



Transworld Group announces milestone agreement with DP World

Transworld Group announces a historic milestone in its Forty Five-year legacy, with a strategic partnership with DP World and its subsidiary Unifeeder Group, strengthening its position as a leading shipping and logistics conglomerate. Unifeeder, through its Unifeeder ISC platform, will acquire (subject to regulatory approvals) three business units of Transworld Group, i.e. Transworld Feeders FZCO, Avana Logistek Limited (including its subsidiary Avana Global FZCO), and Transworld Feeders Pvt. Ltd. (the containerized Indian coastal and EXIM feeder shipping operations of Shreyas Shipping and Logistics Ltd, excluding vessels and bulk operations). Transworld Feeders FZCO and Avana Global FZCO are leading independent feeder and NVOCC (Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers) operators, offering container feeder services and regional trade solutions connecting a wide range of ports in the Middle East, Indian Subcontinent and Far East through their dense network. The central hub port at Jebel Ali (UAE) plays a pivotal role for a large part of the services. Both the companies have a strong presence within trade routes west of the Indian Subcontinent and complement the recent acquisition of Feedertech and Perma Shipping, which have a strong market position in the trade routes towards the east of the Indian Subcontinent.

King Abdullah Port now at heart of two new shipping routes

Leading international maritime shipping companies Maersk and MSC have chosen King Abdullah Port as a logistics station on the Red Sea for the two new shipping routes launched by both companies. The choice confirms the importance of the port's location as a link between the East and the West and its potential to play a prominent role in supporting the international shipping industry and trade exchange between the world's continents. The first shipping route, Maersk TP17 / MSC Americas, connects East Asia (China and Singapore) with the eastern coast of the United States and passes through King Abdullah Port. It is one of the fastest shipping routes linking the East and the West through the Red Sea. The second shipping route, Maersk AE15 / MSC Tiger, which is also one of the fastest shipping routes, begins from East Asia (South Korea, China and Singapore) and passes through King Abdullah Port to reach the ports of Turkey and Greece, which are considered the southeastern gateway to Europe.

CSP Abu Dhabi terminal reveals details of milestone service

CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal has announced the start of a direct, weekly service to several ports across Europe and the Indian Subcontinent as part of its goal to increase its regional connectivity. In a statement, the terminal, the first overseas greenfield project of COSCO Shipping Ports Limited (CSP), said the new service will include a fleet of eight vessels ranging from 10,000 to 13,000 TEU. It will service 37 ports, starting from Abu Dhabi Ports' deepwater Khalifa Port, where the terminal is based. The terminal was launched in April 2019 after CSP and Abu Dhabi Ports signed a 35-year concession agreement in 2017. Direct exports from Abu Dhabi to the ports of Rotterdam, Hamburg, London, Antwerp, and Le Havre, will consist primarily of polymers while returning vessels will carry a mix of general and project cargo imports. The ports of Karachi, Nhava Sheva, and Mundra will also benefit from the new service. Naser Al Busaeedi, Deputy CEO, CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal, said: "More than a year on since CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal officially launched, we are now well-positioned to bring our direct service offering to a global audience."

Salalah Container Terminal registers 13% rise in cargo handling

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic the Port of Salalah has registered a rise in freight handling as well as revenue in the first half (H1) of the year. During H1, 2020, the Port of Salalah handled 2,199,000 TEUs compared to 1,941,000 TEU's during the same period in 2019, which is an increase of 13 per cent. Revenues from the CT also grew by 3 per cent compared to the same period last year. The GCT handled 7,308,000 tonnes of cargo. Despite the negative impact of COVID 19 which significantly affected global economy during Q2, as well as shipping industry and business at ports, the Port of Salalah has been working to achieve higher volumes and expand its logistic services to address the changing needs of local and international markets and mitigate the negative impact of COVID 19 on supply chain and logistics sector, enhancing its strategic location on international shipping lines and international navigation. Abdulrahman bin Salim Al Hatmi, ASYAD Group Chief Executive Officer, stated that these positive results reflect the global pivotal role of the Port of Salalah as a transshipment hub and have mitigated the negative impact of COVID 19 on local markets and ensured the availability of goods.

India port charges reduced by up to 70% for cruise ships

A reduction in port tariff rates in India – ranging from 60-70% for cruise ships – has been introduced by the country's Ministry of Shipping. 'While we eagerly wait to begin sailing in November, the shipping ministry's announcement to reduce berthing charges to promote tourism increases our optimism and confidence that our industry will get back on its feet in no time', says Jurgen Bailom, chairman, India Cruise Lines Association (INCLA). 'We would like to express our gratitude and thank the government and the union minister of state of shipping, Mansukh Mandaviya for introducing this measure and assisting us during these trying times,' Bailom added. Bailom expressed gratitude for the initiative 'which no other country has implemented so far by such a margin' and said 'global travel restrictions and changing consumer preference will provide the impetus to domestic tourism.' Ratna Chadha, vice president, INCLA, said the measure may 'need to be extended to create a positive impact in the long term, both for the economy and employment'. There has been an increase in the number of calls made by cruise ships in India from 128 in 2015-16 to 593 in 2019-20.



New African shipping line launches first service

Djibouti Shipping Company, a new feeder line based in East Africa, has launched earlier this month its first container service. The company was created by a subsidiary of the Djibouti Port and Free Zone Authority. The company acquired the geared 1,118 teu Asian Sun in March, renaming it Africa Sun. The president of Djibouti, Ismail Omar Guelleh, was on hand to see the ship ahead of its first voyage under its new name. The maiden voyage departed for Bosasso, a small port located in the Puntland state of Somalia, last week, according to Alphaliner. "Djibouti is served on a weekly basis by major carriers including Maersk, MSC, CMA CGM, COSCO-OOCL and PIL, while niche carriers, such as Linea Messina and Global Feeder Shipping, also call at the port on a regular basis."

Plaquemines Port to build new container terminal on Mississippi River

Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District (PPHTD) in Louisiana, US, has entered into a letter of intent with potential partners for the construction of a multimodal container terminal on the banks of the Mississippi River. The proposed container terminal will be powered by a combination of LNG and electricity. Phase one of the project is expected to complete in two years and will deliver the capability to accommodate 22,000 teu mega containerships. American Patriot Holdings, a potential partner of the terminal, will supply a 2,375 teu boxship for the transport service on the river. According to the development plan, the terminal could potentially service inland container centres in St Louis, Jefferson City, Little Rock, Memphis, Joliet, Kansas City, Cairo, and Western Arkansas. "This will be the gateway port on the Gulf Coast capable of taking full advantage of the distribution network on the Mississippi and tributary rivers while reducing road congestion in the region and accommodating LNG-powered vessels to enhance environmental sustainability," said Sandy Sanders, executive director of Plaquemines Port.