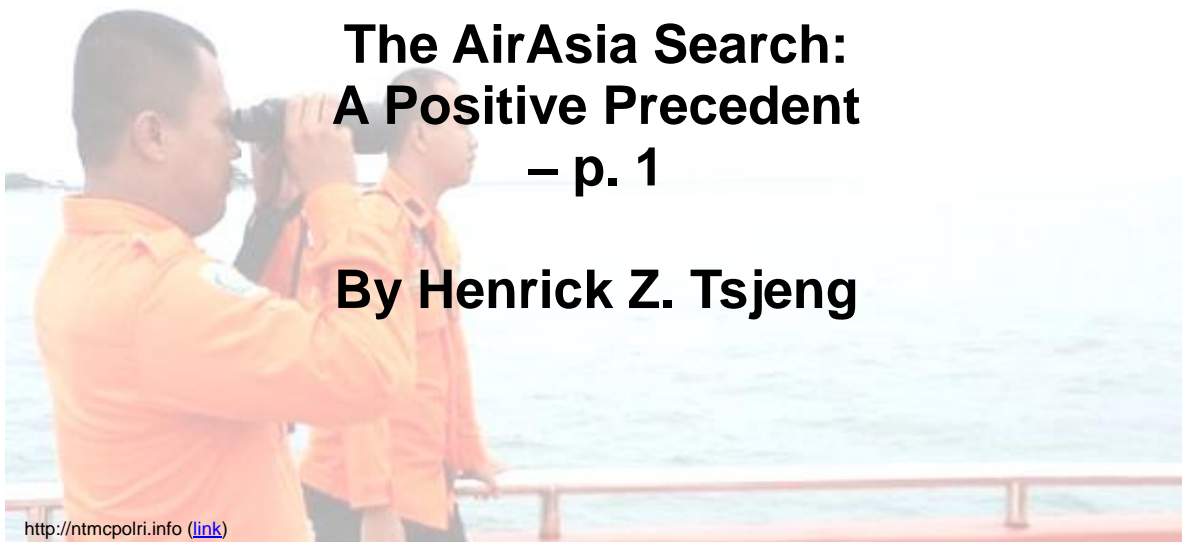


Featured *MSP Perspective*:



The AirAsia Search: A Positive Precedent – p. 1

By Henrick Z. Tsjeng

<http://ntmcpolri.info> ([link](#))

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MSP PERSPECTIVES



The AirAsia Search: A Positive Precedent

Henrick Z. Tsjeng

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The multinational effort to locate the crashed Indonesia AirAsia Flight QZ8501 and recover victims has been largely commended as a success. While not without obstacles, the multilateral efforts led by host country Indonesia contributed to a smooth search. This success can be a positive precedent for future cooperation.

The QZ8501 search operation has been relatively free from the mass confusion and finger-pointing generated during the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 earlier last year, and is a positive step forward for future cooperation should the need arise again.

A major reason for the success of the search-and-locate (SAL) operation for QZ8501 and the ensuing investigation were the relatively conducive conditions for the recovery of debris and victims, unlike in the case of MH370. Even if these factors were independent of the efficacy of the search efforts by various regional countries, they nonetheless contributed towards a relatively successful international effort.

This is not to say that the search operation has been without setbacks. For instance, bad weather and rough seas slowed the operation, especially at the beginning phase of the search. Moreover, the TNI and BASARNAS were releasing conflicting data at the initial stage of the search as a result of internal coordination issues, which were addressed once President Joko Widodo took on a coordinating role. Nonetheless, the AirAsia search illustrates further the extent to which regional multilateral cooperation has improved since the disappearance of MH370 in March last year.

Factors Favouring the QZ8501 Search

Firstly, the SAL effort by Indonesia appeared to have been effectively coordinated and was transparent. The Indonesian authorities were quick to produce a search plan which also saw requests for assistance to Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States, among others, and the country was also forthcoming with accepting international assistance. The TNI and BASARNAS, after overcoming initial communication issues, closely coordinated with its foreign counterparts.

The QZ8501 search also saw more transparency, especially on the part of the Indonesian government. In contrast to the opacity and confusion that

characterised the first several hours after MH370 was first reported missing, the Indonesian authorities were more forthcoming in providing information to the parties involved in the search.

Moreover, the search did not see any dramatic politicisation of the incident. In the case of MH370, the tragedy quickly became a thorny political issue, with blame-shifting rife on many sides. Despite the deployment of the controversial KRI Usman Harun by Indonesia during the QZ8501 search, both Singapore and Indonesia did not allow this issue to overshadow their close multilateral cooperation, which continued without any further notable incidents. This demonstrated an important point – that political goodwill can overcome contentions and ease the way for greater multilateral cooperation, in the maritime sphere or elsewhere.

The presence of American, Chinese and Russian vessels dispatched to assist in the SAL operations also demonstrated the willingness of the involved countries to set aside political differences and disputes during cooperation, contribute their assets in the search for the downed plane, and in doing so build goodwill with host nation Indonesia and the other countries involved.

Way Forward

The search for QZ8501 marks a break from past experiences in the region in which considerations over sovereignty, national security and political differences dampened such willingness among certain parties to cooperate or accept international assistance.

It is a significant step forward for the region towards deeper maritime engagement and cooperation in search operations. It is particularly helpful for building the ASEAN Community, as well as for overcoming obstacles such as the lack of regional support for the Search-and-Rescue Convention and the need to harmonise international air and maritime search-and-rescue regimes.

Even though national considerations that may hamper multilateral cooperation are unlikely to vanish overnight, the goodwill arising from the multilateral search for the AirAsia plane will likely set a positive precedent for future SAL operations.

This item is based on an RSIS Commentary published on 27 February 2015.

NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY



SINGAPORE—UNITED STATES | 17 FEBRUARY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

US plans to rotate 4 combat ships operating out of Singapore by 2018

The United States Navy plans to have four Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) operating out of Singapore - one at a time - by 2018. These LCS vessels are smaller-sized than destroyers, and are capable of quick operations in shallow waters close to shore such as the waters of South-east Asia, the navy said on Tuesday (Feb 17).

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA | 1 FEBRUARY | KOREA TIMES

Navy inaugurates 1st submarine command

The ROK Navy inaugurated its first submarine command, Sunday, to strengthen its underwater capabilities and combat readiness against North Korea. Rear Adm. Youn Jeong-sang will lead the Submarine Force Command, based in the southern port city of Jinhae and comprised of 13 submarines.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 5 FEBRUARY | REUTERS

India eyes U.S. aircraft carrier technology as arms ties deepen

India wants to use state-of-the-art U.S. technology to boost the range and potency of a planned aircraft carrier, defence sources said, in a move that would tie their arms programmes closer together and counter China's military influence in the region.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 2 FEBRUARY | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

More leaks point to navy's carrier plans

News that China is building its second aircraft carrier leaked out again on the weekend, once more through official civilian channels before the reports were pulled. A city government microblog and an official Newspaper in Changzhou, Jiangsu province, separately mentioned on Saturday that a power cable manufacturer in the city had "won a tender for the second aircraft carrier".

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—AUSTRALIA | 9 FEBRUARY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Skepticism, confusion over Australian submarine tender

Officials in Australia and Japan on Monday expressed skepticism and confusion over a pledge by Prime Minister Tony Abbott to give an Australian state-owned shipbuilder the option to tender for a major submarine contract, heightening the uncertainty around the project.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—UNITED STATES | 12 FEBRUARY | CHINA DAILY

Chinese navy officers find value in US visit

Last week's visit to the United States by officers of the Chinese navy will deepen mutual understanding and help reduce misunderstandings and misjudgments at sea, delegation members told China Daily. "In the past, when our ships met at sea, both of us - captains from the two navies - didn't know what the other side was thinking or how we should communicate with each other," said Commander Zhao Yanquan, captain of a missile destroyer of the South Sea Fleet of the People's Liberation Army navy.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—UNITED STATES | 14 FEBRUARY | NAVY TIMES

CNO says ship basing in Australia under consideration

A new push to expand training and exercises with Australia may soon find sailors based with their Marine brothers in the land Down Under. The possibility of basing warships in Australia is the subject of a Defense Department study, which is in its discovery phase, and could involve anything from one or two amphibious ships or littoral combat ships to a full carrier strike group.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 15 FEBRUARY | TIMES OF INDIA

Supersonic BrahMos successfully test-fired from INS Kolkata

The Navy successfully test-fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from its latest stealth destroyer INS Kolkata on Saturday, the largest-ever warship built in India till now, during its ongoing major TropeX exercise being conducted in the Arabian Sea.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 20 FEBRUARY | NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Govt okays plan to build 6 N-submarines, 7 frigates

In an attempt to strengthen the naval assets of the country, the Centre has cleared the indigenous production of seven stealth frigates and six nuclear-powered submarines at a cost of about Rs 1 lakh crore. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took a decision to this effect recently.

[Full Report](#)

N. KOREA | 20 FEBRUARY | GLOBAL POST (YONHAP)

N. Korea conducts submarine missile ejection test: sources

North Korea appears to have conducted a test of a missile ejection launcher that helps fire missiles from submarines, South Korean military sources said Friday. The communist North "tested the ejection launcher from the seashore near the Sinpo South Shipyard on Jan. 23 for missiles that can be fired from submarines," one military source here said, requesting anonymity.

[Full Report](#)



JAPAN | 23 FEBRUARY | WALL STREET JOURNAL

Residents say yes to military site on Japan's westernmost island

A referendum Sunday showed a base on Japan's westernmost island has strong support from the people there, clearing the way for its construction. Yonaguni Island is on the front lines of maritime tensions between China and Japan, which have prompted Tokyo to build up defenses in its southwestern waters.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES—UNITED STATES | 26 FEBRUARY | REUTERS

U.S. flies most advanced surveillance plane from Philippines

The United States has begun flying its most advanced surveillance aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon, out of the Philippines for patrols over the South China Sea, the U.S. Navy said on Thursday, acknowledging the flights for the first time. The United States, the Philippines' oldest and closest ally, has promised to share "real time" information on what is happening in Philippine waters as China steps up its activities in the South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 26 FEBRUARY | REUTERS

China doing 'large scale' reclamation in disputed islands: media

China is conducting "large scale" land reclamation and construction on a reef in the disputed Spratly Islands, state-backed media reported on Thursday, in an unusual acknowledgement of its controversial work in the region. Citing satellite images, the semi-official China Military Online said China had officially begun reclamation work on Cuarteron Reef, which is also claimed by the Philippines. Chinese troops also conducted drills on the reef this month, the online publication said.

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA—UNITED STATES | 27 FEBRUARY | KBS WORLD RADIO

S. Korea, US joint naval drills kick off

South Korea and the United States have started a joint naval drill. An official of the South Korean Navy said Friday the third Naval Fleet has started a maneuver drill and a firing exercise in the South Sea. Friday afternoon, the South Korean Navy's Lynx helicopters will practice takeoffs and landings near the leodo Ocean Research Station in the country's southernmost sea, while the U.S. fleet will conduct drills near the reef of leodo.

[Full Report](#)

MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY



MALAYSIA | 4 FEBRUARY | RAKYAT POST

Malaysia to conduct joint patrols with neighbours to thwart sea bandits

A joint patrol between Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore and Thailand will be conducted soon to thwart sea bandits, terrorising the Johor coastline and making off with fuel and valuables. The Royal Malaysian Navy Chief Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Jaafar said a discussion had been made between the countries and most probably the joint patrol would be launched during the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima) Exhibition.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 3 FEBRUARY | JAKARTA POST

Bakamla trapped in overlapping agencies

The newly established Maritime Security Board (Bakamla) acknowledged Monday that it was still working to coordinate with other maritime stakeholders to achieve effective law enforcement in Indonesian waters. “Synergizing with other maritime stakeholders takes time, they also have their own regulations,” Bakamla’s operating chief Commodore Wuspo Lukito said in his office in Jakarta.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 3 FEBRUARY | TEMPO

Bakamla plans to buy drones

First Admiral Wuspo Lukito, the operations and training deputy of the Maritime Security Board (Bakamla), said the Bakamla planned to purchase unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), or popularly known as drones. Lukito added the Bakamla would buy the drones next year, at the soonest.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES—CHINA | 5 FEBRUARY | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Philippines accuses China of boat ramming, illegal fishing

The Philippines have filed two protest notes to the Chinese Embassy in Manila over alleged boat ramming and illegal fishing in the disputed South China Sea area, some 150 miles from the Philippine island of Luzon.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 6 FEBRUARY | THANH NIEN NEWS

Vietnam will continue to add US boats to Coast Guard fleet

A senior US diplomat confirmed that Washington has provided five patrol vessels to Vietnam and will continue to do so to help improve Vietnam's Coast Guard. In an interview published this week, Voice of America (VOA) quoted Puneet Talwar, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, this week following a visit to Hanoi, where he attended the seventh annual Vietnam - US Political, Security, and Defense Dialogue.

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA | 9 FEBRUARY | KOREA HERALD

S. Korea sends anti-piracy troops to Gulf of Aden

South Korea dispatched the 18th batch of troops to the Gulf of Aden on Monday to continue its commitment to the international effort to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia, the Navy said. The 4,400-ton destroyer, Wanggeon, departed the southern port city of Busan earlier in the day carrying a 300-strong contingent of the Cheonghae Unit for an anti-piracy mission, according to the Navy.

[Full Report](#)

MAURITIUS—SEYCHELLES | 12 FEBRUARY | ALL AFRICA

Mauritius and Seychelles to reinforce collaboration in maritime security

Mauritius and Seychelles will further collaborate in reinforcing cooperation ties with regard to maritime security in our seas and oceans, in addition to initiatives to deepen the friendly longstanding relations between the two countries. This was at the core of discussions during a meeting between the Prime Minister, Sir Anerood Jugnauth and the Ambassador of the Republic of Seychelles to the Indian Ocean Islands, with residence in Seychelles, Mr Callixte d'Offay, yesterday at the Treasury Building in Port Louis.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 13 FEBRUARY | NAVAL-TECHNOLOGY.COM

Indian Navy completes humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise

The Indian Navy has successfully completed a large-scale humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise in the Lakshadweep Islands. More than 20 vessels from the Western and Eastern Fleets, as well as several navy aircraft, took part.

[Full Report](#)

INDIAN OCEAN | 17 FEBRUARY | IHS MARITIME 360

Madagascar to host maritime information centre

Work is to start next month on a regional maritime information centre (RMIC) for the western Indian Ocean. The European Union-funded project, initiated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), will be located in Madagascar, it was decided at last week's African Union (AU) maritime security meeting in Seychelles.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA—PAKISTAN | 20 FEBRUARY | TIMES OF INDIA

Left red-faced, Coast Guard set to probe DIG's Pak boat boast

The Coast Guard is instituting a board of inquiry (BoI) against its DIG B K Loshali for contradicting the government by claiming he had ordered the destruction of a Pakistan fishing boat, which sank 365 km off Porbander in the early hours of January 1. Loshali, the chief of staff (northwest region, Coast Guard), on Thursday submitted his reply to the show-cause notice slapped on him by the Coast Guard to explain his "serious misconduct" during a function to launch an interceptor boat at Surat on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

MIDDLE EAST | 23 FEBRUARY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Major Middle East shipping routes secure

Shipping corridors used by Gulf energy exporters are not at risk from violence and political volatility in Yemen and the seizure of swathes of territory in the region by Islamic State militants, a senior U.S. naval officer said on Monday.

[Full Report](#)



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

UNITED STATES | 25 FEBRUARY | USNI NEWS

Coast Guard analysis says U.S. needs 3 heavy and 3 medium icebreakers

The U.S. Coast Guard has determined — through independent analysis — it needs three heavy and three medium icebreakers to cover the U.S. anticipated needs in the Arctic and Antarctic, commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft, told reporters on Tuesday. However, how the service gets to that number or how it will pay for the ships is still an open question.

[Full Report](#)

N. KOREA | 26 FEBRUARY | BBC

North Korea reflagging ships to evade sanctions - UN

A North Korea shipping company has been renaming and reflagging its vessels so it can evade an arms embargo, a UN report has said. North Korea is subject to strict sanctions because of its nuclear weapons programme.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 28 FEBRUARY | ANTARA NEWS

Indonesia tightens security measures as illegal fishing activities continue

Despite the Indonesian governments war against poaching activities in its waters, foreign boats continue to fish illegally, prompting the countrys navy to tighten security measures in its maritime territory. Following President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's instructions to destroy any foreign boats operating illegally in Indonesian waters, the Navy, in cooperation with the Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry, has been confiscating foreign boats caught fishing illegally in Indonesian waters.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 28 FEBRUARY | THE STAR

Malaysia receives two patrol vessels from Australia

Malaysia officially received two vessels from the Australian government that will be used to conduct security patrols in the Straits of Malacca. The Bay-class vessels were handed over during a ceremony attended by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Australia's Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton at the National Hydrographic Centre here yesterday.

[Full Report](#)

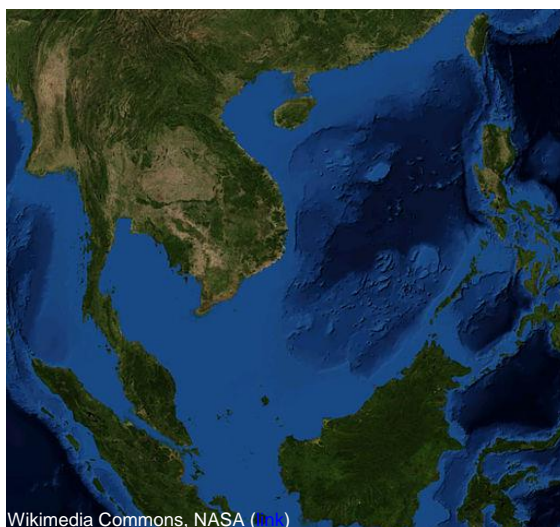
INDONESIA | 28 FEBRUARY | WALL STREET JOURNAL

AirAsia Flight 8501 fuselage recovered from Java Sea

Searchers have recovered the fuselage of AirAsia Flight 8501, which crashed into the Java Sea late last year, an official said Saturday. Tatang Zaenudin, deputy operations officer at Indonesia's national search agency, told The Wall Street Journal that a crane lifted the badly damage jet fuselage from the sea floor Friday.

[Full Report](#)

SHIPPING, PORTS AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



ASIA | 10 FEBRUARY | BANGKOK POST

Big gas field found in S. China Sea

China said its recent gas discovery in the politically volatile South China Sea could yield 100 billion cubic metres of natural gas, underlining Beijing's determination to extract resources from waters claimed by several nations. The Lingshui 17-2 gas field was discovered 150 kilometres south of China's southernmost island of Hainan, and the Ministry of Land and Resources has approved it as a large-scale find, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 2 FEBRUARY | JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

Strong US economy bodes well for container trade, Drewry says

A strengthening U.S. economy will continue to generate strong container volumes this year despite weak head haul demand during the latter stages of 2014, according to Drewry Maritime Research.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 4 FEBRUARY | THE JAKARTA POST

Maritime axis wins praise

President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's vision to transform Indonesia into a global maritime axis has been lauded by the international community, with several countries offering to cooperate with the government to realize the vision, a senior minister has said.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—INDIA | 10 FEBRUARY | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Japan vows support for Indian ship recycling sector

Japan is said to be moving towards providing official development assistance to upgrade facilities and improve operations in the Indian ship recycling sector. Director of Shipbuilding Policy at the Japan External Trade Organisation (Jetro), Akihiro Tamura said that nothing has been officially decided yet, but the next step will be to carry out surveys of the yards to determine what support will be actually needed and to draw up an agreement between both countries.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—THAILAND | 12 FEBRUARY | ASIAONE (THE NATION)

More investment from China to Thailand likely: Envoy

As Thailand and China started the second round of talks on a joint railway project yesterday, the Chinese ambassador to Thailand reiterated his optimism that the project would spur more investment and allow

Thailand to be the centre of China's much-touted Maritime Silk Road.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 13 FEBRUARY | JAKARTA POST

Govt looks to hone maritime development

The government will sharpen its program of maritime development in order to generate results in the next three years. The determination was reached in a meeting between Coordinating Maritime Affairs Minister Indroyono Susilo and National Development Planning Minister Andriano Chaniago in Jakarta on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)



MALAYSIA—CHINA | 14 FEBRUARY | THE STAR

Kuantan Port expansion to improve economic ties with China

The expansion of Kuantan Port into a deepwater port is expected to be completed by next year, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai. Once completed, the port will be able to accommodate Cape-sized vessels and post-Panamax container ships of up to 200,000 deadweight tonnes (DWT).

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 17 FEBRUARY | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

China's Silk Road dream falls into place with US\$40b fund

Beijing has launched its US\$40 billion Silk Road infrastructure fund along the lines of a long-term private equity venture to boost businesses in countries and regions along the route, the central bank governor said yesterday. The announcement serves as a prelude to the publication of a blueprint that sheds light on the country's ambitions to create the New Silk Road economic belt and the 21st-century maritime Silk Road.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 19 FEBRUARY | BANGKOK POST

Bill to give fishing crews a better deal

The cabinet has approved a bill on maritime labour which aims to improve working standards for fishing crews. The crews on fishing boats must receive fair treatment from employers, a deputy government spokesman said yesterday.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 21 FEBRUARY | THE STAR

Global port in the works for Malacca

An international shipping port is being planned for Malacca after China identified the state as part of its 21st Century Maritime Silk Route economic belt (MSR). Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the existing port here would be expanded to meet international standards.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 22 FEBRUARY | BANGKOK POST (AFP)

Freight shipping prices sink on oversupply, China slowdown

Freight shipping prices have plummeted to a historic low, fuelled by a long-standing problem of too many ships and lower demand from China, but experts cautioned against seeing it as a warning on the global economy.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 23 FEBRUARY | PHILIPPINE STAR

Manila port utilization back to normal - PPA

State-run Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) reported that utilization rate at the port of Manila is back to normal after the disruption of operations during the visit of Pope Francis to the country last month. PPA general manager Juan Sta. Ana reported that utilization at the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) of International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) and the Manila South Harbor of Asian Terminals Inc. (ATI) continues to improve to normal levels.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA—SOUTH ASIA | 26 FEBRUARY | JAKARTA POST

Indonesia's maritime axis to pivot westward through IORA

Indonesia is gearing up to turn its foreign policy focus westward when its role as Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) chair begins later this year, expanding President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's so-

called maritime-axis doctrine to the Indian Ocean, which covers 20 percent of the Earth's surface.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA—SINGAPORE | 27 FEBRUARY |
MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Malaysian oil storage expanding Singapore hub

Malaysia is willing to work with Singapore to become part of a regional oil pricing area, including offering land for storage the island state lacks, the head of a Malaysian state body coordinating a major new oil hub said. Despite being an oil and gas exporter, Malaysia lacks sufficient storage and refineries to allow it to act as a pricing hub like Singapore, Europe's ARA hub (Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Antwerp) or Houston in the United States.

[Full Report](#)

S. KOREA | 27 FEBRUARY | IHS MARITIME 360

Busan aims to handle 20 mil. teu in 2015

South Korea's Busan port plans to achieve a throughput of 20 million teu in 2015 after it handled 18.678 million teu in 2014, the highest number in the port's history. Through a press statement, the Busan Port Authority (BPA) said the record number of 18.678 million teu handled at the port in 2014 consisted of 9.25 million teu of local cargo and 9.42 million teu of transshipment cargo, which is 5.6% up from 2013.

[Full Report](#)