

DP world launches green warehousing initiative on world environment day, enabling business to trade sustainably

Marking World Environment Day, DP World's Jebel Ali Free Zone has launched the UAE's first green storage and warehouse facilities in Dubai, helping business to reduce their carbon footprint. The global trade enabler's sustainable, long term growth is aligned with the United Nation's ninth Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. While some cool storage facilities are now running entirely on solar energy, an increasing number of other Jafza warehouses will become more energy efficient as DP World's Solar Programme is rolled out over the coming years. The project supports the UAE Vision 2021 for a sustainable environment and includes construction of the largest distributed solar rooftop project in the Middle East, with the installation of 88,000 rooftop solar panels on DP World's Dubai facilities. DP World Group Chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, said "Corporate citizenship is part of the fabric of society today and it will play a major part in our future. Building green infrastructure allows us to reduce carbon footprint in our facilities. By investing in these projects, we also encourage the development of new skills, driving economic growth and job creation.

India picks Iranian firm to run Chabahar port

India Ports Global has picked Bandar Abbas-based Kaveh Port and Marine Services company to run the Chabahar port in Iran as an interim arrangement for about 18 months from mid-June as India treads cautiously on operationalising the port in the back drop of sanctions being re-imposed on the Persian Gulf nation by the United States. The selection of an Iranian operator was also necessary to comply with the contractual time lines particularly because efforts to pick an Indian firm to manage, operate and maintain (MOM) the container and multi-purpose terminals at Chabahar port have been delayed due to commercial and feasibility concerns, a government official said. The government is set to dilute some of the tender terms to encourage the Indian firms to participate for the MOM deal that was put to tender earlier. However, potential bidders say the looming sanctions could still be a "risky proposition" for their participation. "Kaveh Port and Marine Services has been mandated to run the Chabahar port for 18 months. By that time, we hope to finalise the Indian MOM partner and deploy all the key cargo handling equipment for which orders have been placed," the official said. Chabahar port project will be the first overseas venture for Indian State-owned ports such as JNPT and Deendayal Port Trust.

PSA, CMA CGM start-up arms sign cooperation deal

Amid the burgeoning cooperation between Singapore and French companies in the container shipping space, CMA CGM's Ze Box and PSA unboXed have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to drive digitalization and innovation in the shipping and supply chain ecosystem. Ze Box is CMA CGM's corporate venture capital arm that invests in start-ups with innovations that bring strategic value to the CMA CGM Group, while PSA unboXed is PSA International's external innovation and corporate venture capital arm. Representing leaders in their respective areas of global shipping and global port operations, the collaboration between CMA CGM's Ze Box and PSA unboXed builds on the proven commercial partnership between CMA CGM Group and PSA International, such as the CMA CGM-PSA Lion Terminal in Singapore. The MoU forms part of Ze Box's and PSA unboXed's commitment to equipping local start-ups with the tools to succeed, while nurturing a vibrant start-up ecosystem in Singapore. CMA CGM Group chairman and ceo Rodolphe Saadé said "We are delighted to work with PSA unboXed on this initiative. This partnership will accelerate our digital strategy to achieve better customer experience and operational efficiency."

Container volumes rise by 45 pct at King Abdullah Port

Saudi Arabian King Abdullah Port has achieved new heights in container handling this year, Rayan Qutub, CEO of the port, revealed. The port's container throughput increased by 45 percent during the first four months of 2018, compared to the same period a year earlier. Qutub explained that the substantial increase will play an important role in promoting King Abdullah Port as a logistics hub strategically located on the Red Sea. He added that the progress at King Abdullah Port falls in line with Vision 2030's logistics goals to link the continents of Asia, Africa and Europe by offering services and infrastructure to service international shipping lines and facilitate transshipment services as well as imports and exports. In 2017, the port recorded a 21 percent increase in its annual throughput compared to 2016, reaching 1.7 million TEU and becoming the second largest port in Saudi Arabia in terms of container handling. The port also saw a rise in transshipment volume in 2017, while the number of vessels received by the port increased to 820 vessels, compared to 716 vessels received in 2016. These results helped King Abdullah Port to land the eighth spot among the world's fastest-growing ports for 2017, according to Alphaliner.

Cargo traffic at Indian major ports grow 2.41%

The top 12 major ports in India recorded 2.41 percent growth in cargo handling at 116.26 million tonne (MT) in the first two months of the current fiscal. For the period from April- May 2018, Nine Ports (Kolkata (including Haldia), Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar, Chennai, Cochin, New Mangalore, JNPT and Deendayal) have registered positive growth in traffic. The highest growth was registered by Kamarajar Port (11.69%), followed by Kolkata[incl. Haldia] (11.33%), Cochin(8.70%),Paradip (7.61%) and New Mangalore (6.66%). Kamarajar Port growth was mainly due to increase in Other Misc. Cargo by 28.16%,Other Liquids by 16.67%, Thermal& Steam Coal by 6.64% and POL by 5.99%. In Kolkata Port, overall growth was 11.33%. Kolkata Dock System (KDS) registered traffic growth of 2.00%. WhereasHaldia Dock Complex (HDC) registered positive growth of 15.64% which is highest among all the Major Ports. During the period Aprilto May 2018, Deendayal (Kandla) Port handled the highest volume of traffic i.e. 19.66 Million tonnes (16.91% share), followed by Paradip with 17.43 Million Tonnes (14.99% share), JNPT with 11.70Million Tonnes (10.07% share), Visakhapatnam with 10.60 Million Tonnes (9.12% share) and Mumbai with 10.16 Million Tonnes (8.74% share).

Cleaner shipping fuel ruling offers opportunities for Middle East ports

Nineteen months. That is how long the world's oil and shipping markets have left to adjust to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) ruling to reduce the sulfur cap from 3.5% to 0.5% at the start of 2020. The change will be immense for the shipping, refining and trading industry but could also present opportunities for Middle East ports who have invested in cutting edge infrastructure. The new legislation will force ship owners to switch to using cleaner, more expensive alternatives to High Sulphur Fuel Oil (HSFO). They also have the option of installing scrubbers to continue using HSFO, but the high up-front capital cost of fitting the technology has deterred many in the shipping industry. The echo of surprise that has reverberated around the market in the Middle East and beyond since the ruling was announced in October 2016 – a 2025 start date was on the cards – has finally fallen silent. There is widespread acceptance that there will be no last-minute grace period. Stakeholders along the value chain – from refiners, traders, ports to shipowners – are now united in their efforts to make compliance an affordable reality in less than two years.

Asian ports under pressure after China ban on plastic and paper waste

Port operations in South-east Asia have come under increasing pressure from a build-up in scrap cargo, following China's crackdown on imported waste. In Vietnam, a dramatic increase in scrap-laden containers forced Ho Chi Minh City's overloaded Cat Lai port to temporarily stop receiving plastic and paper waste on 1 June. In a letter to customers, terminal operator Saigon Newport said handling operations had been "seriously impacted" by 8,000 teu of uncollected scrap cargo, resulting in temporary overcapacity. The terminal had previously restricted imports for a month in a bid to clear the backlog, but to no avail. The problem appears to be a lack of valid import permits for the cargo, with the customs department clamping down on an increasing number of import violations this year, according to local media. One local forwarder told that the containers were being "re-routed via Vietnam and then smuggled via road into China". He claimed: "This has caused a big problem as not all containers could be transferred to China. Some traders are waiting to shift the containers to other countries. For example, Chinese companies have opened or are building factories in other ASEAN countries, like Malaysia."

DP World joins World Ocean Council

DP World has become the first company in the industry to join the World Ocean Council (WOC) — furthering its aim to engage in the protection of the world's oceans. The WOC is a global, cross-sectoral business leadership alliance with a network of over 35,000 stakeholders addressing corporate ocean responsibility. Developed by and for the private sector, it addresses issues affecting ocean sustainable development, science and stewardship — by bringing together representatives from shipping, oil and gas, tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, mining, renewable energy, ocean technology and financial services sectors. DP World Group Chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, said: "We recognize the value and need in establishing partnerships to undertake robust ocean stewardship and combat marine pollution. "Our experience and expertise across our network in marine environments will contribute to the alliance and its work in areas such as sustainable ocean development, science and stewardship. "The Council will support our commitment to protect the ocean's natural resources and our intention to become a leader in this area of environmental stewardship which forms part of our sustainability programme, 'Our World, Our Future.'"

India: Gujarat plans to revive Mithivirdi, Vansi Borsi port projects

Gujarat government has started work on reviving two greenfield port projects, which had failed to take off due to various reasons, said two senior state government officials in the know of the development. The projects may require an investment of 6,000-6,500 crore and the government is looking to bring in private developers ahead of the 2019 edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors' Summit, slated to be held in Gandhinagar in January. This is to ensure that project agreements can be signed at the event, said one of the two officials, requesting anonymity. Gujarat Maritime Board has already invited bids for appointing transaction advisers for the two ports, he added. The proposed Mithivirdi port was scrapped about eight years ago to make way for a 6,000MW nuclear power plant. However, in its May 2017 order, the National Green Tribunal had asked the Nuclear Power Corp. of India to move the project from Gujarat to Andhra Pradesh, following protests by the locals, who had also refused to give up their land. The state maritime regulator is also planning to revisit its plans for setting up the proposed greenfield port at Vansi Borsi near Surat. The project has been stuck for about 10 years because of the submarine gas pipeline passing through the area.

Abu Dhabi Ports launches first domestic Blockchain solution for logistics

Maqta Gateway LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi Ports, has become the first entity in Abu Dhabi to deploy its own blockchain solution, Construction Business News reports June 2. Maqta Gateway has developed and launched Silsal — a blockchain-based technology that aims to improve efficiency in the shipping and logistics industry. According to Construction Business News, Silsal will initially be available to freight forwarders and their customers, with the new system being rolled out to "the rest of the trade community as a complementary tool to the existing mPCS (Maqta's Port Community System)." Using an internal blockchain, Abu Dhabi Ports hopes to reduce paperwork, facilitate real-time status updates and accelerate information exchange. Silsal was developed internally in the Digital Innovation Lab of Maqta Gateway and has been field tested with strategic customers of Abu Dhabi Ports, as Construction Business News reports. CEO of Maqta Gateway Dr. Noura Al Dhaheri commented: "Blockchain is a key step in the digitalisation of trade." In addition to the blockchain, Maqta Gateway has created their own system for digital identity that can encrypt all types of transportation documents.

India aims to be top supplier of talent in port and maritime: Shipping Secy

Skill Development in the port & maritime sector is an opportunity to improve the country's coastal areas and be the leading supplier of skilled youth in the sector globally, a top shipping ministry official said. Ministry of Shipping under its flagship Rs 14 lakh crore Sagarmala Programme a world class Centre of Excellence in maritime and ship building (CEMS) is being set up in partnership with Siemens and Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) at a cost of Rs 766 crore. CEMS aims to become an international nodal centre in South Asia, attracting students from neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia for skill development in the port and maritime sector. "Skill Development in the Port & Maritime sector is an opportunity to improve our coastal areas, usher in port led prosperity and provide the world with skilled youth. We are one of the leading suppliers of seafarers in the world and now want to be the leading supplier for all talent in the Port and Maritime sector," Secretary Shipping, Gopal Krishna said addressing a workshop here. The shipping ministry in association with Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana (DDU GKY) and Ministry of Rural Development conducted a one day workshop on "skill development in the port and maritime sector" here.