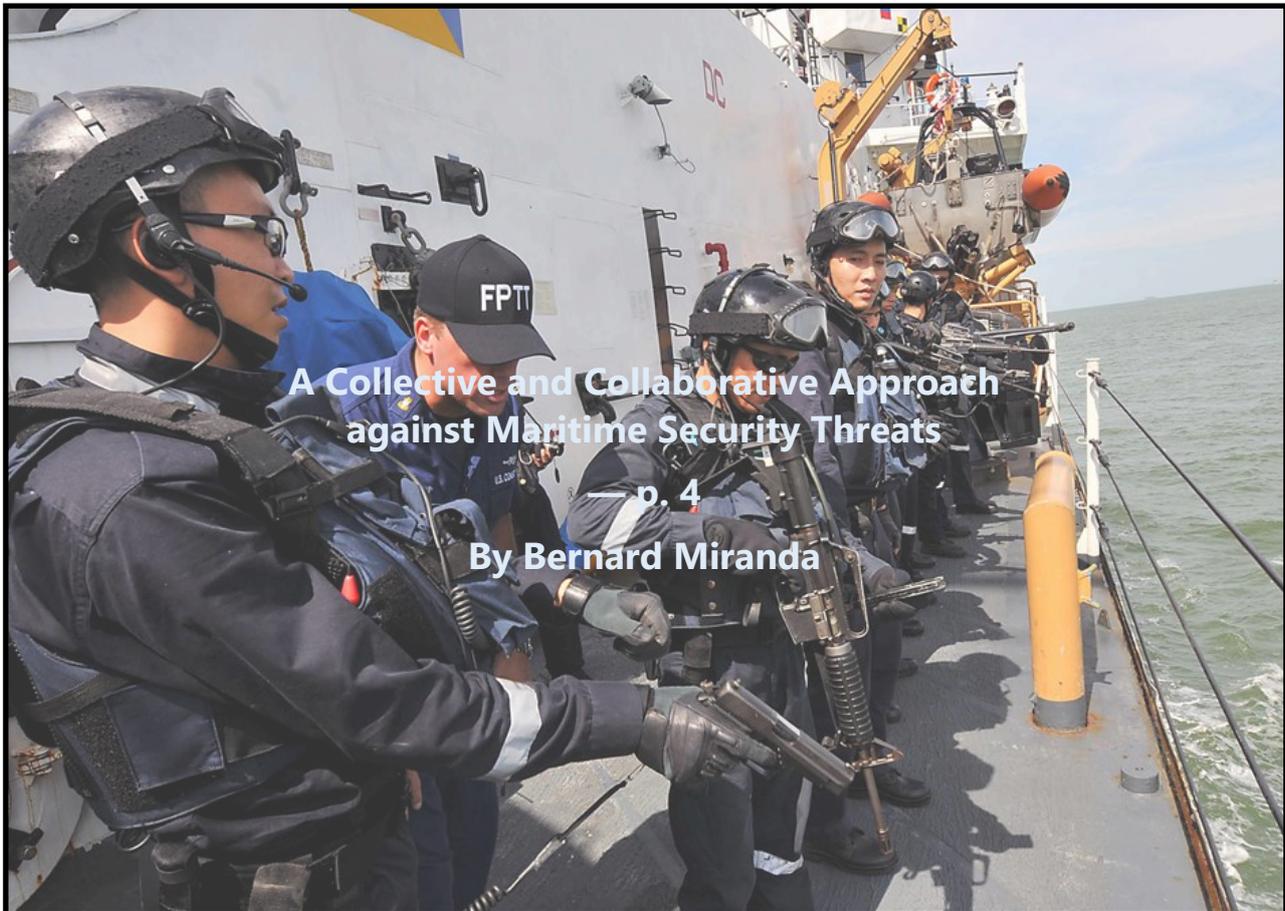


Featured Inaugural *MSP Guest Column*



A Collective and Collaborative Approach
against Maritime Security Threats

— p. 4

By Bernard Miranda

MSP Guest Column:

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RSISMSP@ntu.edu.sg

Maritime Security Programme, RSIS

Editorial Team

Collin Koh
Rajni Nayanthara Gamage

A Collective and Collaborative Approach against Maritime Security Threats



Inaugural MSP Guest Columnist

Rear Admiral (Ret) Bernard Miranda was Director of the National Maritime Operations Group-SMCC from 2011 to 2015, and is currently Adjunct Senior Fellow with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

The arrest of six militants in Batam reminded Singapore of the asymmetric and unconventional threat that pervades regionally. While the plausibility of the threat of rocket attack from Batam Island continues its analysis, one should also look at other modalities that the militants could have used to overcome range and accuracy factors, for example bringing the weapon closer by means of vessels at sea. Other threats like “floating bomb” by hijacked sensitive vessels or explosive-laden small boats intent on ramming high-value targets remain concerns.

Information sharing and international collaboration was established over the years to deal with varied maritime security threats. Such initiatives like the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) bring countries together to collaborate against a common threat. At the national level the Singapore Government established the National Maritime Security System in 2011 to establish a Single Concept of Operation a Unified Command to prepare, prevent and respond to maritime terrorism. The Singapore Maritime Crisis Centre (SMCC) together with enforcement agencies is highly vigilant, prepared and responsive.

Information sharing and collaboration results from years of commitment and effort, including linkages established amongst navies and law enforcement agencies especially in the maritime domain. An organisation such as the Information Fusion Centre (IFC) has grown in effectiveness and stature as a model for regional naval cooperation. Focussing on all areas of maritime security as its core business, the IFC has established a strong liaison officer presence and effective networked systems like its data base, the sense-making tool for data analysis, the secure information sharing system for Western Pacific Naval Symposium navies and the Malacca Strait Patrol-Information sharing system for real-time information exchange between Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The network connectivity and usefulness of these systems will be further enhanced with planned new data architecture and mobile capability.

In late September this year, the Republic of Singapore Navy hosted Exercise Deep Sabre. This exercise was the latest in a series of PSI multi-national exercises that brings countries together to collaborate against a common threat. This exercise featured 21 countries in building capacity against a ship simulating as a WMD carrier. Such exercises, by sheer size and complexity exhibits the collective will to deter would-be perpetrators and enhance collaboration.

The core team in both entities that form the SMCC (the Operations and Sense-making Groups) achieved Initial Operational Capability in 2011 and Full Operational Capability in 2013 by demonstrating its ability to work with counterpart land agencies in handling multiple threats both on land and sea. The annual Exercise Highcrest was exercised in late October this year to keep the readiness high.

The achievements in a relatively short time were no mean feat. The capabilities were attained through: 1) team forming to overcome inter-agency stovepipes; 2) commitment to fund and staff the posts from five different

agencies the Navy, Police, Immigration and Checkpoints Authority, Customs and the Maritime and Port Authority; 3) establishment of the Crisis Command Centre and its sense-making and operations systems; 4) unifying management and leadership; 5) having a national-level training and exercises framework that validates capabilities and renews inter-agency commitment with the Whole-of-Government approach; and 6) coherent public communications plan to emphasise the need for vigilance .

Dealing with maritime terrorism requires a phased and scalable approach in order to be effective. Coordination is done on a daily basis through working group meetings, inter-agency training and exercises with established processes and procedures that are accepted by all agencies. Ownership is key to operational and capability development, with pre-assignments of Incident Managers to deal with scenarios timely and decisively. The scenarios could be 1) from land – as in the recent case of the Batam rocket plot; 2) from the sea – militants/terrorists could plausibly launch a boat from neighbouring lands and hijack an innocent vessel for use as an attack platform; 3) at sea – an attack from a militant/terrorist vessel on an innocent merchant ship; and 4) a combination of abovementioned scenarios attempting to dilute the defences. The organisation needs to be nimble enough to respond to unanticipated or unknown threats.

Enforcement agencies should continue to scale surveillance and presence with co-ordinated efforts in operations centres and at sea. New capabilities like the Police Coast Guards Patrol Interdiction, 2nd Generation PK class High Speed Interception boats and unmanned surface vessels enhance presence and response at sea, while panoramic electro-optics and tethered unmanned aerial vehicles will enhance especially “blind zone” surveillance capabilities. Importantly, to be nimble and responsive, there is a requirement for steadfast leadership and clear lines of command. The SMCC provides this support mechanism that coordinates and manages operations, swiftly and decisively, enabling the concepts for Unified Command and Single Concept of Operations.

In the ever-changing threat environment, and with scarce resources, the information sharing and international collaboration initiatives and SMCC must continue to demonstrate ability to coordinate, manage and provide leadership support in dealing with maritime terrorism. In this regard, various countries and agencies need to continue to support organisations such as the IFC and SMCC and sustain this international and inter-agency framework to maintain their operational edge.

This is an abridged version of the commentary published with the RSIS Commentaries (click [here](#)).



UNITED STATES | 21 OCTOBER | REUTERS

U.S. warship challenges China's claims in South China Sea

A U.S. navy destroyer sailed near islands claimed by China in the South China Sea on Friday, drawing a warning from Chinese warships to leave the area.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 3 OCTOBER | DEFENSE NEWS

CNO Bans 'A2AD' As Jargon

"We'll get back to you on that." The phrase is often heard in Washington when reporters ask subject-matter experts for the meaning of an acronym or buzz word.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 6 OCTOBER | REUTERS

Amid South China Sea uncertainty, Indonesia stages a show of force

Indonesian warplanes on Thursday staged a large-scale exercise on the edge of South China Sea territory claimed by Beijing, a show of force that adds to regional uncertainty sparked by the Philippines' sudden tilt away from the United States.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 7 OCTOBER | THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

35% of Coast Guard vessels outdated as seas remain troubled

Tasked with ensuring the security and safety of the high seas, a Japan Coast Guard officer lamented having to command an aging vessel that once stalled immediately after leaving the quay.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 11 OCTOBER | YONHAP

Nuclear-powered submarine can help S. Korea: navy chief

The chief of South Korea's Navy said Tuesday acquiring nuclear-powered submarines can help the country better counter growing threats from North Korea.

[Full Report](#)

Continue on page 6

SINGAPORE | 13 OCTOBER | STRAITS TIMES

Singapore Navy launches Unity, its third Littoral Mission Vessel

The Republic of Singapore Navy launched its third Littoral Mission Vessel (LMV), called Unity, on Thursday morning (Oct 13) at Singapore Technologies Marine's (ST Marine) Benoi Yard.

[Full Report](#)



UNITED STATES | 13 OCTOBER | USNI NEWS

Updated: USS Nitze Destroys 3 Houthi Controlled Radar Sites in Retaliatory Strike

A Navy guided missile destroyer launched an attack against three radar sites in Yemen with Tomahawk cruise missiles in response to recent attacks on U.S. ships in the region, the Pentagon announced late Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 18 OCTOBER | THE HINDU

Now, India has a nuclear triad

India has quietly completed its nuclear triad by inducting the indigenously built strategic nuclear submarine INS Arihant into service.

[Full Report](#)

NEW ZEALAND-UNITED STATES | 18 OCTOBER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

US warship to visit New Zealand and end 30-year stalemate

A U.S. Navy warship will visit New Zealand next month for the first time since the 1980s, ending a 30-year-old military stalemate between the countries that was triggered when New Zealand banned nuclear warships.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 24 OCTOBER | BUSINESS STANDARD

Second Russian nuclear submarine only to replace INS Chakra

The Indian Navy will not be deploying a second

Russian nuclear attack submarine in addition to the INS Chakra — a “sub surface nuclear” (SSN) vessel leased from Russia for 10 years, from 2012-2022.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 24 OCTOBER | YONHAP

Hyundai Heavy bags 370 bln-won frigate order from Philippines

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., a major shipyard in South Korea, said Monday that it has secured a 370 billion-won (US\$325 million) deal from the Philippines to build two frigates.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 25 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA POST

National scene: South Korea launches second RI submarine

Korean defense company Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME) launched a second submarine ordered by Indonesia at Okpo, Geoje Island, South Korea, on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 25 OCTOBER | THE AUSTRALIAN

Leaked submarine secrets key to Aussie fleet, builder says

The Turnbull government's claim that the \$50 billion future submarine project will not be hurt by the massive leak of confidential data from French submarine builder DCNS has been undermined by the architect who will build the boats.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 28 OCTOBER | REUTERS

Malaysia to buy navy vessels from China in blow to U.S.

Malaysia will sign a contract to purchase Littoral Mission Ships from China when Prime Minister Najib Razak visits Beijing next week, according to a Facebook posting by the country's Ministry of Defence.

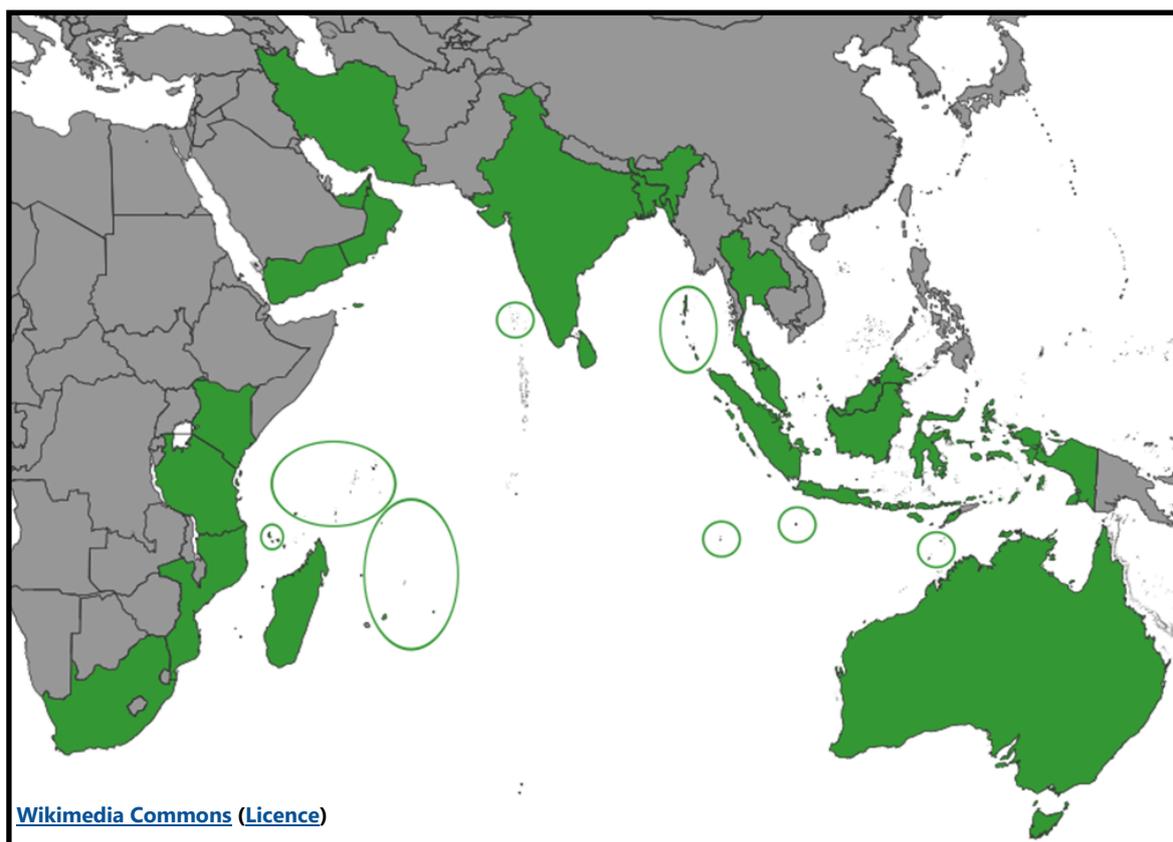
[Full Report](#)

CHINA-THE PHILIPPINES | 30 OCTOBER | REUTERS

Philippines says China ships still at shoal, but fishermen unhindered

China has scaled down its presence at a disputed South China Sea shoal but has not interfered with Filipino fishermen, the Philippine president's security adviser said on Sunday, after the administration had said China had withdrawn completely.

[Full Report](#)



INDIAN OCEAN REGION | 26 OCTOBER | THE JAKARTA POST

IORA members meet in Bali

The Indian Ocean Rim Association's (IORA) senior officials meeting opened in Nusa Dua, Bali, on Tuesday. During the senior officials meeting, IORA plans to complete the IORA Concord, in which Indonesia hopes that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing will be included.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 3 OCTOBER | THE TIMES OF INDIA

Pak boat seized off Gujarat coast, alert for 2 more

The Coast Guard apprehended a Pakistani boat with nine crew members off the Porbandar coast on Sunday even as the Multi Agency Center (MAC) issued warnings that two other suspicious Pakistani boats, which had left the Karachi port, are moving towards either Gujarat or Maharashtra.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 7 OCTOBER | SHIP & BUNKER

MPA Tests New Oil Spill Clean Up Procedure

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Friday announced that it has participated in a multi-agency joint oil and chemical spill exercise in order to test new spill procedures - specifically, the use of a new system known as NeatSweep for spill containment.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 14 OCTOBER | INQUIRER.NET

'Karen' strands 1,000 passengers in Bicol ports

More than 1,000 passengers were stranded in ports in the Bicol region as Tropical Storm "Karen" moved closer to Catanduanes province.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 16 OCTOBER | THE STRAITS TIMES

Tuna trade hit by new fishing rules

A recent clampdown on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing by the Indonesian government, which has banned the use of foreign fishing boats and at-sea transshipment, is hurting local fish processing operators.

[Full Report](#)

Continued from page 7

NORTH KOREA-RUSSIA | 16 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

North Korean fisherman killed, eight injured in spat with Russian coastguards

A North Korean fisherman died and eight others were wounded on Saturday (Oct 15) when Russian coastguards fired on them after a routine maritime check degenerated into violence, the Russian security services said.

[Full Report](#)

AFRICA | 16 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

African nations hail maritime deal

African leaders on Saturday (Oct 15) signed a deal to boost security off the continent's economically crucial coasts, hoping to shore up development by tackling maritime crimes like piracy and smuggling.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN-MALAYSIA | 20 OCTOBER | THE JAPAN NEWS

Japan to provide Malaysia with 2 large patrol vessels

The government plans to provide Malaysia with two large second-hand patrol vessels to help enhance its maritime security capabilities in the South China Sea, according to government sources.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 21 OCTOBER | TEMPO

Indonesia's Weak Regulation Sparks Theft at Sea

The Maritime Sovereignty Deputy at Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry For Maritime Affairs Arief Havas Oegroseno said that Indonesia must revamp its maritime legal system.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 21 OCTOBER | THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Abus attack South Korean ship, seize captain, crewman

Suspected Abu Sayyaf militants hijacked a South Korean cargo ship and seized the captain and its crew off Bongao, Tawi-Tawi on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

SOMALIA | 22 OCTOBER | THE GUARDIAN

Somali pirates free 26 Asian hostages after four years

Somali pirates have released 26 Asian hostages held for nearly five years after the hijacking of their fishing vessel, the last commercial ship seized at the height of the country's piracy scourge, negotiators said on Saturday.

[Full Report](#)



YEMEN | 26 OCTOBER | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Gas tanker attacked near key shipping lane off Yemen

Unknown assailants attacked a gas tanker off the coast of Yemen close to the Bab al-Mandab waterway in the latest flare up in an area through which much of the world's oil passes, shipping and security officials said on Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN-THE PHILIPPINES | 26 OCTOBER | GMA NEWS

PHL, Japan sign agreement on acquisition of patrol vessels, training aircraft

President Rodrigo Duterte and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday signed agreements to acquire vessels and training aircraft for the Philippines.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 29 OCTOBER | THE TIMES OF INDIA

Maritime security committee gets government nod

The state cabinet on Friday approved the formation of the Goa State Maritime Security Committee (GSMSC) to enhance the coordination between various security agencies, including the state and central government, for better coastal security.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-SRI LANKA | 30 OCTOBER | DAILY NEWS & ANALYSIS

India, Sri Lanka to have talks over fisheries dispute next week

India and Sri Lanka will hold the ministerial-level talks in New Delhi this week to resolve the fisheries dispute, a media report said on Sunday.

[Full Report](#)



[Wikimedia Commons](#)

WORLD | 27 OCTOBER | IHS

IMO sulfur cap set to raise shipping fuel surcharges

Shippers may end up paying higher rates via fuel surcharges depending on how well the oil industry can meet demand for low sulfur fuel after the International Maritime Organization announced that it had agreed on a deal to limit sulfur in bunker fuel to 0.5 percent by 2020.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 5 OCTOBER | THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Typhoon Chaba Batters Korean Ports and Shipyards

Typhoon Chaba battered southern parts of South Korea with violent wind and heavy rain on Wednesday, killing at least three people and flooding the country's main port and industrial sites and disrupting production at some factories.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 5 OCTOBER | WALL STREET JOURNAL

COSCO, China Shipping to Merge Shipbuilding Units

China's two biggest state-owned shipping companies plan to merge 11 shipbuilding yards into a single entity in one of the industry's biggest consolidation moves yet as ship orders hit record lows, according to people familiar with the matter.

[Full Report](#)

WORLD | 6 OCTOBER | THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Ports join to harmonize LNG bunkering standards

A group of ports spanning Europe, Asia and the U.S. have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a set of harmonized LNG bunkering standards. The group includes Antwerp, Rotterdam, Singapore and Zeebrugge and has subsequently expanded to include Jacksonville, Norway, Japan and Ulsan.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 9 OCTOBER | THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Vietnam Plans Da Nang Mega-Port

A mega-port is being planned for Vietnam's central city of Da Nang. The first phase of the \$1.4 billion development is expected to be completed by 2020; the second and third phases by 2030 and 2050 respectively.

[Full Report](#)

Continue on page 10

CHINA | 11 OCTOBER | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

Subic port to ship LNG to China

China's leading clean energy service provider Jovo Group Company Ltd. Guangdong on Wednesday said it is ready to engage in ship-to-ship operations in Subic Bay.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 11 OCTOBER | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

First Hanjin vessel seized at Korean port

Hanjin Shipping filed an appeal this week after an American fuel company seized one of its vessels docked in Korea over the weekend, the first domestic seizure since the company fell under court receivership last month, despite the bankruptcy court's stay order prohibiting creditors from seizing ships in Korean waters.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 13 OCTOBER | TODAY

Hanjin Shipping puts Asia-U.S. shipping network up for sale

South Korea's Hanjin Shipping Co Ltd is selling major businesses, including its Asia to U.S. route network, and will receive letters of intent by Oct. 28, the company said on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 16 OCTOBER | TEMPO

Better Maritime Connectivity will Boost Development: Jokowi

The Indonesian government is in the midst of a program to ensure better maritime connectivity through a sea toll road development program which will ensure the development of border and remote regions and add to competitiveness.

[Full Report](#)

PAKISTAN | 17 OCTOBER | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

CPEC becomes reality as first Chinese ship docks at Gwadar port

First Chinese ship finally docked on Sunday at Gwadar port that is center of \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project between Beijing and Islamabad.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-ITALY | 18 OCTOBER | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

Cosco Shipping Ports expands in the Med with Vado Port buy

China port giant Cosco Shipping Ports continues on its

overseas expansion track with the purchase of a 40% stake in APM Terminals' Vado Holdings, which operates the Vado Reefer Terminal at Vado Port in Italy, for EUR53m (\$58.3m).

[Full Report](#)

WORLD | 19 OCTOBER | WORLD NEWS

United Call Issued to IMO for Progress on CO2 Emissions at MEPC 70

Coming ahead of the 70th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 70), BIMCO, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO, and the World Shipping Council (WSC) have issued a joint call for IMO member states to take action in addressing shipping's CO2 emissions.

[Full Report](#)

EGYPT | 25 OCTOBER | REUTERS

Egypt seeks new Suez Canal toll deal with global shipping lines

Egypt is in talks with global shipping firms to change the way it charges vessels to pass through the Suez Canal, offering discounts for advance payments as it seeks to raise much-needed hard currency from a struggling industry.

[Full Report](#)



CHINA-SRI LANKA | 28 OCTOBER | REUTERS

Sri Lanka to sell 80 percent of southern Hambantota port to Chinese firm

Sri Lanka will sell to a Chinese company 80 percent of a \$1.5-billion port in its south, where China has also been offered an investment zone, in a bid to cut the country's debt burden, Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake said.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 31 OCTOBER | THE WEEKLY TIMES

Port of Melbourne sale: Deal closed for \$9.7b

Victoria's bank account is about to get a nice bump before pay day – \$9.7 billion from the sale of the Melbourne port lease is landing there today.

[Full Report](#)