

Featured *MSP* Guest Column:



MSP Guest Column:

The Aircraft Carrier Debate in Japan: Prospects and Issues
— p. 4

Naval Development and Policy:

US and Japan Fire Missiles to Sink Ship During RIMPAC
— p. 5

Maritime Safety and Security:

(LEAD) Two Koreas normalize maritime communication hot line: Defense Ministry
— p. 7

Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy:

Singapore tops world's shipping centre rankings in 2018
— p. 9

Table of Contents

MSP GUEST COLUMN	4
The Aircraft Carrier Debate in Japan: Prospects and Issues	4
NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY	5
US and Japan Fire Missiles to Sink Ship During RIMPAC	5
China launches guided missile destroyers	5
Coast Guard, newly under military command, announces Diaoyu patrol	5
Pakistan inks naval shipbuilding, technology transfer deal with Turkey	5
China is quietly conducting electronic warfare tests in the South China Sea	5
U.S. warships pass through Taiwan Strait amid heightened tensions with Beijing	6
Submarine-hunting planes to replace ageing Orions	6
Japanese, Indian teams submit designs for Taiwan's 'Indigenous Defense Submarines'	6
US Navy's surface ship program head confident on meeting 355-ship goal	6
After US Navy Raises 1st Full Underwater Drone Squadron, Indian Navy Wants Its Own	6
First images of newly-built North Korean warship published by state media	6
Navy, Marine Corps Racing to Increase Amphibious Fleet as Demand Rises	6
Philippine Navy to receive two new AW159 anti-submarine helicopters	6
M'sia to intensify ties with US, China to avoid area being turned into war zone - Mat Sabu	6
Japan's newest Aegis-equipped vessel, Maya, launched in Yokohama	6
MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY	7
(LEAD) Two Koreas normalize maritime communication hot line: Defense Ministry	7
Fisherman support model helps enhance law enforcement at sea	7
PH, Malaysia to sign maritime security pact vs. transnational crimes	7
MMEA eyeing for three multi-purpose mission ships to enhance operations	7
China to build the country's first maritime patrol ship over 10,000 tons	7
TMP must be permanent — Naval Region 2 chief	8
Plastic garbage and destructive fishing big threat to Indonesian sea	8
ReCAAP: Piracy Incident Reported in First Half of 2018 at Lowest Level in 10 Years	8
Japan to deploy patrol ships on remote island south of Tokyo	8
Advanced rescue ship planned	8
PMSS ship 'Kashmir' commissioned in China	8
Maritime militia flotillas under consideration	8
PHL Navy gets patrol boats from China	8
DILG tasks LGUs to secure waters vs. destructive fishing	8
Philippines raises concern over Chinese radio warnings	8
SHIPPING, PORTS, AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY	9
Singapore tops world's shipping centre rankings in 2018	9
Asean ports to benefit from increased intraregional trade	9
India to ease charting restrictions	9
South Korea and India plan to collaborate on shipbuilding	9
Korean shipbuilders plead for freeze in domestic plate supply price	9
IMO working group makes progress on sulphur testing and verification issues	10
Indonesia shares fisheries expertise with other countries	10
Singaporean firm to automate Djibouti Port	10
Powering ships with plastic in Amsterdam	10
New automated cranes on trial at Pasir Panjang Terminal, in boost for Singapore's port hub ambition	10
Asian cruise industry registers double-digit growth	10
Da Nang completes second-stage upgrading of Tien Sa port	10
Chinese consortium to build fourth Panama Canal bridge	10
Minister, Zohri promote eat-fish movement	10
Steel Cut for World's Largest Container Vessels in Shanghai	10

NOTES

Please click on the links for the full report. All links and news reports are correct at the time of publication. Through this bulletin, you will be linked to external websites. We have no control over the nature, content, and availability of those sites. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorsement of the views expressed within them.

Should you encounter any problem in retrieving the articles, or if you have any comments/suggestions/request, please feel free to contact us at:

RSISMSP@ntu.edu.sg

Maritime Security Programme, RSIS

Editorial Team

Lee YingHui
Collin Koh



MSP Guest Columnist

Ryo Hinata-Yamaguchi is a Visiting Professor at the Department of Global Studies, College of Economics and International Trade, Pusan National University, and an Adjunct Fellow at the Pacific Forum CSIS.

To further sharpen the readiness of the Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF), the Japanese government plans to revise the National Defense Program Guidelines and the Mid-Term Defense Program by the end of 2018. In May, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) submitted their recommendation, proposing further increases in the defense budget and a variety of new assets including a “multipurpose aircraft carrier.”

While debates concerning aircraft carriers are not new in Japan, they have been constitutionally controversial. In 1978, the Japanese government deemed “offensive carriers” as unconstitutional while approving carriers specializing in anti-submarine warfare (ASW), eventually leading to the construction and operation of the Hyuga- and Izumo-class helicopter destroyers.

The growing discussions for aircraft carriers are largely motivated by the combination of the fluid regional security environment that requires more offensive capabilities to effectively deter and defend against threats, as well as the JSDF’s expanding role under the Legislation for Peace and Security. Given the current limitations and vulnerabilities to deal with the demands – particularly in the southwest island chain – flattops would be a key asset that champions the JSDF’s air and naval supremacy by establishing and sustaining optimal response and operational radius.

The question, however, is what kind of carrier Japan can or should get. Broadly there are three options.

The first is the conversion of the Izumo-class by constructing flight deck for short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) aircraft such as the F-35B. Yet the downside is that the vessel will have a negative-sum effect, fielding limited airpower while also compromising the vessels’ ASW capabilities.

The second is the construction of an amphibious assault vessel for amphibious operations (such as the recently established Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade) but with some capacity for STOVL airpower. However, the focus on amphibious capabilities would create a zero-sum balance with the airpower component.

The third is the construction of a carrier designed to accommodate 20 to 40 aircraft, possibly with a well-deck to facilitate some amphibious operations. While this option provides the most airpower, it is the most expensive both in investment and operations and maintenance costs – particularly if the vessel is fitted with sophisticated technologies such as catapult assisted take-off but arrested recovery (CATOBAR).

Whatever option Japan takes, major defense planning dilemmas are inevitable. Compounded by the issues concerning the immense costs and also political intrigues, Japan’s decision will depend much on the strategic, operational, and tactical requirements. If the purpose is purely to defend the remote islands, then the second option would be suitable. Yet if the focus is on air and maritime supremacy as well as a more proactive international security role, then the third option would be a better choice. Japan could opt for a vessel with both ample airpower and amphibious capabilities, though doing so could lead to a massive, pricey platform that is a “jack of all trades, master of none.”

The impact of aircraft carriers on the JSDF also warrant attention.

First, the force structural impact will be significant, involving major reconfiguration of units and augmentation of current JSDF inventory to form and effectively operate the carrier strike groups and carrier-based airpower assets.

Second, Japan will need to formulate concept of operations and nurture proficiency regarding naval airpower. This would require lengthy studies, collaboration with other carrier powers (e.g. US and UK), configuration of training regimes, as well as improving the JSDF’s joint capabilities.

Thus the most pressing questions are much less about whether Japan can build carriers, but whether it can effectively operate and sustain them for optimal defense readiness. If the cost-effectiveness balance proves negative, then the carrier will be a liability with marginal benefits, making it better to pursue alternatives such as strengthening the JSDF’s airpower by ordering more tactical, intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance (ISTAR), and aerial refuelling aircraft, constructing new or converting civilian infrastructures in the southwest region for aerial operations, new class of landing ships, or even acquiring anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles.

At this stage, there are more questions than answers. While aircraft carriers will be essential for the defense and deterrence, how Japan addresses its defense planning dilemmas and set out plans to sharpen the JSDF’s readiness will make or break the effectiveness of the project.



[Wikimedia Commons \(Licence\)](#)

JAPAN-UNITED STATES | 15 JULY | MILITARY.COM

US and Japan Fire Missiles to Sink Ship During RIMPAC

With the explosive roar of multiple missiles and white contrails arcing high into the sky, U.S. and Japanese forces made history Thursday during Rim of the Pacific exercises.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 3 JULY | CHINA DAILY

China launches guided missile destroyers

China launched two Type 055 guided-missile destroyers on Tuesday morning, according to witnesses outside a shipyard in Dalian, Liaoning province.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 4 JULY | GLOBAL TIMES

Coast Guard, newly under military command, announces Diaoyu patrol

The China Coast Guard (CCG) on Wednesday conducted a patrol in the waters surrounding the Diaoyu Islands, the first such mission since the CCG was placed under the leadership of the Chinese military.

[Full Report](#)

PAKISTAN | 5 JULY | DEFENSE NEWS

Pakistan inks naval shipbuilding, technology transfer deal with Turkey

Pakistan has signed a contract for the construction of four Milgem/Ada-class corvettes with the Turkish state-controlled shipyard M/s ASFAT A.S.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 5 JULY | CNBC

China is quietly conducting electronic warfare tests in the South China Sea

China is quietly testing electronic warfare assets recently installed at fortified outposts in the South China Sea, according to sources who have seen U.S. intelligence reports.

[Full Report](#)

Continue on page 6

Continued from page 5

UNITED STATES | 7 JULY | REUTERS

U.S. warships pass through Taiwan Strait amid heightened tensions with Beijing

Two U.S. warships passed through the Taiwan Strait on Saturday on a voyage that will likely be viewed in the self-ruled island as a sign of support by President Donald Trump amid heightened tension with China.

[Full Report](#)

NEW ZEALAND | 9 JULY | STUFF.CO.NZ

Submarine-hunting planes to replace ageing Orions

The defence force will buy new maritime surveillance aircraft, with submarine hunting capability, worth \$2.3 billion.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 10 JULY | TAIWAN NEWS

Japanese, Indian teams submit designs for Taiwan's 'Indigenous Defense Submarines'

Earlier this year, the United States State Department approved the transfer of technology that will allow Taiwan to produce its own submarines for purposes of national defense.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 13 JULY | DEFENSE NEWS

US Navy's surface ship program head confident on meeting 355-ship goal

The head of the U.S. Navy's surface ship program office says the service will be able to meet the goal of a 355-ship fleet.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 17 JULY | LIVEFIST DEFENCE

After US Navy Raises 1st Full Underwater Drone Squadron, Indian Navy Wants Its Own

Eight years after the Indian Navy first floated interest in acquiring AUVs — autonomous underwater vehicles, basically mini unmanned submarines built for specific programmed tasks at sea — the service still doesn't have any in full operational service.

[Full Report](#)

NORTH KOREA | 19 JULY | NK NEWS

First images of newly-built North Korean warship published by state media

North Korean state media this week provided the first public images of a newly built naval vessel during Kim Jong Un's Tuesday tour of the Chongjin Shipyard, two analysts confirmed to NK News on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 24 JULY | USNI NEWS

Navy, Marine Corps Racing to Increase Amphibious Fleet as Demand Rises

The Navy and Marine Corps are running up against a deadline to add more amphibious warships to the fleet before older hulls start retiring, Marine Maj. Gen. David Coffman told lawmakers and shipbuilding industry representatives at a congressional forum Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 27 JULY | NAVAL TECHNOLOGY

Philippine Navy to receive two new AW159 anti-submarine helicopters

The Philippine Navy is set to receive its first two AW159 Wildcat anti-submarine helicopters in March next year.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 30 JULY | NEW STRAITS TIMES

M'sia to intensify ties with US, China to avoid area being turned into war zone - Mat Sabu

Malaysia will not let nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships to dock here or carry out training as it can lead to conflict in future, said Defence Minister Mohamad Sabu.

[Full Report](#)



[Wikimedia Commons \(Licence\)](#)

JAPAN | 31 JULY | THE MAINICHI

Japan's newest Aegis-equipped vessel, Maya, launched in Yokohama

A ceremony to mark the launch of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF)'s newest vessel equipped with the Aegis missile defense system was held in this city's Isogo Ward on July 30, and the ship was officially named Maya.

[Full Report](#)



KOREAS | 1 JULY | YONHAP

(LEAD) Two Koreas normalize maritime communication hot line: Defense Ministry

The South Korean defense ministry said Sunday the two Koreas have resumed using ship-to-ship radio links for smooth communications at sea for the first time in 10 years.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 3 JULY | VIETNAM PLUS

Fisherman support model helps enhance law enforcement at sea

The model "Coast guards support fishermen" has helped the Vietnam Coast Guard and other forces effectively perform patrols and inspections of the law enforcement at sea, heard a press conference in Hanoi on July 3.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA-THE PHILIPPINES | 4 JULY | PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

PH, Malaysia to sign maritime security pact vs. transnational crimes

The Philippines and Malaysia maritime police forces are expected to sign soon a formal agreement for stronger maritime security cooperation against transnational crimes, terrorism, and emerging nautical concerns.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 7 JULY | THE SUN DAILY

MMEA eyeing for three multi-purpose mission ships to enhance operations

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) will request the government to acquire three 'multi-purpose mission ships' to further increase the efficiency of preventing invasion of foreign fishermen, especially in the South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 9 JULY | GLOBAL TIMES

China to build the country's first maritime patrol ship over 10,000 tons

CSSC Huangpu Wenchong Shipbuilding Company Limited won the bidding for the construction of a maritime patrol vessel for the Guangdong Maritime Safety Administration, the company wrote on its website on Friday.

[Full Report](#)

Continue on page 8

MALAYSIA | 12 JULY | THE BORNEO POST

TMP must be permanent — Naval Region 2 chief

The cooperation between the Malaysian, Indonesian and Philippine security forces in the Trilateral Maritime Patrol (TMP) to address terrorist threats and cross-border crime elements in the Sulu Sea, should be maintained.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 15 JULY | ANTARA

Plastic garbage and destructive fishing big threat to Indonesian sea

Marine and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti has expressed concern with the "big threat" to ecosystem in the Indonesian sea pointing to plastic garbage and destructive fishing.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA | 18 JULY | GCAPTAIN

ReCAAP: Piracy Incident Reported in First Half of 2018 at Lowest Level in 10 Years

The number of maritime piracy incidents reported to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre in the first half of 2018 fell to its lowest number in the past 10 years, the agency reported Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)



JAPAN | 19 JULY | THE MAINICHI

Japan to deploy patrol ships on remote island south of Tokyo

The Japan Coast Guard is planning to deploy patrol ships on a small island about 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo, with the aim of strengthening the capability of cracking down on illegal foreign fishing boats, a government official said Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 20 JULY | CHINA DAILY

Advanced rescue ship planned

China State Shipbuilding Corp is designing what it says

is the world's most advanced rescue ship, and plans to commission it around 2021.

[Full Report](#)

PAKISTAN | 21 JULY | DAWN

PMSS ship 'Kashmir' commissioned in China

The first 1,500-tonne Pakistan Maritime Security Ship 'Kashmir' — which is the fourth in a series of six multipurpose patrol vessels (MPVs) — was commissioned in the Chinese city of Guangzhou on Friday.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 25 JULY | THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

Maritime militia flotillas under consideration

The building of maritime militia flotillas to protect sea and island sovereignty was on the agenda of a conference held on July 25 by the Central Military Commission along with the national border protection strategy and some other contents.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-THE PHILIPPINES | 29 JULY | GMA NEWS

PHL Navy gets patrol boats from China

The Philippine Navy has received four patrol boats, including high-powered firearms and ammunition, from the People's Republic of China.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 30 JULY | PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY

DILG tasks LGUs to secure waters vs. destructive fishing

Local government officials have been directed to take a bigger role in securing aquatic resources and local officials may be held liable for failing to act against prohibited fishing activities in their respective areas, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Monday.

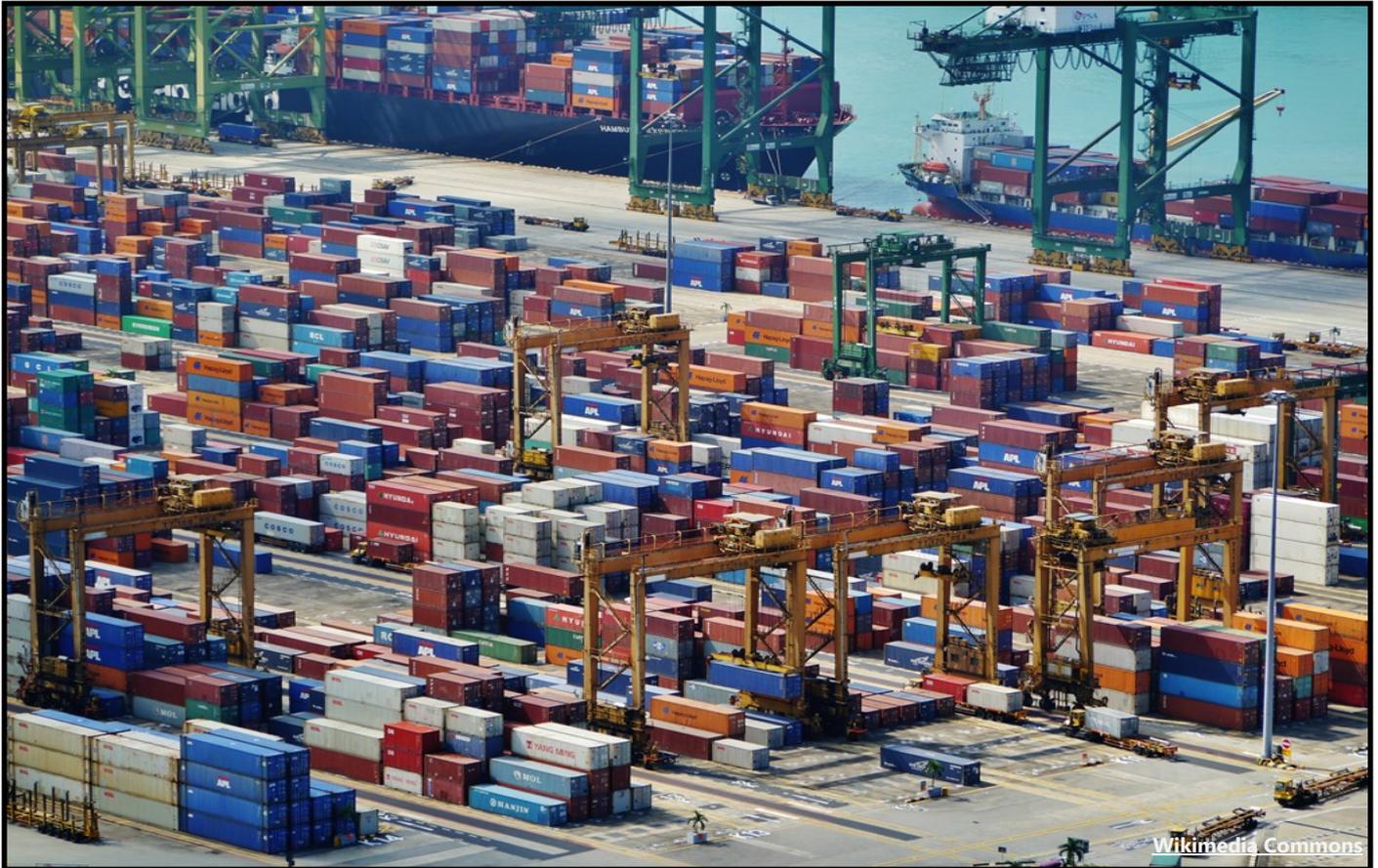
[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 31 JULY | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines raises concern over Chinese radio warnings

The Philippines has expressed concern to China over an increasing number of Chinese radio messages warning Philippine aircraft and ships to stay away from newly fortified islands and other territories in the South China Sea claimed by both countries, officials said Monday.

[Full Report](#)



SINGAPORE | 10 JULY | SINGAPORE BUSINESS REVIEW

Singapore tops world's shipping centre rankings in 2018

Singapore is considered the best shipping centre for four years in a row already, a study by the Baltic Exchange and Xinhua revealed. It was followed by cities such as Hong Kong, London, Shanghai, Dubai, and Rotterdam.

[Full Report](#)

ASEAN | 4 JULY | THE SUN DAILY

Asean ports to benefit from increased intraregional trade

The expansion of intra-Asean trade will boost the capacity utilisation of ports in the region, said Johor Port Authority (JPA) General Manager Muhammad Razif Ahmad.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 6 JULY | SPLASH 24/7

India to ease charting restrictions

The rapid opening up of India's shipping sector continues. Fresh from announcing a partial relaxation of the country's cabotage law, the ministry of shipping is now promulgating new laws whereby Indian owners will be able to charter foreign flagged ships far more easily.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-SOUTH KOREA | 9 JULY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

South Korea and India plan to collaborate on shipbuilding

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, is visiting India for the first time seeking to expand cooperation on a range of industries including shipbuilding.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 17 JULY | PULSE

Korean shipbuilders plead for freeze in domestic plate supply price

South Korea's shipbuilders sitting on idle docks due to dwindled orders pleaded domestic steelmakers for a freeze in steel plate prices to help them save production costs.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 18 JULY | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

IMO working group makes progress on sulphur testing and verification issues

There appears to be significant support among IMO member States to ensure consistency in fuel oil testing and verification procedures for the verification of compliance with MARPOL Annex VI sulphur limits through regulatory amendments.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 20 JULY | ANTARA

Indonesia shares fisheries expertise with other countries

A total of 28 technical officials and business entrepreneurs from countries in the Asian, Pacific, and African regions attended a series of activities on capacity building in fisheries.

[Full Report](#)

DJIBOUTI-SINGAPORE | 21 JULY | THE REPORTER

Singaporean firm to automate Djibouti Port

CrimsonLogic, a Singaporean digital solutions company, appointed by Djibouti Port and Free Zone Authority (DPFZA), a port of entry for over 99 percent of Ethiopia's import, is to implement Port Community Systems (PCS), *The Reporter* has learnt.

[Full Report](#)

THE NETHERLANDS | 23 JULY | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

Powering ships with plastic in Amsterdam

In the Port of Amsterdam, a new factory is being built that could revolutionize the way we dispose of plastic waste. Utilizing groundbreaking technology, the facility will use previously unrecyclable plastic to create fuel for diesel powered cargo ships.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 23 JULY | THE STRAITS TIMES

New automated cranes on trial at Pasir Panjang Terminal, in boost for Singapore's port hub ambition

New automated cranes and vehicles are on trial at the Pasir Panjang Terminal and can boost productivity substantially, potentially bolstering Singapore's status as a port hub.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA | 24 JULY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Asian cruise industry registers double-digit growth

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) has released its 2018 Asia Cruise Trends report indicating

that most Asian source markets registered double-digit year-on-year growth in 2017.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 28 JULY | THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

Da Nang completes second-stage upgrading of Tien Sa port

The central city of Da Nang has officially put into operation the second stage of Tien Sa port after two years of construction, bringing its total capacity to 12 million tonnes of cargo per year.

[Full Report](#)



CHINA-PANAMA | 30 JULY | REUTERS

Chinese consortium to build fourth Panama Canal bridge

A group formed of China Communications Construction Co Ltd (CCCC) and China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) won a \$1.42 billion contract build the fourth bridge over the Panama Canal, Panama's government said.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 30 JULY | ANTARA

Minister, Zohri promote eat-fish movement

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti together with a number of athletes, including world's 100-m sprinter champion Muhammad Zohri, promoted the eat-fish movement (Gemarikan) in Jakarta on Sunday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 31 JULY | MARINE LINK

Steel Cut for World's Largest Container Vessels in Shanghai

China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) has commenced construction of CMA CGM's 22,000 TEU boxships, which would make them the largest container vessels in the world, reported China's official media.

[Full Report](#)