

## Singapore welcomes its largest containership to date

The 23,656 TEU MSC Isabella made its maiden call at the Port of Singapore on November 10, 2019, becoming the largest containership to visit this port to date. The ultra large container vessel (ULCV) is one of the eleven new ships from Mediterranean Shipping Company's (MSC) Gülsün-class of boxships. The Gülsün-Class is currently the world's largest series of containerships. Featuring a length of 400 meters and a width of 61 meters, the newbuild can carry up to 24 rows of containers, with a height of 13 tiers on deck. Its length exceeds that of the Eiffel Tower and it can transport the equivalent of about 384 million pairs of shoes. Aside from its capacity, the vessel is also equipped to carry more than 2,000 refrigerated containers. PSA Singapore's container terminal is MSC Isabella's first port-of-call in Asia after sailing back from Europe. Delivered to MSC by South Korean shipbuilder Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME) in August 2019, the vessel started sailing from the Qingdao port on August 28 and has now completed its first round-trip between Asia and Europe. Deployed on MSC's Swan service, the vessel will next call at the Port of Hong Kong after leaving Singapore.

## Two new services introduced at DP World terminals

DP World introduced two new weekly services at its terminals to connect these with African and European markets. The new services are jointly operated by global shipping lines- Hapag-Lloyd, Ocean Network Express (ONE), Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL), YANG MING Line (YML) and COSCO, it said. Global trade enabler DP World welcomes two new services at its terminals in Nhava Sheva, Chennai and Cochin, the company said in a statement. "The new weekly services – Middle East-India-Africa Express (MIAX) will connect DP World operated Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) with West and South Africa; while the South India Europe Express (IEX) will connect Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) and India Gateway Terminal (IGT) with European markets," it said. Rizwan Soomar, CEO & MD – DP World Subcontinent, said, "We are delighted to welcome two new services at three of our terminals in India. The launch of IEX and MIAX- will create stronger opportunities for EXIM cargo and for Indian manufacturers to cater to global markets." Soomar said the company has been making significant investments in India into new assets as well as modernising terminal operations across all ports that we are present in.

## ITF, Saudi Arabia Agree to Support Seafarers in Local Seaports

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have committed to work closely together to support seafarers in all of the country's ports. On October 21, 2019, Essam M. Alammari, the IMO Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, met Steve Trowsdale, ITF Inspectorate Coordinator, and Mohamed Arrachedi, ITF Arab World Network Coordinator, at ITF House. During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed including current requests to support seafarers in Saudi ports, greater collaboration between the ITF and the Saudi maritime authorities and the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) 2006. As explained, the closer working relationship between the organizations has already produced a positive outcome with the successful repatriation of five seafarers with their entitled wages from the vessel MKN 205 in Damman port. The Saudi ports network consists of nine major ports of which six are commercial and the remaining three industrial. They are supervised by Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani), a government agency founded in 1976. In 2004, the ITF opened its regional office ITF Arab World which now represents more than 35 unions in the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf States.

## Indian ships to ban potato chips bags, bottles, other single-use plastics on board from Jan. 1

Come January 1, and Indian ships will prohibit on board a large number of single-use plastic products, including ice cream containers, hot dish cups, microwave dishes and potato chips bags. The decision has been taken in larger public interest by the Directorate General of Shipping. Single-use plastics will also be prohibited on board foreign ships when in Indian waters. The Directorate General of Shipping has come out with an order prohibiting a large number of single-use plastics in Indian ships and foreign ships in Indian waters from January 2, 2020. The list of items contain bags, trays, containers, food packaging film, milk bottles, freezer bags, shampoo bottles, ice cream containers, bottles for water and other drinks, dispensing containers for cleaning fluid and biscuits trays. Items prohibited also include hot drink cups, insulated food packaging, protective packaging for fragile items, microwave dishes, ice cream tubs, potato chips bags and bottle caps. The Directorate has banned the use of single-use plastic cutlery, plates and cups, up to 10 litres of bottles for water and other drinks, garbage and shopping bags and dispensing containers for cleaning fluids which are less than 10 litres volume with immediate impact.

## Carriers eye more FAK rate hikes as spot rate improvement tapers off

Following a 19% jump last week, the North Europe component of the Shanghai Containerized Freight Index (SCFI) today recorded a modest 3.1% gain, to \$729 per teu. The 1 November FAK hikes by carriers, underpinned by radical blanking programmes, saw the Asia-North Europe shipping lines on the front foot in the market this week. But despite tight space availability, they were apparently unable to maintain the upward momentum. Nevertheless, carriers are understood to be considering a further FAK hike for 1 December to coincide with annual contract negotiations. However, few shippers or carriers spoken to recently expect a further round of increases to stick, given the weak trade fundamentals. The consensus is for a rate hike towards the end of December, in response to the early Chinese new year, which falls on 25 January. Commenting on the latest data from Container Trade Statistics, which recorded a year-on-year 0.5% decline for European imports in September, container shipping analyst Lars Jensen noted that the trade was showing "an inherent market weakness". Meanwhile, the hitherto more robust Mediterranean route is coming under pressure, with the SCFI Asia-Med component declining 1.9% on the week, to \$721 per teu.

## Port of Durban welcomes first vessel on new MIAX service

This week Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) and Transnet Ports Terminals (TPT), through the Port of Durban, welcomed the first vessel to arrive at the port on the new MIAX (Middle East-India-Africa Express) service recently introduced by Hapag-Lloyd and its alliance partner, Ocean Network Express (ONE). The container vessel, MV New Jersey Trader, was welcomed into port on November 5 with a ceremonial tug spray and plaque exchange. The vessel was built in 2011 and flies the flag of Malta. Hapag-Lloyd's new MIAX service offers direct connections and fast transit times between South and West Africa, the Persian Gulf, India, Colombo (Sri Lanka) and La Réunion. It is connected to the Global Mainline Network via the key ports of Jebel Ali (Dubai) and Colombo. A total of nine ships with a capacity of 2,800 TEU each, will be deployed for the new service. While the Port of Durban is seeking growth opportunities from Hapag-Lloyd and ONE, this transaction is yet another milestone for the Port and the container industry at large. Port of Durban General Manager, Moshe Motlohi, said, "TNPA looks forward to supporting Hapag-Lloyd and Ocean Network Express through this new venture. The Ports of Durban and Cape Town will play a key role in regional integration through the lines' existing global network."

## DP World and Namibia's Nara Namib sign MoU on Walvis Bay Free Economic Zone for industry and logistics

Global trade enabler DP World has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with Namibia's Nara Namib Free Economic Industrial Zone today to develop a free economic zone for industry and logistics in Walvis Bay to support the growth of Namibia as a regional hub for Southern Africa. The development will help Namibia grow as a centre for industrial operations and logistics, creating opportunities and jobs across multiple sectors including agriculture, fishing, automotive and mining. The facility at Walvis Bay will provide businesses with development-ready land for industrial and logistics operations, pre-built warehouses and office accommodation. The first phase will be a gross developed area of 50 hectares, with expansion opportunities up to 1,500 hectares. The parties have set the second quarter of 2020 as the target date for reaching a definitive agreement on the project. Development of the first 50 hectares phase of the zone has the potential to create 3,000 jobs and help attract investment to Namibia of N\$ 3.5 billion (approx. US\$237 million). Expansion to 1,500 hectares is expected to increase the potential investment to N\$25 billion (around US\$1.7 billion) with 20,000 job opportunities.

## Gujarat govt. grants approval for CNG port terminal at Bhavnagar

The Gujarat government on Sunday gave its approval for a compressed natural gas (CNG) terminal at Bhavnagar with a proposed investment of INR 1,900 crore, an official said. A State government release said the facility, approval for which was given by the Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board headed by Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, would be the world's first CNG port terminal. It will be developed jointly by U.K.-headquartered Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabh Mafatlal Group. The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) had signed an MoU with Foresight Group to set up this port terminal at Bhavnagar in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit held in January, the release said. Apart from the CNG terminal, the investors would develop a Ro-Ro terminal, liquid cargo terminal, and container terminal at Bhavnagar port with a cumulative investment of INR 1,900 crore. The proposed CNG port terminal will have a capacity to handle 1.5 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA). The GMB manages the existing port at Bhavnagar, having a capacity to handle three MMTPA cargo, and the new terminals would take the overall capacity to nine MMTPA. While the consortium would invest INR 1,300 crore in the first phase, INR 600 crore will be invested in the second phase.