

Transworld Group announces feeder service connecting Colombo – Chittagong

Transworld group announced the launch of its feeder service BSL (Bangladesh - Sri Lanka) connecting Chittagong and Colombo from November 15. The first vessel call from Colombo is MV OEL SHASTA. The BSL service will extend Transworld's service network to cover strategic markets in South Asia to meet the needs of customers. The port rotation will be Colombo - Chittagong - Colombo. The silent features of the service are: Regular sailing with 2 vessels of 1200 TEUs effective capacity, Direct connection from Colombo to Chittagong, Transit time of only 4 days from Colombo to Chittagong, Reliable connection from all India Ports through Transworld's own network to Chittagong and return.

Oversupply causing fall in container shipping rates

A fall in container freight rates is being driven by oversupply of vessels rather than a drop in demand according to analyst Crucial Perspectives. In a report issued on Monday it was noted that container freight rates had "fallen markedly" by 4% last week, and were 5% lower year-on-year as overcapacity plagued the Asia – Europe and transpacific trades. On the demand front though headhaul volumes of the transpacific and Asia – Europe trades have grown 10% and 7% respectively year-on-year, with global container shipping demand growing by 4.9% year to date. "The weaker freight rates are mainly driven by industry oversupply rather than a reflection of weak shipping demand. Therefore, unless global container shipping demand growth accelerates or more capacity is being taken out, the liners' planned rate hikes in mid-November and early December may meet with limited and short-lived success," the report said. "This trend is likely to continue into next year." The percentage of containerships in the global fleet that are idle has shrunk to 1.9% from 7.9% a year earlier.

Greek shipowners confirmed as the world's largest

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) has confirmed Greek shipowners remain the dominant force in the global industry, topping operators overall based on fleet capacity, while heading the wet and dry categories, and rising to third among containership fleets. In its latest review of sea transportation, Unctad places Greece top in terms of cargo carrying capacity at 309m dwt, followed by Japan, China, Germany and Singapore. Together, the five countries have a market share of 49.5% of dwt. Greece ranks third among the top five countries in terms of estimated commercial value behind the US fleet's value of \$96bn, and Japan. China and Norway follow. According to the Unctad report, the global share of Greek-owned vessels in terms of dwt was 16.71% in January 2017 of the world total and the share is rising. In the same month in 2016 it was 16.36% and 15.53% in 2009, demonstrating the sector's strong potential for further growth.

Containerships' first LNG-fuelled new build launched

The first of four LNG-fuelled container vessels being built for Finnish shipping company Containerships has been launched at Wenchong Shipyard in China. The launching ceremony for the 1,368 TEU Containerships Nord was held on November 4. The shipbuilding work of the first vessel continues now on an outfitting pier where interior, such as piping, cabling, smaller machinery and furnishings, of the vessel will be installed. The main engine factory acceptance was completed in September and the LNG tanks have been accepted and are ready to be installed at the shipyard, the company said. The launching of the first LNG-powered vessel was followed by the keel laying of the second vessel, which is now under construction. The block production for the second vessel is nearly completed and 148 blocks have been accepted. The main engine testing is planned for the end of November, according to Containerships. The steel for the third vessel was cut in May and for the fourth vessel in September.

SkyCargo inks Dubai Space Centre logistics deal

Dubai-based Emirates SkyCargo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) to become 'preferred logistics partner' for the Dubai-based space science and advanced technology research and development centre. The Centre is developing and leading ambitious projects and programs under the umbrella of the UAE National Space Program including the Emirates Mars Mission – Hope mission, the Mars 2117 program, the UAE Astronauts Program, and the Satellites Development Program. The Centre is also responsible for specialised and advanced technical projects assigned to stakeholders. Moreover, MBRSC provides space imaging and ground station services and support to other satellite services. "We are delighted to be working with Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre as a preferred partner for logistics and honoured to play our part in UAE's National Space Program," said Nabil Sultan, Emirates' divisional senior vice president, Cargo. "Emirates SkyCargo has a long history of securely transporting sensitive equipment and technology on our aircraft.

Abu Dhabi Ports links system with nine ports in China

Maqta Gateway, a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, has signed in China a cooperation agreement with LOGINK, the national logistics platform operated by the Chinese Ministry of Transport. The move marks a deepening of the ties between Abu Dhabi Ports and China, coming just days after COSCO announced that it is building a container freight terminal at Port Khalifa. The agreement was signed on the side lines of the Workshop on international Port Logistics Information Sharing and the Northeast Asia Logistics Information Service Network (NEAL-Net) meeting. NEAL-Net is a non-profit cooperative mechanism for logistics information exchange, and sharing technological cooperation. Under the agreement, signed by Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri, General Manager of Maqta Gateway and Guo Jianbiao, Director General, LOGINK, logistics information will be shared between Maqta PCS, and LOGINK System, which in turn will provide visibility of nine ports in China. Commenting on the signing, Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports said, "The cooperation agreement is another milestone to add to Abu Dhabi Port's growing trade portfolio of collaborations with Chinese companies in the logistics, maritime and trade sphere.

Port of Portland brings back container shipping

The Port of Portland plans to resume shipping through its container terminal next year as part of a deal with an ocean carrier that was announced Nov. 13. During a recent trade mission to Hong Kong, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown helped strike a deal with the Swire Group to bring container service back to the terminal. London-based Swire Group already provides air cargo service at the port's Portland International Airport through its Cathay Pacific division. A mix of general, non-containerized cargo and container service could become available at Terminal 6 as soon as January, most likely on a monthly basis. "This is a critical first step toward restarting container service at Terminal 6 and will aid in efforts to attract an additional service in the future," according to a joint press release from Brown and the port. Container shipping lines stopped calling at the port in 2016 due to productivity slowdowns blamed on a dispute between the terminal operator, ICTSI, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Agricultural exporters have been hurt by the shutdown of container traffic at Terminal 6, as they were forced to ship straw and other farm products through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma.

APM Terminals Pipavav handles largest number of containers ever

APM Terminals Pipavav sets new port productivity benchmark for customers by successfully handling the largest container volume during APL Boston port call. A total of 3636 moves / 5682 TEUs was safely completed in a record time of 21 hrs 25 minutes surpassing the earlier record of 3207 moves / 4755 TEU in August 2010. Equally important, a new berth productivity (BMPH) record was achieved at 162.20 moves per hour surpassing the earlier record of 151.93 mph in July 2014. Of the total, consignment, 3224 TEUs were moved by rail from the port to northern hinterland. Mr. Keld Pedersen, Managing Director of APM Terminals Pipavav said "This is a proud moment for us at APM Terminals Pipavav. Operational efficiencies are at the core of our value proposition and we are gratified that we were able to surpass our own productivity benchmark. The quick evacuation of cargoes at port will enhance the efficiency for our customers. We continue to do our best to deliver operational productivity for all our customers." This operational milestone took place on 8 November, 2017 when operating the vessel M.V. APL Boston of the CIXA service operated jointly by APL/CMA, OOCL, ZIM, Maersk & RCL. The weekly CIXA service connects Pipavav Port with Colombo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Ningbo, Xiamen & Chiwan.

Abu Dhabi Ports showcases role as trade & logistics hub at UAE-India Economic Forum

Abu Dhabi Ports, the master developer, operator and manager of commercial and community ports within the emirate of Abu Dhabi, as well as Fujairah Terminals and Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD), showcased opportunities available for Indian businesses and investors during the third edition of the UAE-India Economic Forum (UIEF) held in Dubai last week. The forum seeks to discuss and evaluate business opportunities in the UAE and India, with special focus on critical sectors such as infrastructure, tourism, renewable energy and banking. Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, said: "Abu Dhabi Ports' strategic location in the Gulf makes it an ideal gateway for Indian importers and exporters and business in general to the rapidly growing markets of the Middle East, but also a transshipment hub for onward distribution to Europe and Africa." Abu Dhabi Ports is playing a crucial role in opening the doors to a new trade future with India, especially through Khalifa Port Free Trade Zone (KPFTZ), the largest free trade zone in the region and also a next-generation platform for trade, logistics and manufacturing, said a release.

Delhi to host India-ASEAN investment conference in January

An India-ASEAN investment conference will be held in New Delhi in January, coinciding with a gathering of the Southeast Asian leaders. "It will be the biggest ASEAN focussed business event India has ever organised. India wishes to participate in your growth story and we invite all of ASEAN to participate in ours," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in an address at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit in Manila. The ASEAN-India Business and Investment Meet and Expo will coincide with the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on January 25 next year. Heads of state and government from the 10 ASEAN member countries are expected to participate in the summit and will attend the Indian Republic Day parade on January 26, which marks the day India adopted its current constitution. India has stepped up its engagement with Southeast Asia to grow its business, security and cultural links with the region. The country is organising an ASEAN-India Connectivity Summit in New Delhi next month. Modi said India is working on concluding an agreement with ASEAN on sea transport and is exploring "coastal shipping services with countries that are our immediate maritime neighbours."