

Transworld Group - India moved to new and smarter business premises in Seawoods Grand Central, Navi Mumbai

Transworld Group Director, Mrs Geeta Ramakrishnan formally inaugurated the new office in Seawoods Grand Central, Navi Mumbai on Monday, 27th May 2019 at 9:30 am in presence of Chairman Mr Ramesh S. Ramakrishnan, Joint Managing Director, Mr Ritesh S. Ramakrishnan and other senior management and office employees. Hence the new Transworld Group office will function at 301-305, Level – 3, Tower – II, Seawoods Grand Central, Nerul Node, Navi Mumbai – 400 706.

Saudi port ranked second fastest growing in the world

King Abdullah Port has been ranked the second fastest growing port in the world in 2018, according to Alphaliner, a maritime transport data analyst. King Abdullah Port is now ranked 83 in the list of the 100 largest container ports in the world in 2018 after ranking 87 in 2017. King Abdullah Port increased its throughput from 1.7 million TEU in 2017 to 2.3 million TEU in 2018; ranking first in the region in terms of container handling growth for the 12-month period. King Abdullah Port CEO, Rayan Qutub, said: "This success indicates that we are on the right track... King Abdullah Port is a testament to the success of public-private partnerships due to its connection to more than 17 government agencies while being fully managed and operated by the private sector." He added: "We are fully committed to the Vision 2030 and we hope to achieve more during this coming period in full accordance with its objectives. The port is added value to the kingdom's economy in terms of logistics support and attracting industrial and commercial investments." King Abdullah Port includes the world's deepest 18m container berths in addition to the largest and most advanced cranes in the world. King Abdullah Port is the region's first port to be fully owned, developed, and operated by the private sector.

Abu Dhabi's position as a trade hub receives boost

Abu Dhabi's position as a major trade hub along China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) received a boost after two of the world's largest mega vessels arrived at CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal operated by China's Cosco Shipping Ports Limited (CSP). Abu Dhabi is trying to position itself as a major trade hub in the region and has invested billions of dirhams in boosting infrastructure, especially at Khalifa Port. Cosco shipping built a terminal known as CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal at a cost of Dh1.1 billion. The terminal opened last December. "The arrival of both the MV Cosco Shipping Solar and Pisces is a milestone moment for Abu Dhabi Ports and its partner, CSP. Not only does it demonstrate our growth as a hub port in the region, but also our position as the heart of Cosco's network in the Middle East," said Captain Mohammad Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports. The ships — MV Cosco Shipping Solar and Pisces — are the third and fourth main-line vessels to pass through CSP Abu Dhabi Terminal. With a capacity of 21,000 TEU (twenty foot equivalent units), Solar, which arrived on May 25, is the largest ship ever to call at Khalifa Port. The Pisces has a capacity of 20,000 TEUs. Abu Dhabi Ports has earmarked Dh10 billion in investment to increase capacity at Khalifa Port from the current 5 million TEU to 9.1 million TEU.

Japan, India and Sri Lanka to sign MoU for container terminal at Colombo Port

The governments of Japan, India and Sri Lanka have agreed to develop a container terminal at the Port of Colombo, which has attracted major investment from China under its Belt and Road initiative. According to media reports, the three nations will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the coming months for the east container terminal. This is located at the newly expanded south part of the Port of Colombo. The MoU will enable the concerned parties to develop a facility to allow large container ships to enter. Japan's foreign ministry was not immediately available for comment. Japan has also pushed its plans to be a player in the region under its Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy. Sri Lanka has been one of the countries drawn to China's Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious plan announced in 2013 by President Xi Jinping to build an estimated \$1 trillion of infrastructure to support increased trade and economic ties and further China's interests around the globe. One project in the country includes Port City Colombo being built by China Communications Construction Co. The plan envisions a financial district -- pitched as a new hub between Singapore and Dubai with a marina, a hospital, shopping malls, and 21,000 apartments and homes.

Russian Railways steams ahead with new trans-Siberian service from Japan

Transit corridors across Europe and Asia continue to expand, with Russian Railways boosting links to Japan and Eurasian Rail Alliance aiming for a 1m teu increase by 2024. The launch of the Trans-Siberian Landbridge for expedited services between Japan and Europe via Russia's far east was announced by the state carrier and Fesco Transport Group. A test container left Yokohama station yesterday and is expected to arrive in 18 days, more than halving ocean shipment times of 45 days via Suez. First deputy general director of the carrier Alexander Misharin said the service followed an agreement with Japan's Ministry of Transport. "Over the past five years, we have invested more than \$5bn in development of railways in eastern Russia, with this route growing by more than a third over this time," he said. "We see a very large potential for cooperation with our Japanese colleagues and would like to use this infrastructure for the transportation of goods from Japan as well." Fesco will be responsible for sea delivery, port handling and the container fleet, with RZD Logistic responsible for rail transport. The service is set to be made available in June, and there are further plans for a return service to Japan, with president of Fesco Alexander Isurin keen to strengthen ties further.

Singapore's Tuas mega port to open in phases from 2021

Singapore has successfully built itself into a maritime power house through exploiting its strategic location within old trade routes since independence. Innovation and sound strategic planning by the city-state's founding leaders helped entrench this position and made the maritime sector an important economic participant in world trade by connecting the country with major trade markets. Today, the maritime industry accounts for 7 per cent of the country's GDP and houses 170,000 jobs, a figure that is set to grow since Minister for Manpower Josephine Teo announced that 13,000 more jobs will be created in the aviation and maritime by 2025. The country is upping the ante and making a huge bet on its maritime future. The Tuas Mega Port, currently under construction and with the first phase to be completed in 2021, is a natural extension of Singapore's strategy to entrench its regional dominance as a leading trans-shipment port. In details outlined in development documents, it is quite clear that Tuas Megaport is positioning itself to be a leading trans-shipment port that connects and feeds containers to smaller regional ports. The competitive advantage of this model is that Tuas' ability to handle huge volumes and receive large container vessels will bring down the cargo's unit cost.

UK Ports Group expands logistics service with acquisition at port close to River Mersey

A UK ports operator, Peel Ports Group which includes the Port of Liverpool, has announced it has acquired Quality Freight (UK) Limited for an undisclosed amount. The company acquired provides chartering and a range of port services operating from a 40 acre multi modal facility at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire. The port located on the Manchester Ship Canal connects to the River Mersey. Commenting on the acquisition, Mark Whitworth, Chief Executive of Peel Ports Group said: "Our strategy is to be a leading UK provider of port centric logistics solutions. The acquisition of Quality Freight (UK) Limited is an important step in extending the range of value added services beyond the core stevedoring and storage services typically offered by Peel Ports. We are looking to drive additional volume through our infrastructure and the Quality Freight business model will allow us to deliver that objective." Sebastian Gardiner, who will be continuing in the role of Managing Director of the business which will continue to trade under the Quality Freight name, commented: "I believe that this is an important milestone which will allow the Quality Freight business to both continue growing and allow it to explore other opportunities with existing and new customers."

Bam International completes first two phases of Saqr Port expansion

Bam International, the Dubai-based subsidiary of Dutch contracting giant Royal BAM Group, has completed Phases 1 and 2 of the Saqr Port expansion project in the UAE emirate of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK). The main scope of Bam's work on the project included dredging work and the construction of a 720m-long quay wall, as well as stripping an existing breakwater. Reclamation works, topsides furniture, paving, drainage, and lighting were also included in the contract. Bam said the combined value of the project stood at \$84m, adding that it delivered the project to its client, Saqr Port Authority, in spring 2019. A bulk-handling facility located at the foot of RAK's Hajar Mountains, Saqr Port is currently at the centre of the major expansion programme that is due to reshape port operation in the emirate. According to Ras Al Khaimah Ports' website, the facility handles "the majority" of the almost-60 million tonnes of cargo that the operator handles each year. Bam's news comes six months after it announced similar construction milestones at the port in October last year. In a statement at the time, Bam said: "We also celebrated another internal milestone on 10 October, 2018, with the successful completion of the block placing by our marine team and IB 429 crane barge."

Sniffer drones will start patrolling the world's busiest shipping ports

Teams of drones are about to start policing the skies of some of the world's busiest shipping ports. Their target? Environmental rule-breakers. It might sound -- and look -- like something out of a Marvel Avengers movie, but for many ports around the world, these so-called sniffer drones are the best way to enforce new regulations aimed at cutting the air pollution caused by ships. Regulators are bracing for rules that are meant to lower shipping's emissions of sulfur oxides, pollutants blamed for acid rain and aggravating human health conditions like asthma. Because the regulations, which start Jan. 1, will require most of the world's ships to burn more expensive fuels, there's been speculation some owners may try to cheat to drive down what is their single biggest cost. And that's where the drones come in. In the Netherlands, home to Europe's largest port, preparations are underway to use a large, unmanned flying vehicle capable of traveling well over 10 miles from the shore to detect emissions from ships. The local enforcement authority calls it a 'super drone.' Authorities can use drones to effectively filter through the tens of thousands of vessels coming in and out of their ports. Knowing in advance if a ship is burning non-compliant fuel means they can target the right carrier for a manual inspection.

Egypt plans new maritime line to East Africa for increasing exports

Egypt has announced that it plans to launch a regular maritime line from the port of Ain Sokhna, east of Cairo, to East African countries in October with the aim of ensuring the arrival of Egyptian goods as well as boosting exports to East African countries and landlocked countries, including Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. In a press statement May 19, Public Enterprise Sector Minister Hesham Tawfik said the new maritime line will help boost trade to Africa, transport goods and provide logistical services to exporters and importers, with the aim of promoting trade between Egyptian and African countries and reaching new markets to support the national economy. The minister also said the new maritime line will help Egypt enhance its role as a northern gateway to African trade with European countries. He added that the line will provide elements of logistical support from transport, warehousing and insurance services. Construction for the line started this month; the line is to start in October. The government did not announce the cost of the project and said it will be paid for by the Holding Company for Maritime and Land Transport.

New Iran-India shipping route established

A new shipping route between the seaport of Kandla in western India and Iran's southern Qeshm Island has been officially established with the arrival of a cargo ship named Neshat in Qeshm. Neshat, a general cargo ship carried 13,000 tons of commercial goods from India to Qeshm and docked at Kaveh International Port. Iran and India launched a shipping lane in January from India's Mumbai to Mundra Port, Kandla, Iran's port city of Chabahar and the port city of Bandar Abbas. India is among Iran's major trading partners. Iran-India trade stood at 10.37 million tons worth \$4.63 billion in the last fiscal year (2018-19) to register a 10.78% and 7.14% decline in tonnage and value respectively year-on-year. Iran exported 8.36 million tons of goods worth \$2.04 billion to India, down 14.95% and 25.34% in tonnage and value respectively YOY. India was Iran's seventh biggest export destination in the world during the period. Iran's exports to India mainly included methanol, urea, ammonia and bitumen. The country imported 2.01 million tons of commodities worth \$2.59 billion from India, up by 12.04% and 14.91% in tonnage and value respectively YOY, which mainly included semi- and wholly-milled rice, tea, graphite electrodes used in furnaces and oilcake.

DP World-NIIF team buys 76 per cent in KRIBHCO Infrastructure

Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (HIPL), a joint venture between Dubai-based port giant DP World Ltd and India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), has acquired a 76 per cent stake in KRIBHCO Infrastructure Limited (KRIL), an integrated multi-modal logistics operator in India. The size of the deal is less than one per cent of DP World's net asset value as of FY2018, DP World said on Thursday without divulging the acquisition price. Report on the deal was published in Business Line in its April 3 edition and sources briefed on the deal said it was close to INR 1,000 crore. Kribhco Infrastructure Limited is a fully owned rail logistics unit of fertiliser making cooperative society Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO). The acquisition bolsters DP World's presence in the fast-growing inland logistics market by making it one of the top integrated rail terminal and container train operators in the country, providing door-to-door connectivity to cargo owners. The KRIL acquisition will be the third by Hindustan Infralog, the JV set up by DP World and NIIF to invest as much as US\$ 3 billion to acquire assets and develop projects in ports, terminals, logistics, transportation and related sectors.

DP World gearing up for automotive boom in South-east Asia

DP World is developing its automotive logistics capabilities in South-east Asia, as the region's preference for four wheels over two shows no sign of slowing. According to Andrew Hoad, the terminal operator's chief executive for Asia Pacific, around 5% of all throughput at DP World's terminals is tied to the automotive sector. Mr Hoad told, "At the moment, we provide automotive services in Vietnam and in the Philippines. Our ambition is to have a robust automotive presence in Indonesia and Thailand as well, growing from two markets to four in ASEAN over the next three or four years." In the Philippines, DP World subsidiary Asian Terminals Inc (ATI) invested \$25.5m in a five-storey car storage centre at Batangas Port, where over 160,000 imported cars are handled every year. "ATI is handling about 55% of the Philippines' cars, including all the Toyota services," said Mr Hoad "We've seen volumes grow exponentially, with the number of cars coming through Batangas over the past five years averaging over 20% growth every year -- the completed car market is booming." ASEAN's steady economic integration and lifting of trade barriers is expected to boost the automotive market further, both in terms of domestic car sales and production.