

#### Hutchison Ports signs 25-year concession for Saqr Port's new terminal

Hutchison Ports has inked a 25-year concession agreement to develop and operate a container terminal at Saqr Port in the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), located in the northern part of United Arab Emirates (UAE). As informed, the terminal will operate under the name Hutchison Ports RAK. Hutchison Ports RAK is a four-berth, 350,000-TEU facility featuring an 800-meter-long quay with a depth of 12 meters, in addition to a 20-hectare yard. "We are excited to have the opportunity to invest in and operate a container terminal facility that is situated in a gateway location... Companies can now take advantage of a less congested and more sustainable multimodal shipping route to Jebel Ali and beyond," Eric IP, Group Managing Director at Hutchison Ports, commented. Shippers in RAK are expected to benefit from the region's central location on the East-West trade lanes, which could receive a boost in traffic from recovering global trade and from China's continent-spanning Belt and Road Initiative.

#### DP World to develop free zone in Somaliland

DP World will develop a greenfield economic free zone in Somaliland to complement the development of the Port of Berbera, which has seen record container volumes under DP World management. DP World Group Chairman and CEO Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem and Republic of Somaliland Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Dr. Saad Ali Shire signed the agreement for the Berbera Free Zone (BFZ) in Dubai. The development is based on DP World's Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza) in Dubai and aims to attract investments, encourage trade, create new jobs and position Berbera as a gateway port for the region. Under the terms of the agreement, DP World will develop BFZ in phases, with the first phase focusing on 4 square kilometres of land out of the 12.2 square kilometres earmarked for the project. Future phases will be detailed in a concept plan together with the projected capital investment required from DP World for its development. Each phase of the BFZ will start once the previous phase has achieved 85% occupancy. It will target a wide range of businesses including warehousing, logistics, traders, manufacturers and other related businesses.

#### Cosco Shipping Ports to lease container freight station at Khalifa Port

Cosco Shipping Ports (CSP) has signed an agreement to lease a container freight station from Abu Dhabi Ports Company, the owner and operator of ports in Abu Dhabi, the company said. The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the groundbreaking ceremony for the CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal at Khalifa Port. The concession agreement for this terminal was signed in September 2016, and construction and development of the terminal is expected to last approximately one and half years and it will commence operations in the first quarter of 2019. One of CSP's major new projects, Abu Dhabi Terminal will have an annual designed capacity of about 2.5m teu and is well-placed to be a shipping hub for major international shipping companies in the Upper Gulf Region. "CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal is the first overseas greenfield project controlled by Cosco Shipping Ports. The project encompasses our passion to build our own strategic terminal and our goal to drive the economic growth of the region. CSP is dedicated to building a highly efficient comprehensive terminal with synergies from port and shipping, a transshipment hub, and a solid services network connecting transportations in the sea, land and air," said CSP vice-chairman and md Zhang Wei.

#### DP World sees huge trade potential in Africa

Terminal operator DP World sees huge trade potential in Africa and believes public private partnerships (PPP) are the route to progress. DP World group chairman and ceo Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem met with three African heads of state in Dubai recently – the President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni, President of Rwanda Paul Kagame and Vice President of Ghana Mahamudu Bawumia - to discuss Africa's growing trade potential. "Africa's trade potential is enormous, evident in the 400% increase in trade between Africa and rest of the world in last two decade. Infrastructure development is more important than ever to maintain and increase this growth momentum," said Bin Sulayem. DP World has a presence in seven African countries - Algeria, Egypt, Djibouti, Senegal, Mozambique, Rwanda and Somaliland – including ports and inland container depots. "We've always maintained that Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are the route to progress – they are an effective model to fund projects, especially those on infrastructure, while robust government policy and transparency are essential to its success," he said. "We've partnered with local governments in all our countries of operations in Africa. The Port of Maputo is an example of the power of partnerships – it's well located to drive growth and a gateway to southern Africa's vast economic hinterland."

#### ICTSI Croatia boosts intermodal service for wood exports

Growing wood exports in Croatia have triggered the use of innovative freight transport at the Adriatic Gate Container Terminal (AGCT) in the Port of Rijeka in Croatia with the recent launch of an intermodal service connecting AGCT via rail to one of the country's largest wood producers. AGCT, a gateway terminal of International Container Terminal Services, Inc., recently partnered with Cedar Ltd. and AGIT to facilitate the export of beech wood products from Cedar's production facility in Vrbovsko. Cedar, a leading manufacturer and supplier of beech wood products, recently inaugurated an intermodal facility directly linking AGCT via rail. Freight solutions provider AGIT of HŽ Cargo Group transports the bulk of Cedar's wood exports. From the Rijeka port, the products are exported to North Africa, Middle East, India and the Far East region via sea. "The collaboration of Cedar, AGIT, and AGCT is a perfect example of how intermodal solutions are supporting the success of large scale production projects. We are very pleased that with increased share of intermodal transport at the Port of Rijeka, road traffic is reduced while more efficient and environmental friendly transport by railway and sea is increased," said Wojciech Szymulewicz, AGCT CEO.

#### New rail container depot to facilitate India-Bangladesh trade

Bangladesh is building a new inland rail container depot at the Ishwardi rail station, which is the biggest rail junction in the country, to facilitate India-Bangladesh trade. Bangladesh is India's seventh-largest trading partner by volume, and total trade between the two countries rose 28.9 percent year over year in 2016 to 16.5 billion kilograms, according to the IHS Markit Global Trade Atlas. Two-way trade through July fell 25.8 percent to 7.5 billion kilograms, but India has offered Bangladesh duty-free and quota-free market access. "The place is very suitable for a depot. The Indian officials said every day some 350 to 450 TEU will reach here," additional director general of Bangladesh Railway Habibur Rahman told. One reason the new site was chosen is the proliferation of economic zones in the southwest of Bangladesh on the border with India that import raw materials for processing before export to India. Rahman said his office is waiting for permission from Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge to hold a trial run on a container train service between the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka and the Indian city of Kolkata, which also has its own port. Strong rail connections with Kolkata could make that port an alternative for shippers that need to move goods to and from parts of Bangladesh.

#### China unveils massive island-building vessel

China has unveiled a massive ship described as a "magic island maker" that is Asia's largest dredging vessel, state media reported. The ship, capable of building artificial islands of the sort the country has constructed in the contested South China Sea, was launched Friday at a port in eastern Jiangsu province, according to the state-owned China Daily. The boat named Tian Kun Hao is capable of digging 6,000 cubic meters an hour, the equivalent of three standard swimming pools, the newspaper said. It is a larger version of the one China used to dredge sand, mud and coral for transforming reefs and islets in the South China Sea into artificial islands capable of hosting military installations. When testing of the ship is completed next June, it will be the most powerful such vessel in Asia, the paper noted, nicknaming it the "magic island maker". Beijing's aggressive campaign of archipelago building in the South China Sea has been a point of contention with neighbouring countries that lay claim to parts of its waters. China claims nearly all of the sea, through which \$5 trillion in annual shipping trade passes and which is believed to sit atop vast oil and gas deposits. Its sweeping claims overlap with Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, as well as Taiwan.

#### India offers golden opportunities for global investors, says shipping minister Nitin Gadkari

India offers "golden opportunities" for global investors in sectors such as infrastructure, transport, agriculture and food processing, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said. Not only the country is going to offer a world class infrastructure in highways in two years, waterways and agriculture are also undergoing massive reforms that include 325 irrigation projects and massive river-interlinking programme, the Road, Transport, Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation minister said. Addressing the World Food India 2017 conference on the 'Opportunities in Infrastructure Technology & Equipment', Gadkari said, "There are golden opportunities for investors in food processing, agriculture, water transport, highways, shipping and other sectors." "We are bound to create a world-class infrastructure in coming two years. Of the 32 logistic parks, 24 have already been identified on National Corridors to be built at a cost of Rs 2 lakh crore. These parks will cater to key production and consumption centres accounting for 45 per cent of India's road freight," the minister said.

#### AG&P develops India LNG terminal at Karaikal

Manila-headquartered AG&P has signed a deal with Karaikal Port to develop an LNG-import terminal on India's east coast, to open by mid-2019. The Philippines-based module manufacturer also plans nine LNG-import projects, to build up a 10M tonne a year (mta) LNG portfolio within five years, AG&P president Augusto Gan told Reuters. AG&P is focusing on import demand in southeast Asia. The nine projects, most of them terminal-based, are "in various stages of development", Mr Gan said. Mr Gan said the Karaikal project will cost less than US\$200M, built from standardised modules for cheap, rapid assembly. The project, developed to support Tamil Nadu-based PPN Power, will scale up from an initial 1 mta as demand grows, but could double within the first three years. India has four existing LNG-import terminals – in Maharashtra, Dahej, Hazira and Kochi – all of them land-based. However, the country plans to ramp up its imports. The new wave of projects has focused on floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs), a cheaper, quicker way to tap surplus gas, often on shorter-term contracts.