

DP World aims to replicate Jebel Ali success in Ecuador's new Posorja port

The \$538m first phase of DP World's new deep-water port of Posorja in Ecuador, is now completed and operational. The \$1.2bn in total project aims to replicate Dubai's Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone, making Ecuador a trade and logistics hub for South America's west coast, and opening a gateway for large container ships with capacities exceeding 10,000 teu. The port, which has already been operational for two months, handling thousands of containers and more than a dozen post-panamax ships, was visited by Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, DP World group chairman and ceo who said that "The new Port and Special Economic Zone will significantly improve Ecuador's global competitiveness and position the country as a dynamic business hub for the west coast of South America, following the model that has been tried and tested in Dubai and around the world." Posorja is expected to receive an annual volume of 750,000 teu during the first phase, and 1.5m teu at full port capacity. The Port is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, world-class infrastructure, and the largest gantry cranes in South America. "The last two months of operations have shown the importance and capability of the Port to importers and exporters, shipping lines and local authorities as we work hand-in-hand with our partners to enable trade and develop innovative logistics solutions," he said.

Sri Lanka hub status grows despite direct mainline calls to Indian ports

Sri Lanka's Colombo port status as a container hub is growing despite shipping lines making direct calls to Indian ports, a new study by the Asian Development Bank has said. The Asia-Europe shipping route passing close to Sri Lanka, enables Colombo to become the main hub port for the South Asian region, it said. The study on maritime co-operation under the ADB's South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program, said Colombo ranks 23rd in container traffic globally, ahead India's largest ports Mumbai and Mundra. "Colombo is SASEC's busiest container port. It is close to the busy Southern Ocean Corridor and acts as a container hub for the subcontinent," the study said. Its annual growth was 16.8 percent in 2017, and the transshipment activity, which represents almost 80% of handling, was up by over 20 percent. "This high transshipment growth rate suggests its role as a hub for the subregion is increasing, despite more direct mainline calls to Indian ports," the ADB report said. This ADB view comes at a time when several Sri Lankan shipping sector officials had expressed concern India's plans to develop its own ports and attract calls by container shipping lines could result in loss of business for Colombo.

Jafza, DMCC pen warehousing and logistics services agreement

Dubai's DMCC and DP World subsidiary Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) have signed a collaboration agreement that will offer warehousing and logistic services to DMCC-registered companies, the two entities have announced. "Since its establishment almost thirty-five years ago, Jafza has played a crucial role in making Dubai the global centre for trade it is today," said DMCC executive chairman and CEO Ahmed bin Sulayem. "Under our agreement, DMCC member companies will gain access to all of JAFZA's state-of-the-art warehousing and logistical services at no extra charge through a single point of contact." Bin Sulayem added that "this collaborative agreement provides a strong incentive for DMCC-based companies to leverage the facilities available at Jafza, while streamlining our business processes to support our customers." As part of the agreement, DMCC member companies will also be fully exempt from registration and licensing fees related to the new service. "Collaboration is an essential part of growing together for our nation's economy," said Mohammed Al Muallem, the CEO and managing director of DP World, UAE region and CEO of Jafza said. "Jebel Ali Free Zone is pleased to be offering a new benefit which will increase commercial activities through our facilities."

Gwadar port officially opens for commercial shipping

Pakistan's Gwadar Port, a key part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, has officially opened for commercial shipping and is expecting its first vessel this month. The announcement was made by Pakistan's sub-Committee of the Senate Standing on Maritime Affairs, which was attended by senators and senior officials from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Gwadar Port Authority. Also on the agenda was the issue of IT connectivity for the Port, and it was announced that Pakistan Telecommunications Company Ltd (PCTL), the national telecom company, will replace the current radio software with fibre-optic connectivity to increase efficiency. The sub-Committee also concluded that the main competitors to Gwadar would be the major transshipment hubs of Dubai and Singapore. Consequently, it has dispelled with demurrage charges and offered favourable warehouse storage deals to attract business. Work on the various projects in Gwadar is continuing at a fast pace to develop the port city to international standards, and four Chinese companies working there would be given exemptions from taxes, the Pakistan government had announced ahead of PM Imran Khan's China visit.

Adani Port to enhance Dhamra port cargo handling capacity

India's largest private commercial port Mundra is in Gujarat that is managed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ). APSEZ wants to replicate the success model of Mundra in Odisha by increasing the cargo handling capacity of Dhamra port. To carry out the ambitious plan, APSEZ plans to invest INR 48,933 crore in the project over 35 years in a phased manner that will enhance cargo handling capacity to 314 million tonnes a year eventually. APSEZ officials said that the investment will be made in two phases spread over 35 years. "In the first phase of the expansion in five years, APSEZ will invest INR 17,518 crore in building the port's cargo handling infrastructure that will enhance capacity to 169.5 million tonnes," said the official. In the longer second phase, INR 31,415 crore will be invested and it is expected that by the end of 30 years cargo handling capacity will cross 314 million tonnes. Giving details of the project, new container handling facility will be set up that will have initial capacity of 3.1 million TEUs which will be enhanced to 4.66 million TEUs in due course. According to the authorities, APSEZ has already received environmental and coastal regulation zone (CRZ) clearance from the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Qatar's ports handle over 1m containers in 9 months this year

The container traffic at Hamad Port, Ruwais Port and Doha Port has crossed 1 million mark in the first nine of this year, showing that Qatar's maritime sector remains strong. The ports have handled 1,002,908 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) containers in January-September period, which is around two percent more than compared to container traffic in same period in 2018. These ports also witnessed impressive growth in building materials and vehicles handling. During the first nine months, these ports handled 307,511 tonnes of general cargo, recording 23 percent growth compared to same period in previous year. The ports handled 54,555 vehicles in January- September period, registering a growth of 7 percent compared to corresponding period in 2018, said Qatar Ports Management Company (Mwani Qatar) in tweet yesterday. The ports also handled 556,780 tonnes of general cargo in first nine months and 582,598 heads of livestock. In September this year, 371 ships docked at Hamad Port, Ruwais Port and Doha Port compared to 319 ships in August 2019. The ports handled 218,330 tonnes of building materials in January-June period of this year, compared to 177,000 tonnes in the same period last year, showing a growth of around 24 percent.

King Abdullah Port welcomes world's largest container ships

In its first visit to the Kingdom, MSC MINA, one of the world's largest container ships, has docked at King Abdullah Port, the Saudi port with the capability to receive the largest vessels in the world. The docking occurred amidst a warm welcome and in the attendance of representatives from the port's management, officials from the Economic Cities Authority, several government agencies active in the port, and representatives of major clients, who boarded the mega vessel to observe its massive size and capacity, and to learn about its components and advanced technologies. The MSC MINA has a capacity of 23,656 TEUs and features a length of 400 meters, a breadth of 61 meters, and a draft of 16.5 meters. In regards to container storage, MSC MINA can accommodate 24 rows of containers, with a height of 13 containers per row. In 2013, King Abdullah Port announced its partnership with MSC and one year later received the MSC LONDON, which was the largest container ship to dock at a Saudi port at that time, followed in October 2015 by the MSC MAYA, the world's largest at the time. King Abdullah Port is characterized by its powerful, state-of-the-art infrastructure and the world's deepest 18-meter water berths.

Port of Duqm receives Maersk's debut container shipment

Port of Duqm has received Maersk's debut container shipment in Duqm early this month. Port of Duqm sees Maersk's entry to Duqm as a breakthrough since it puts Duqm further on the map as a destination for containerised cargo. Maersk's container shipment, destined to one of the key development projects in Duqm, arrived from APM Terminals' container terminal in Nhava Sheva's Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), India via Jebel Ali, from where it was picked up by Oman Shipping's express feeder service and delivered at Port of Duqm. Maersk's maiden container delivery is of importance for Port of Duqm since it confirms the interest from a leading integrated container logistics and transport company in Duqm as a new gateway for containerized cargo in the Sultanate. The Port of Salalah is Maersk's main base in the Middle East and thanks to Oman Shipping's active feeder service, connecting Duqm to other regional ports Salalah, Sohar and Jebel Ali, containers destined for Duqm can be picked up weekly from now onwards and shipped to Duqm. This will reduce transportation via road substantially leading to obvious health and safety advantages. This set up will remain in place till end 2020 when Port of Duqm expects to commission its fully-fledged container operations.

Iran's PMO launches shipping container production line

Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has launched a production line for manufacturing multi-purpose shipping containers in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, the portal of PMO reported. As reported, Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami and PMO Head Mohammad Rastad attended the opening ceremony, which was held recently. According to Mohammad Ali Hassan-Zadeh, the deputy head of PMO, with the establishment of this production unit, which is based in Alborz province in north-central Iran, the county will be self-sufficient in the manufacturing of shipping containers and will no longer face problems in this regard. "Container is one of the most important tools of world trade today," Hassan-Zadeh said, adding that according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), of the total volume of shipping trade in the world, nearly 40 percent is in the form of liquid bulk, 35 percent in the form of solid bulk, 16 percent is by containers and the rest are in the form of general cargoes. PMO is seeking to create new container capacity in the country's ports to gain more share of container transportation in the region, according to Rastad.

DP World launches accelerator platform for logistics startups

DP World launched Log-X- a technology accelerator platform for logistics recently. The accelerator platform was launched in partnership with Invest India, Kerala Start-Up Mission and its accelerator partner Startup Réseau, to encourage innovation and technology adoption in the Indian logistics sector. The program will focus on digital technologies like block chain, artificial intelligence, robotics, simulators and internet of things, to identify logistics-focused technology start-ups in India. "Technology adoption and innovation will play a strong role in building an integrated logistics platform which offer end-to-end solutions for cargo owners," said Rizwan Soomar, chief executive and managing director at DP World Subcontinent. "DP World wants to encourage the creation of a start-up eco-system for logistics and supply-chain focused innovators with an aim to reduce the costs of logistics in India and make India's exports more competitive. The LogX accelerator program is a unique partnership between DP World, Invest India and the Start-Up Kerala Mission to encourage innovation across the value chain in the logistics sector in India. This will be transformative for India," he added.

Bangladesh allows use of Chattogram, Mongla ports for movement of goods to and from India

Bangladesh has allowed the use of its Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of goods to and from India through its territory. This comes after a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was signed and exchanged by India and Bangladesh in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on October 5. "During the official visit of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India, a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) wherein Bangladesh allowed the use of its Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of goods to and from India through its territory was signed and exchanged by India and Bangladesh before the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh on October 5, 2019," an official release said. "The SOP on use of Chattogram and Mongla ports has been finalised after the two countries signed an MoU on June 6, 2015, and an Agreement on October 25, 2018," it said. The agreement and SOP permit the movement of goods in Bangladesh through waterways, rail, road or multi-modal transport. Eight routes are provided under the Agreement which would enable access of North East Region (NER) via Bangladesh. Union Minister of State Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya said that the decision will pave way for the development of the North East region.

World's biggest container shipping line eyes Lamu Port

World's largest container shipping company, Maersk is eyeing Lamu Port, a boost to the facility which is slowly getting international maritime players attention. Known as Maersk A/S, the Danish business conglomerate with activities in the transport, logistics and energy sectors, is ready to call at the new port facility, the Star has established. This comes as Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) moves to equip the first berth at the port which was completed on August 6, with construction of the second and third berths being underway. "Maersk has committed to bring a ship to call at Lamu Port," Edward Kamau-KPA General Manager Corporate Services confirmed yesterday, "We are preparing to move equipment to support operations at the first berth which is ready." The equipment includes Rubber-Tyred Gantry cranes (RTGs), terminal tractors, forklifts and reach stackers (for container handling) and pilot boats, tag boats and mooring equipment (for handling of vessels). The authority had in July called for supply of three-six tonne and two-five tonne forklifts. KPA is also installing navigation aid at the port. "These equipments are just but a few to start us off. By the time all the three berths are complete, we shall have full operations at Lamu," Kamau said.