

## Transworld Group celebrate the National Nutrition Week in India

Transworld Group celebrated the National Nutrition Week in India on 8-9 September, a team of 25 Transworld Corporate Responsibility Energizers along with employee volunteers across Mumbai, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam distributed nutritious meals and fruits packets to 450 beneficiaries children, women and elderly. In Mumbai and Kolkata, the Robin Hood Army was the facilitating partner organization catering to beneficiaries from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; Vizag team distributed at Dwarkamaye School for the Visually Impaired, Society for Education for Deaf & Dumb and Prema Samajam Old Age Home.

## Transworld expands its wings to Houston

Transworld Group established its global footprint by inaugurating second office in Houston, USA to providing its services to customers by supporting them in all their Logistics & Shipping needs, globally. Transworld Group, one of the leading shipping and logistics solution providers in India and the Middle East, operates through a very strong network of more than 40 own offices in these regions with 1,000+ experienced professionals. Headquartered in the Jebel Ali Free Zone (Dubai, UAE), with offices in the US, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Hong Kong and Singapore, besides offices in India at 30 key port and hinterland locations combined with strong network partners the world over, Transworld Group today offers its customers a one-stop solution for all their shipping and logistics needs with over four decades of expertise.

## Saudi Arabia reveals railway expansion plans for passenger and freight

Speaking at a recent forum, Saudi rail chiefs said that the Saudi Railway Company (SAR) already moved nine million tons of freight last year. Compared with other means of transport, trains have a lower carbon footprint, cost less, are more reliable and have lower manpower requirements, they added. "The railway sector is witnessing qualitative growth with an added focus on freight," said Saudi transport minister Nabeel bin Mohammed Al Amoudi. "Conditions have been put in place for rail freight to unleash its enormous potential and increase its attractiveness to customers." SAR also has ambitious plans for an expanded passenger network, its chief executive Bashar Khaled Almalik told Arab News at the forum. "We are growing and growing," he said. "We have several projects under construction including a connection to Jubail Industrial City and another to Ras Al-Khair, where we have gone up to the northern borders. "We are also looking to build the connection between the two networks here in Riyadh and move on, depending on the demands and the needs of our customers. We have expansion plans and some master plans to be executed within next few years. We are looking at the Saudi Land Bridge Project, which will connect Riyadh with Jeddah."

## Dubai Maritime Virtual Cluster formally launched

Chairman of the Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation in Dubai and Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA) chairman Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem has formally launched the Dubai Maritime Virtual Cluster (DMVC) initiative on the website www.dmvc.ae, aimed at providing smart and interactive platforms for knowledge-sharing and research to further attract growth and promote competitiveness within the sector. Local and international maritime industry players have hailed the move as a positive effort towards strengthening cooperation in the maritime sector with strategic partners, especially in the move to implement various maritime-related activities. Bin Sulayem said that DMVC will provide a solid foundation for ensuring Dubai's position as a major player among the world's leading maritime centres, and added that DMVC is part of the continuous efforts to modernize the sector into a competitive, inclusive, and attractive area for investments, with the ability to effectively implement UAE's post-oil strategies, in line with the UAE's vision as a leading model for transforming into a diversified and sustainable economy based on knowledge and innovation; and establish a safer future for current and future generations.

## Iran to handover Chabahar port to Indian firm for operation in a month

Iran will handover the strategic Chabahar port to Indian company within a month for operation as per an interim pact, Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Abbas Akhondi said Thursday. Akhondi is in India on the invitation of India government. "Now, we are ready just to handover the port (Chabahar) to the Indian company just to operate this in interim agreement that already we had with Indian part for one and a half year," Akhondi told. The Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province in the energy-rich nation's southern coast is easily accessible from India's western coast and is increasingly seen as a counter to Pakistan's Gwadar Port located at distance of around 80 kms from Chabahar. Akhondi after a meeting with his Indian counterpart Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said: "We have already moved one step forward...We should introduce a banking channel to India, which we already did it and fortunately has been formally accepted by the Indian side". He said the India has also introduced a banking channel, which has been approved by Iran's Central Bank. The first phase of the Chabahar port was inaugurated in December 2017 by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani pening a new strategic route connecting Iran, India and Afghanistan.

## Ports, Customs And Free Zone Corporation Signs MoU With Dubai SME

Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC) subsidiary P&O Marinas signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dubai SME. The agency of the Department of Economic Development (DED) in Dubai mandated to develop the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector, to boost mutual cooperation in introducing best services to their clients towards realising the vision of Dubai Government in support of Dubai's economy. Mohammed Abdul Aziz Al Mannaei, CEO of P&O and Executive Director of Mina Rashid, and Abdul Baset Al Janahi, CEO of Dubai SME, signed the MoU which will see both parties provide facilitations and additional advantages to each other's clients in order to promote economic activity and support Dubai's efforts in attracting more business and investments. "It's very important for us to cooperate with all government departments in order to deliver the best services and advantages to clients. Our MoU with Dubai SME is an agreement that will help us exchange benefits with them, and is meant to support small and medium enterprises, which play a noticeable role in national economic development following the vision of our wise leadership" Al Mannaei said.

## Krishnapatnam Port to pump Rs 500 cr for liquid cargo terminal

Krishnapatnam Port is looking to invest Rs 500 crore over the next 18 months for setting up a liquid cargo terminal and expanding container handling capacity, a top official has said. The port is witnessing an increase in capacity utilizations across the bulk and container segment, which is leading to firming up of new plans. "We will invest Rs 500 crore over the next 12- 18 months for creating a liquid cargo terminal and also expand container capacity," its chief executive Anil Yendluri told. He said the liquid cargo container terminal will handle a host of commodities and it is already in touch with prospective clients. It is aiming to increase the container capacity by 8 lakh standard 20-foot units to 20 lakh TEUs as part of the expansion, he said. The container terminal expansion entails putting up a few equipment and readying the yards to handle more, he said. The port is targeting to close FY19 with 6 lakh TEUs being handled as against 4.80 lakh TEUs in the year-ago period. "The port is targeting to up the overall cargo handling to 60 million tonnes in FY19 from the 45 million tonnes in FY18," he said. When asked if there are difficulties in getting cargo for east coast ports, Yendluri said its performance for the last two years, where there has been a 114 per cent and 88 per cent growth in cargo handled respectively.

## Japan wants India's Mormugao Port to explore sister-port tie-up

Indo-Japanese trade and bilateral ties may soon have a Goa link, with Japan proposing a sister-port tie-up with Mormugao Port Trust (MPT). On an official visit to Goa, consul general of Japan in India, Ryoji Noda suggested that MPT should explore the possibility of a sister-port tie up with a Japanese port. "The Japanese ports of Osaka and Yokohama have a sister-port tie-up with the Mumbai port. The Mormugao Port too should work towards having a sister-port tie up with other Japanese ports. We could work together on various aspects as the government of Japan wishes to promote people to people contact with the people of India and we are gradually working and promoting this relationship," said Noda. Noda met with MPT deputy chairman and traffic manager to improve trade movement and discuss export-import potential. He also took stock of the facilities available at MPT. The consul general laid emphasis on the potential for a food processing industry in the state. "Food processing is an important and fast growing industry. There is a need to tap the food resources from the sea to meet the ever growing food demands of the increasing world population. Being a coastal state, Goa has a good potential to set up food processing industries where waste fish could be put to good use," Noda said.

## Bay container terminal construction to start soon

The construction work of long awaited Bay Container Terminal is going to start soon in Chittagong to mobilise the port activities as the problem involving land acquisition is almost over, officials have said. The construction work of the project under Chittagong Port Authority had slowed down over land acquisition process. CPA chairman Commodore Zulfiqur Aziz told New Age that there was no other hurdle in the way of the terminal. Chittagong district administration on Tuesday would hand over the compensation cheque to the owners of 68 acres of private land acquired for constructing the terminal, he said. Deputy commissioner of Chittagong Elius Hossain will hand over the cheque and then the local administration will hand over the land to CPA. These works completed, the construction of much hyped fast track project of the ruling government BCT will begin. The bay terminal has been proposed on a 1,200-acre island in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Patenga in the city. It is near the Chittagong Port and Chittagong Export Processing Zone. The estimated cost of the project is Tk 17,500 crore. Earlier, due to lengthy land acquisition process, port stakeholders had expressed worries regarding the terminal.

## Thailand focusing on Ranong port development to improve trade with India

Thailand is focusing on developing Ranong port for improved connectivity with eastern and southern Indian ports so as to boost bilateral trade, a Thailand Embassy official said recently. "Kolkata is a gateway to India. The Ranong port, which is nearer compared with Bangkok and Laem Chabang, has been operational but the (export-import) activities have been less. We are now focusing on developing Ranong to improve connectivity with Kolkata and Chennai ports as it will save distance and boost trade," said Tharadol Thongruang, Minister Counsellor (Commercial), Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy. He said improved road connectivity will result from the completion of a highway between India, Thailand and Myanmar. The three countries are working on about 1,400-km road link between India and southeast Asia to step up ties in trade, health, education and tourism. "The stretch from Bangkok to the Thailand border has been completed. In India, the stretch between Guwahati and Dimapur too has been finished. Construction on the Dimapur-Kohima stretch is underway. It will then be connected to Imphal and further to Indian border. I think the highway should be operational in three years," he said ahead of the Thailand Trade Fair in Kolkata from September 12-16.

## Launch of UK Women in Maritime Charter Taskforce

Only 2% of the UK's current maritime workforce are women. It's a situation, said Associated British Ports' new chief executive, Henrik Pedersen, that simply must change. He was speaking at the launch of the new Women in Maritime Charter, an initiative to encourage more women to take up roles in the industry, and one which more than 60 companies across shipping, ports, engineering and naval forces have already pledged to support. "We are failing to fully harness the talents of 50% of the population. It doesn't make sense and there is a dire need to change this," said Pedersen. He noted that ABP's own workforce is 15% women, and the group is proactively encouraging more women to apply. For him, he said, it's personal – he reflected on the "unreasonable obstacles" his wife has had to overcome in her career and, as the father of two daughters, "I want them to have equal opportunities in their work life." At the same time, diversity is good for business, he added. ABP's focus on diversity was delivering a much stronger company, "with different voices listened to". There are plans for workshops on unconscious bias, for sharing best practice on the role of job description language in attracting women applicants, and for sharing of HR personnel between companies.

## Port of Colombo ranked world's top container growth port

Sri Lanka's Port of Colombo was ranked the world's top port with the highest container growth in the first half of 2018, Sri Lanka's Ports and Shipping Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. According to international rating agency Alphaliner, the Port of Colombo has recorded a 15.6-per cent growth in container handling for the first half of this year, out of the top 30 global ports, Xinhua news agency reported. "It is a very significant achievement as it is the first time in history the Port of Colombo has reached the top of a global maritime ranking. With this growth, Port of Colombo has leaped ahead many other Asian ports," the statement said. The Port of Colombo consists of the Jaya Container Terminal of the state-run Sri Lanka Ports Authority, South Asia Gateway Terminal of the John Keells Holdings and Colombo International Container Terminal of China's CM Ports. Ports Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said recently that the three terminals had inked a deal to jointly promote the port. Under this deal, waiting time for all container vessels arriving at the Port of Colombo will be minimized by allowing vessels to be accommodated at the earliest available terminal.

## Five Indian states in talks with DP World about logistics centres, says Indian UAE ambassador

A number of Indian state governments are discussing the potential establishment of logistics facilities with Dubai-based ports operator DP World, according to Indian ambassador Navdeep Singh Suri. Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference announcing the upcoming Indian-UAE Partnership Summit (IUPS) earlier this week, Suri told reporters that DP World is in "various stages of conversation with at least five state governments" about "major logistics facilities." Suri identified the states as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. When contacted by Arabian Business, a DP World spokesperson said that "we always look for opportunities wherever they may be around the world, but do not comment on speculation or specifics until announcements are made." In January, DP World and India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), a quasi-sovereign wealth fund, announced plans to create a fund that will invest up to \$3 billion of equity in ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India. "It will also look at opportunities beyond sea ports such as river ports and transportation, freight corridors, port-led special economic zones, inland container terminal and logistics infrastructure, including cold storage," the spokesperson added.