



### Port of Salalah tests Sea-Air cargo connectivity

Port of Salalah, in close partnership with ROP customs, has successfully tested Sea-Air connectivity with a priority shipment destined for Qatar during the second week of December. The shipment, a 40ft Maersk container loaded from Antwerp, upon discharge in Salalah, was successfully moved on customs bond to Muscat airport for air freight to Doha in a record time of 15 hours. This included tracking the shipment movement process from the Seaport to the Airport in Muscat at every step. The ROP extended extraordinary support in making this trial a successful one with seamless operation at both ends, a statement said. Sea-Air, a multi-modal transport supply chain solution that combines the Ocean freight's cost effectiveness and Airfreight's speed in the supply chain, is more relevant now given the current reliability and high-cost challenges with Ocean freight post the pandemic. The integrated Salalah Ecosystem's solution is also one of the key focus areas of Oman 2040 vision logistics strategy. The Port of Salalah is the fastest access point between the Middle East, India, and East Africa and markets in Europe, the Americas, and the rest of the world. Moving cargo through the largest port in Oman can save days in transit times and cut costs.

### DP World to develop box port in Congo

DP World and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have signed a final collaboration agreement for the development of a deep-sea port in Banana, Congo. The conclusion of the collaboration agreement follows the signing of a term sheet earlier this year between the Dubai-based port operator and the DRC Government, which summarised the agreed amendments to the initial contract signed in 2018. This now paves the way for DP World to begin construction within 12 months for the DRC's first deep-sea port, which will be located at Banana along the country's 37-km coastline on the Atlantic Ocean. The global port operator estimates that the development of the Banana Port, "which will feature the latest technology and equipment," will bring significant cost and time savings for the country's trade, as it will attract more direct calls from larger vessels from Asia and Europe. It is also expected to benefit the Kongo Central province in terms of economic development, as the port will attract foreign direct investment to the surrounding area, and stimulate local trade and the economy, according to a statement.

### China announces big cold chain plans

China has announced a plan to build a cold chain logistics network by 2025 that connects production areas and sales areas, covers urban and rural areas, and connects domestic and international trade. Its two cold chain logistics systems will serve domestic production and sales, as well as international import and export, and build intensive facilities, efficient transportation, and high-quality services. It will build 'four horizontal' cold chain logistics channels in the north, Shandong, Shaanxi, Tibet, Yangtze River, and in the south. Also 'four vertical' cold chain logistics channels in the west, Erguang, Beijing, Hubei, Fujian, and eastern coastal areas. Both the horizontal and vertical national cold chain logistics backbone channel networks will have internal and external connections. In order to enhance the cold chain international combined transportation capabilities, the China's fourteenth five-year plan relies on the China-ASEAN multimodal transport alliance base to expand the new western land-sea channel, sea-rail combined transportation, international rail combined transportation, and cross-border highway shuttle international cold chain logistics business.

### MAWANI launches new transshipment service connecting KSA, Bahrain, and the Far East

The Saudi Ports Authority (MAWANI) announced Sunday the launch of a new transshipment service linking King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam, Khalifa Bin Salman Port in Bahrain, and the Far East ports, in partnership with the Saudi International Ports and Shipping Line (OOCL). This represents a further step corresponding to MAWANI's strategy to increase the efficiency of linking Saudi ports with international ports, and to attract major international shipping line companies. The new service, which will start from King Abdulaziz Port, aims to increase transshipment quantities and enhance the flow of commercial traffic between Saudi Arabia and the regional and international destinations across the world. King Abdulaziz Port Dammam will continue to develop itself as the preferred transshipment hub port for the region, connecting ports in the Upper Gulf Region such as Bahrain to the world. The new service aims to increase the transshipment quantities at King Abdulaziz Port Dammam and contribute to developing the regional and international business trade between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, States of the region, and the entire world.

### Shahid Rajaei Port container throughput tops 1 million TEUs

A total of 1.14 million TEUs of container goods were loaded and unloaded at the southern Shahid Rajaei Port from March 21 to Nov. 6, according to a local official. "Container loading [exports] hit a total of 293,771 TEUs, registering a 10% rise, and container unloading [imports] stood at 286,982 TEUs, showing a 4% decline compared with the similar period of last year," Alireza Mohammadi, director general of Hormozgan Province's Ports and Maritime Organization, was quoted as saying by the news portal of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development. The official added that 181,445 TEUs of foreign goods were transported through Shahid Rajaei Port during the same period to register a 68% year-on-year rise. Export of oil products stood at 20.3 million tons, registering a 3% growth. "We exported 1.1 million tons of tar to Oman, the UAE and India during the period, which shows a 24% YOY rise." Mohammadi noted that with a loading and unloading capacity of 6.5 TEUs of containers per year, Shahid Rajaei, located 23 kilometers west of the port city of Bandar Abbas, the capital of Hormozgan Province, is Iran's biggest container port.

### Feedertech launches an India-Far East service

DP World feeder subsidiary, Feedertech, has launched an India-Far East service, linking its terminals at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Mundra with Singapore and Port Klang in Malaysia. The new Straits India Service (SIS) is expected to boost trade between India and the Far East by offering an alternative to transshipping at Colombo, thereby improving lead times and reducing costs. The SIS kicked off its Indian operations with the call of the containership Ornella at JNPT on 4th December and at Mundra two days later. Feedertech has allocated three vessels to the service and claims an eight-day transit from Mundra to Singapore. A statement by DP World India said: "We welcome the maiden call of the new weekly SIS service at our terminals in Nhava Sheva and Mundra which will offer direct connectivity between India and the Far East with the shortest transit time. We will continue to enhance regional connectivity from our terminals."

### Saudi Global Ports ink deal to double Riyadh Dry Port capacity

Saudi Global Ports has agreed a deal to help double Riyadh Dry Port's handling capacity to 1.5 million containers a year by 2030, it has been announced. The Public Investment Fund-backed SGP will work with the Saudi Railway Company to improve connections between the dry port and Dammam Seaport, where it operates the first and second container terminals. SGP will seek to grow the dry port's rail freight activities, as well as pushing ahead with a modernization program to upgrade civil infrastructure and facilities, procure new equipment and invest in technologies — such as automation and a unified digital platform. SGP is operated by PSA International, which also has operations in Singapore and Antwerp. SGP Chairman Abdulla Al Zamil said the agreement is a "significant milestone" for the company as it seeks to grow beyond ports to become "an integrated cargo solutions provider." He added: "With the support of Saudi Railway Company, we will work towards a quick and smooth transition and thereafter streamline the supply chain landscape for more efficient cargo movement between Dammam and Riyadh." The agreement was reached following a public private partnership tender process under the authority of the Kingdom's Privatization Supervisory Committee. It was signed during the inaugural Saudi-Singapore Joint Committee held in Riyadh on Dec. 7.