



India: JNPT walks back direct terminal handling fees

Indian regulatory measures to address nagging shipper concerns about "arbitrary" terminal pricing have begun to yield positive results, at least on a limited scale, according to shippers and customs brokers operating in the country. Effective Monday, terminal operators at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) have agreed to lift the additional direct port delivery (DPD) cargo shifting charges they had previously sought to impose beyond the port's base fee. DPD handling gives importers the option to clear cargo directly from the wharf within 48 hours of landing. "JNPT will charge only one shifting charge and applicable dwell time charges for DPD containers moved to CFSs [container freight stations] after 48 hours," the Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers Association (BCBA) said of the move. That cost revision is significant, as a good portion of DPD cargo is shifted off-site, after being declared out-of-charge by customs, as cargo owners generally prefer to store goods at port-side yards longer because of limited warehousing capacity in and around their production sites.

Dubai Port explores development of new ports in Maluku

Dubai Port is keen to collaborate with PT Pelabuhan Indonesia IV (Persero) to develop the Ambon new port with the draft concept of an integrated port industry in Tulehu and Waai, Central Maluku. "We discussed the concept of an integrated port industry at the Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN). The meeting was attended by Deputy Minister II BUMN and a representative of the Dubai Port," President Director of PT Pelabuhan Indonesia IV (Persero) Farid Padang stated in Makassar on Thursday. Padang expressed optimism that the Dubai Port would collaborate with Pelindo IV to realize the development of Ambon port. Padang echoed Dubai Port's interest in working with Pelindo IV to develop the Yos Sudarso Port, Ambon. He stated that all collaborative processes to be conducted will still go through Pelindo IV. Indonesia and Dubai Port had earlier forged similar cooperation in the Gresik Industrial Estate, East Java. The collaboration was established between Dubai Port and the Maspion Group to develop the area into a national container terminal.

Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Plan to "collaborate" on cargo operations

In a move that was much anticipated by industry experts, the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have announced that they will "strengthen collaborative measures" in their San Pedro Bay cargo operations. "America's two largest and most competitive ports have a long and successful history of collaborating on key issues," said Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka. "This agreement significantly expands these efforts and underscores our shared commitment to lead and succeed." In his recent 2020 State of the Port address, Seroka hinted that such a deal might be driven because "the port is stronger when we act together...because we are all connected." He went on to outline many of the challenges and achievements that are occurring within Southern California's supply chain. In his closing comments he noted that "...we are truly at an inflection point."

Container freight hike adds to India, Pakistan import scrap rally

A container shortage and freight hikes across Europe led to a sharp increase in imported shred prices to both India and Pakistan this week. Containerized shredded scrap into Nhava Sheva at \$307/mt CFR Friday, up \$20/mt week on week. In Pakistan prices of imported shredded scrap increased by around \$15/mt week on week to deals heard concluded at around \$315/mt CFR. Container freight for March sailings have soared on a shortage caused by the coronavirus outbreak. For sailing in the first week of March, which implied loading this week, 20-foot container prices with one shipping company to the subcontinent were up \$225 per container, according to information from scrap merchants. For the second week of March an additional \$50 was announced, followed by another \$150 for the third week of March, bringing the total increase in container freight for the second half of March to \$425. With 27.50 mt of shred per 20-foot container, this suggests a freight increase of around \$15/mt to India and Pakistan.

Nine shipping and port companies sign up to global digital collaboration

Nine shipping companies and terminal operators have signed an agreement indicating their intention to become shareholders of the proposed Global Shipping Business Network (GSBN). The nine comprise some of the world's largest terminal operators and container lines - CMA CGM, Cosco Shipping Lines, Cosco Shipping Ports, Hapag-Lloyd, Hutchison Ports, OOCL, Port of Qingdao, PSA International and Shanghai International Port Group (SIPG). GSBN, established by logistics technology provider CargoSmart Limited, acted as a not-for-profit organization that operates and facilitates a secure and trusted data exchange platform for all stakeholders along the supply chain.

Soon, goods can be moved between India and Russia via Iran: Concor

The show of affection between India and the US during President Donald Trump's visit has not deterred India from taking a step forward in using transport infrastructure to connect with Russia much faster through Iran, a country in spotlight for facing the US sanctions. Within three months, traders from India and Russia can move goods between the two countries through Iran, said Container Corporation of India (Concor) CMD V Kalyana Rama. This follows a service agreement between Concor and RZD Logistics JSC (subsidiary of Russian Railways) on Tuesday to transport cargo between India and Russia using a single invoice. The two entities had signed an MoU last year to this effect. The move will benefit exporters and importers between India and Russia by lowering transit time and cost of transportation compared to existing transportation via Suez Canal. The new route will cut time of moving goods sharply (to 25-28 days from about 40 days) as it will avoid the present circuitous sea route through the Suez Canal, and also result in significant cost savings. India's exporters will soon be informed regarding the exact cost of transportation, said Kalyana Rama.



Hamriyah Free Zone woos exporters from Kerala to UAE

Federation of Indian Export Organisations, Kerala Chapter jointly with Hamriyah Free Zone Authority has organised a seminar on the opportunities available in UAE for exporters. Speaking on the occasion, Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Executive Director, Hamriyah Free Zone, said India has emerged the third largest trading partner of UAE after China and the US and the trade between two countries has touched \$60 billion today compared to \$180 million in the 70s. Moreover, UAE is the second largest export destination of India. For UAE, India is the largest trading partner. With this strong bilateral trade opportunities, both the countries are looking forward to see higher growth in the coming years, he said. Free zones provided a congenial environment for the acceleration of economic development in UAE. Following the emergence of UAE as a major re-export centre, Indian companies have emerged important investors in the free trade zones such as Hamriyah free trade zone, he added.

New deep-water port in Southeast Asia to help shippers bypass China

Cambodia is going to build a new multi-purpose deep-sea port alongside the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port within the Sihanoukville Port Special Economic Zone (SPEZ) to transport goods directly to the United States. In a statement, the Minister of Public Works and Transport Sun Chanthol said the new port would handle 93% of ships in the Asia-Pacific region and be "deep enough" to handle the world's largest vessels. The objective is to allow mega-ships to call at the new port and bypass the current major hubs in China and Singapore. As well as that, it will be designed to make exporting goods from Cambodia to the US cheaper and more efficient for domestic businesses. The new port will be built with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), an organisation that looks to increase trade collaboration across Asia.