

## Saudi investment group keen to invest in Bangladesh ports

Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT), Saudi port operator and investment group, has expressed its interest to invest in Bangladesh's port and terminal sectors. The group has also wanted to invest in seaport's terminal sector too as the group has huge experience in construction of terminals in seaports. The associate director of Red Sea Gateway Terminal (RSGT) under the Saudi Port Operator and Investment Group has placed its proposal before the State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury during a meeting held at the secretariat in the capital recently. "The Saudi business group has expressed to invest in Bangladesh's port and terminal sectors including Chattogram, Mongla and Payra seaports," Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting. Appreciating Saudi Arabia's investment proposal, the state minister for shipping said, "It will be a milestone for investment in Bangladesh's port and terminal sector. Saudi-Bangladesh economic relationship will be further strengthened under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina." Shipping Secretary Abdus Samad, economic minister to Bangladesh embassy in Saudi Arabia Dr Mohammad Abul Hasan and other high officials attended the meeting.

## Sohar Port launches online route planner

The shipping of goods is far more than just port to port. Sohar Port and Freezone recently launched Sohar Navigate, an online route planner that provides information on hinterland connections. The platform provides the user with various options for shipping from the required departure point to destination with customers able to choose based on modes of transport and transportation time which option works best for them. The platform was originally launched by Sohar's partner the Port of Rotterdam and it has been adapted to suit the regional needs of customers. Mark Geilenkirchen, CEO of Sohar Port and Freezone, said, "Capitalising on this technology, we have modified Sohar Navigate to suit our regional and global stakeholders and provide them with outreach, as well as a user-friendly means to locate the most efficient and optimal routes for their activities. Users of Sohar Navigate are able to plan routes from specific areas, via Sohar, in an easy and convenient way." Anacin Kum, CEO of Hutchison Ports Sohar added, "Sohar Navigate has been developed especially for companies seeking smarter ways to plan their container transports. The launch of the beta version of this tool is a good first step and we are excited about its role in the global logistics market."

## Hai Phong int'l terminal welcomes first container ship

The Hai Phong International Container Terminal (HICT) of the Tan Cang Sai Gon Corporation welcomed its first container ship on May 7. With a capacity of nearly 12,000 TEUs, Wan Hai 805 became the first and largest container ship anchored at the northern port to date. The ship, belonging to a joint venture of Taiwan's Wan Hai Lines, China's COSCO Shipping, and Singapore's Pacific International Lines, provides direct services from the northern region of Vietnam to the west coast of the US. Its service helps cut freight time from 25 to 19 days compared with the previous method of trans-shipment at foreign ports. Deputy Transport Minister Nguyen Van Cong said that the birth of the HICT marked an important milestone in the development of the deep-water port system in northern Vietnam in general and Hai Phong city in particular. The welcoming of container ship Wan Hai 805 makes the HICT one of the 20 largest ports in the world, he added. With a capacity of more than 8,800 TEUs, the vessel provides direct services from the north of Vietnam to the west coast of the US and Canada. Its service will cut down freight time from Hai Phong to the US and Canada as the previous route called in at overseas trans-shipment hubs, reducing the journey from 25 down to 17 days, thus attracting more transit cargo.

## UAE, Uzbekistan activate strategic partnership agreement

Joint task forces comprising representatives of the governments of the UAE and Uzbekistan held a four-day series of meetings and workshops to discuss 17 areas of cooperation in modernizing government work. The agenda fell within the framework of an official visit of a high-level Uzbek government delegation to the UAE, aimed at activating a strategic partnership between the two countries through the exchange of knowledge and experience in government work. The partnership focuses on leveraging development models in government work, the application of best practices in government services and smart services, institutional performance, innovation and excellence, as well as leadership and capacity building. Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries have formed 17 expert task forces that seek to launch 57 joint initiatives in 2019 to support the implementation of a business model that will help identify solutions to future challenges facing the Uzbekistan government. During this week's meetings, the task forces discussed a range of areas, including: Government Accelerators, Government Quality, Government Services, National Strategic Plan, Government Innovation, Programming, Global Competitiveness, Airports, Customs, and Free Zones Management etc.

## Adani gets nod to develop new container terminal in Yangon

Adani Yangon International Terminal is developing a container terminal in Ahlone township, which is by the Yangon River, in anticipation of higher trade volumes in the coming years. The company, which is registered in Myanmar and incorporated in Singapore, received approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission on April 26 to develop, operate and maintain the Ahlone International Port Terminal (2) (AIPT) under a 50-year Build, Operate and Transfer agreement with the government, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). AIPT (2) will be developed across 50 acres of land owned by Myanmar Economic Corporation, which is currently operating AIPT (1), according to DICA. The company will enjoy income tax incentives for the first three years of operations, said Daw Mya Sandar, director of DICA. Construction of the US\$290 million port, which will be built from scratch, is expected to begin in September. Phase 1 of development will involve enough capacity to handle between 100,000 and 150,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU), or twenty-foot containers, when it is completed within the targeted 12 months. Phase 2, which will take an additional six months to construct, is expected to take the port's total capacity to a maximum of 800,000 TEUs.

## Ocean Alliance maiden call at Hamburg port

The first container-ship in the new Asia service Loop 7 - the Taurus, 14,424 TEU, belonging to the Ocean Alliance - has berthed in the Port of Hamburg. Port of Hamburg said that this service is part of the new Day 3 Product, with which the Alliance consisting of CMA CGM, Cosco, Evergreen and OOCL is entering its third year. With DAY 3, the Ocean Alliance has 330 containerships in 38 services, increasing its transport capacity to 3.8 million TEU. With Loop 7, six out of seven Ocean Alliance Asia-North Europe services call at the Port of Hamburg. In total 21 liner services currently sail between Hamburg and the Far East, of which 14 are container liner services. The new Asia-North Europe service Loop 7 is served by ten Evergreen units between 13,000 and 14,000 TEU linking Hamburg weekly with Port Klang, Ningbo, Shanghai, Kaohsiung, Shekou and Colombo among other ports. The transit time from Colombo or Shekou to Hamburg is scheduled at 21 and 29 days respectively. Transport from Hamburg to Port Klang takes 28 days. The entire round voyage lasts 70 days. Phase one of the Singapore project is being constructed by a joint venture of DIAP, a Singaporean subsidiary of Belgian dredging firm DEME, and South Korea's Daelim Industrial.

## Adani Group to invest INR 57,594 crore to expand Mundra port

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) plans to invest as much as INR 57,594 crore to expand the capacity of India's biggest commercial port it runs at Mundra in Gujarat. APSEZ has applied for environment and coastal regulation zone (CRZ) clearances for raising the capacity of Mundra by 385 million tons (mt). Mundra currently has approval for handling 225 mt. The proposed expansion of Mundra's waterfront development plan (WFDP) includes extending the quay length by another 14,470 metres, augmenting back-up facilities for handling multi-purpose, liquid, gas and cryogenic cargo. It also involves extending the eastern and western breakwater by 500 metres each in the south port and constructing a 5,000 metre-long breakwater on the eastern side of west port. It necessitates dredging of some 350 million cubic metres of sand and other materials from the sea bed. The expansion will be undertaken within the approved area of 5,170 hectares of water front development plan, APSEZ wrote in an application filed with the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the ministry of environment, forest and climate change. "For the expansion of WFDP plan, it is important to utilize the maximum marine development potential," APSEZ said in the application.

## PSA picks up Macquarie disposals

PSA International said it has finalised an agreement to acquire Halterm Container Terminal in Canada's Port of Halifax and Penn Terminals in Pennsylvania, US from Macquarie Infrastructure Partners. PSA International said: "PSA International has finalised an agreement to acquire Halterm Container Terminal in the Port of Halifax, Canada, and Penn Terminals in Pennsylvania, USA from Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, a fund managed by Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets. "This transaction is in the process of securing regulatory approvals from the respective USA and Canadian authorities." The acquisitions are in the process of securing regulatory approvals from the respective USA and Canadian authorities." In October 2017, Halterm Container Terminal announced it would extend its container and reefer handling capabilities, with CAD\$10m worth of new equipment over the next 12 months. The developments are expected to support the terminal's existing five ship-to-shore crane operation, providing congestion-free operations over more than a kilometre of quay, at three berths between 14-16m draft. The port boasts an outer harbour 2km wide and 8km long. It is the only East Coast port capable of accommodating post-Panamax ships.

## PSA's JNPT terminal preps for faster growth

With the completion of contracted quay crane deployments and a likely end to a long simmering inter-terminal rail issue, PSA International's new Indian terminal — touted as the single-largest foreign direct investment in the emerging market economy — has positioned itself for accelerated growth. Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals (BMCT) officially opened for business at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), the country's busiest container harbor, in February 2018 with a capacity of 2.4 million TEU annually in the first phase. PSA (India) officials told JOC.com the last batch of three super-post Panamax ship-to-shore cranes under Phase I development plans arrived at the terminal in April, bringing the facility to full operating capacity. With a total of 12 quay cranes, each capable of handling large vessels of up to 22 containers wide, and a berth line of 1,000 meters, BMCT is now able to service multiple mega-ships simultaneously. In addition, the terminal features a 90-hectare (222 acres) storage yard with 9,336 ground slots, four rail-mounted gantry cranes, and 36 rubber-tire gantry cranes. Singapore-based PSA is preparing to begin Phase II construction of the same scale with a targeted completion by the end of 2022.

## Panama Canal Authority to tighten draft restriction to 43 feet

The Panama Canal Authority announced a new maximum draft restriction of 43 feet, or 13.11 meters, the sixth since January, in the Gatun Lakes, which will come into effect May 28. The current maximum draft is set at 44 feet, or 13.41 meters, which came into effect April 30 and was announced April 1. The continued tightening of draft restrictions in the Gatun Lakes are based on the projected precipitation and water levels of the lake in the coming weeks. Further draft adjustments would be announced in 12-inch, or 30.5-cm, decrements, with advance notice of four weeks, the ACP said. Ships arriving after May 28 with drafts exceeding the 43-foot level may be allowed to transit, depending on the Gatun Lakes' water level at the time, according to the ACP. If water levels are too low, ships with drafts exceeding the maximum allowable draft must trim or offload cargo in order to make transit. Aframax and Long Range 2 vessels, which have a maximum draft of 14.9 meters when fully laden, will not be able to transit the Neopanamax Locks at the 13.11-meter restriction. Suezmaxes, when fully laden, cannot transit the canal at a 43-foot draft, as tankers of this class usually require a 50-foot draft for a full 1 million-barrel cargo of 43 API crude.

## Abu Dhabi Ports selects Dell Technologies to accelerate its digital transformation journey

Abu Dhabi Ports has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dell Technologies that will see the organisations combine their expertise in maritime and IT to develop technology-based concepts, solutions and services specifically for the maritime industry. The MoU with Dell Technologies is designed to provide Abu Dhabi Ports with consulting services and help them leverage high value-added technologies such as blockchain, and artificial intelligence (AI) to fuel their digital transformation journey. In addition, this strategic partnership will also see an exchange of industry best practices and expertise needed to develop truly integrated smart ports that can better serve the customers and other stakeholders of Abu Dhabi Ports. Over the past few years, Abu Dhabi Ports has made significant strides in harnessing innovative digital solutions for trade and port communities. In 2018, it launched Silsal, a blockchain-based solution aimed at streamlining trade flows and supply chains. The MoU was signed by Abdullah Al Hameli, Executive Vice President – Corporate Support at Abu Dhabi Ports, and Mohammed Amin, Senior Vice President, Middle East, Turkey & Africa at Dell Technologies.

## Malaysia's transshipment revamp to help ports compete with Singapore

Malaysia plans to abolish some regulations intended to curb smuggling but are hindering competitiveness with ports in other countries, especially Singapore. The regulations relate to import permits to make ports in the country more competitive in the transshipment sector, says Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook. The Minister says his ministry will abolish import permits and other regulations which prevented ports from competing. Loke says he understood some regulations were to curb smuggling, but not supposed to hinder the ports' competitiveness. "Transshipped goods are not for the local market but only for storage and repacking here before being shipped out to other countries, so there is no need for us to enforce import permits on them," he told a media conference after officiating C Steinweg Logistics (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd's warehouse at Port Klang Free Trade Zone. He says the country needs new and better methods to monitor the products entering and leaving the country. Beginning April 1 this year, the government has exempted import permits on vehicles transshipped through local ports. Meanwhile, C Steinweg group Chief Executive Officer Ulf Boll says the company had invested about USD40 million (RM165.6 million) to set up the Natural Resources and Commodities Hub at PKFZ.