

Transworld Group welcomed OEL Jumeirah in its fleet

Orient Express Line (OEL) a subsidiary of India's Transworld Group has welcomed the 14 year old 4252 Teu in its fleet. The ship has become to the largest owned vessel in the group. The OEL Jumeirah will trade on the carriers services between India and the middle east.

Global container port volumes up 6.7% in first half 2017

Underscoring an upturn in container shipping global boxport volumes grew 6.7% in the first half of 2017, and forecast at 6% for the year as a whole by Alphaliner. Survey of over 250 ports by Alphaliner showed containers volumes grew 7.4% in the second quarter having registered 5.9% in Q1 giving an a first half average of 6.7%. "The momentum is expected to continue in the second half, with the latest figures for July also showing very strong figures," the analyst's weekly report said. Alphaliner is forecasting full year growth of 6%, the highest since 2011. South Asia reported the highest rate of throughput growth in the first half with 9.3%, while the key areas of the US and China posted growth rates of 8.2% and 8.4% respectively. In the top 20 largest ports Chinese ports registered the highest growth rates the first half of the year with Ningbo-Zhoushan growing at 14.4% to 12.4m Teu, Guangzhou at 11.7% to 9.6m teu, and Hong Kong 10.5% to 10.2m Teu. Only two ports in the top 20 registered a drop in volumes in H1 2017 with the Malaysian ports of Klang and Tanjung Pelepas seeing falls of 3.1% (6.3m Teu) and 4% to 4.1m teu respectively.

King Abdullah Port: 1,460 maritime services delivered in 2016

1,460 maritime services delivered in 2016, 30% increase expected by the end of 2017, Specialized Marine Services Company Is Key Contributor To The Successful Operation Of King Abdullah Port In 2016, Container Management magazine, a British global leader specialized in ports, navigation, maritime transportation and container handling, issued a report that ranked King Abdullah Port by far the fastest growing of any in the publication's global list of top 120 ports. Additionally, King Abdullah Port was ranked 98th in a list of the 100 largest ports worldwide in 2017, after only three years of operation. King Abdullah Port is considered the latest infrastructure megaproject in the Middle East. It was built according to state-of-the-art specifications and world-class standards to cope with the Kingdom's economic and commercial growth in the coming decades. The port was able to achieve rapid success and incredible progress in its operations in just a few years. Its success was based on several elements, the most important of which was the establishment of the Specialized Marine Services (SMS), a joint venture company established in 2013 between the Ports Development Company (PDC), which is the private sector owner and developer of King Abdullah Port, and the National Port Services Company Ltd.

Saudi Arabia installing cranes at Yemen ports to boost aid delivery

Saudi Arabia said it was installing four cranes at three ports in Yemen to help boost humanitarian aid deliveries and was ready to assist with installing cranes at the key port of Hodeidah once it was under control of a neutral party. The Saudi mission at the UN said in a statement that the cranes were being installed at the ports of Aden, Mukalla and Al-Mokha — which are all under the control of a Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen. The coalition has said it is determined to help Yemen's government retake all areas of the country held by Houthi militias, including Hodeidah port, and would ensure alternative entry routes for badly needed food and medicine. The UN has worked to avert attacks on Hodeidah, a vital Red Sea aid delivery point for millions of Yemenis in danger of slipping into famine. Around 80 percent of Yemen's food imports arrive via Hodeidah. "Saudi Arabia is deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation," it said. "We have always supported every effort to ensure that the people of Yemen receive the aid and relief they require especially in times of crisis."

Drewry: Container trade outlook rises with more volumes

World container trade appears to be back on track after two lean years, right on time for carriers that are taking delivery of big new ships, according to shipping consultancy Drewry. The recovery resulted in an upgrade to Drewry's annual outlook for 2017, while more recent data suggests that the outlook might have to go higher still. Port statistics gathered from a sample of nearly 150 sites around the world indicate that container handling grew by 6.6% in the first six months of the year, while deep-sea and regional trade numbers are showing similar progress. That rate could rise or fall as more information becomes available, "but there is little doubt that the final-year figure will eclipse anything seen in the past two years." Drewry's sample shows that all of the routes with the exception of Europe-Middle East made contributions. Five trades, including Intra-Asia, Asia-WCNA, Asia-Med, Asia-ECNA and Asia-North Europe, were responsible for over three-quarters of the additional volumes.

Iraq, UAE form shipping, oil trading JV company

A new shipping and oil trading company has been set up by Iraq and the United Arab Emirates, named Al Iraqia Shipping Services & Oil Trading (AISSOT). AISSOT is a joint-venture company of Iraqi Oil Tankers Company (IOTC) & Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company (AMPTC) which aims to operate in a number of segments, ranging from trading of petroleum products, ship chartering, oil terminals, various marine services, and bunkering. IOTC owns a stake of 22.5 percent in AISSOT, Reuters said citing a copy of the signed 20-year contract. Furthermore, the company "is in a position to invest in and gradually acquire a significant fleet to transport the majority of Iraqi crude oil to end users at competitive rates," according to a statement from the company reported by Reuters. As explained, with the establishment of the company, Iraqi Oil Ministry wants to bolster presence on an international level in the field of shipping, marine services, and oil trading. In its latest release, the company announced that it will shortly start providing bunkering operations at Iraqi ports mainly at Basra, Khor Al-Zubair, and Umm Qasr.

Fujairah Terminals receives first container vessel

The newly established Fujairah Terminals, under the management of Abu Dhabi Ports, welcomed its first container feeder vessel, the Dubai Alliance. This is the first ship to arrive at the terminal, which is wholly owned by Abu Dhabi Ports, the master developer, operator and manager of commercial and community ports within the emirate of Abu Dhabi, Fujairah Port and Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (Kizad), following the signing of a concession agreement with the Port of Fujairah in June this year, reported the Emirates official news agency. Following the signing of the 35-year concession agreement with the Fujairah Port, that granted Abu Dhabi Ports exclusive rights to develop port infrastructure and undertake operations for containers, general cargo, Ro-Ro and cruise ships, Fujairah Terminals was established and took over management of the terminals from Fujairah Port Authority from August 1. Dubai Alliance is a vessel under Star Feeders LLC, a specialist short-sea common carrier container feeder service that operates a feeder network between UAE ports. The ship called at Fujairah Terminals to deliver a container for local industries and to receive containers for onward shipments.

Carrier consolidation turns up the heat on APM Terminals

The ongoing consolidation of container carriers through acquisitions and alliances continues to exert pressure on terminal operators, according to APM Terminals. Namely, following the formation of the Ocean Alliance Maersk's terminal operator lost some liner services, denting the company's underlying result of USD 98 million. Fewer liner services and accompanying rate pressure also hurt the company's revenue that totaled USD 989 million, down from last year's USD 1.1 billion. The overall overcapacity, as well as continued low import volumes and adverse currency developments in oil dependent markets, were also listed as factors contributing to the company's poor financial results. APM Terminals posted a loss of USD 100 million in the second quarter of 2017 amid impairments of USD 250 million from some of its financially troubled terminals. However, the company said that volumes were boosted by the slot purchase agreements signed in Q1 with HMM and Hamburg Süd which give them access to certain services on the 2M network. During the quarter, APM Terminals completed 18 agreements for new volume while five existing agreements discontinued during 2017.

World's shipping firms are going super-sized

The hulking container ships that transport sneakers, bananas and barbie dolls around the world keep getting bigger. So are the companies that own them. A massive consolidation is underway in the \$500 billion global industry and the survivors now enjoy big economies of scale and increased demand, one year after excess capacity caused the sector's worst-ever crisis — the bankruptcy of South Korea's Hanjin Shipping. Asia's largest container line, China's Cosco Shipping Holdings, last month said it would pay more than \$6 billion for rival Orient Overseas International, owner of the world's biggest vessel - a carrier longer than the Empire State building. Denmark's AP Moller-Maersk A/S is in the process of buying a German competitor and boasts its own fleet of mega ships, including one that can carry about 180 million iPads. These super-sized shipping companies wield much more pricing power over manufacturers and retailers like Wal-Mart Stores and Target Corp. The five biggest container lines control about 60 per cent of the global market, according to data provider Alphaliner.

India: Krishnapatnam Port starts trans-shipment, vies with Colombo, Singapore

Andhra Pradesh's Krishnapatnam Port has become the second port on India's eastern coast after Vizag to have trans-shipment facility. Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd's (KPCL) plans to become a transshipment hub by catering to the ports on the eastern coast. A transshipment terminal is a hub which will attract smaller feeder vessels with containers that then get loaded onto larger ships for transportation to final destinations abroad. Exporters and importers benefit hugely as larger vessels bring about economies of scale and lower the cost of operations. At present, around one fourth of total containers from India are trans-shipped through ports outside the country, mainly Colombo in Sri Lanka and Singapore. Apart from these locations, Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates, Salalah in Oman and Port Klang in Malaysia are other ports used for trans-shipment. Almost 78% of total containers shipped from the ports on the eastern coast are trans-shipped either through Colombo or Singapore. Hence, there is a need for establishing trans-shipments hubs within the country.

JN Port lowers charges to attract customers

Jawaharlal Nehru Port, the largest container handling port, which has lowered charges to attract more traffic, has also been able to strike a balance between imports and exports. "Historically, this was a port for imports, where 65 per cent used to be imports. The recent trend shows that 51.5 per cent are imports, and remaining 48 per cent are exports, which reflects that imbalance is being reduced," Neeraj Bansal, Deputy Chairman, JN Port, told. He explained that the extent of export and import cargo is dynamic and can vary based on several factors such as festival demands. Also, the implementation of new processes is helping JN Port get customers from newer hinterland areas, to which it did not have access. The port has lowered the dwell time at various points, which allows more asset utilisation (such as more trips per truck in the same time), provided cheaper parking space and provided a discount to rail-based traffic, among measures to attract trade. These steps have been backed by a process to track container movement with the help of two independent agencies. Currently, the company manages Sokhna port and 77 marine and inland ports in 40 countries.