



Arab ports keep going amid the crisis

"Despite the pandemic crisis, Arab ports haven't stopped, nor do they intend to," said Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce secretary-general Tamer Mansour (pictured above) during the webinar "Challenges of Covid-19 to the logistics-ports industry," hosted Thursday afternoon (7) by Brasil Export. Mansour said utmost care is being taken in Arab ports to prevent contagion in loading and unloading cargo. "They banned all changes in staff in all Arab ports to prevent infection of any kind, and they also banned tourist ships until second notice," he said. According to information from the Arab Chamber, Brazil's top five export destinations in the Arab world are UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria and Oman. The top-selling items are animal-based protein, agricultural products, grains, and iron ore. "Oman is home to one Vale's biggest international branches. Vitória and São Luís are the exit point for Vale ships, which arrive at Omani ports in 18 to 20 days' time," he explained.

World's second-largest container ship received at Salalah Port

Salalah Port received MSC Isabella which is the biggest container vessel to ever call Oman on May 8, 2020. The vessel which belongs to the Gulsun class is also the biggest in the MSC fleet and is the second-largest container vessel in the world today. The vessel is deployed by MSC in the 2M (Maersk and MSC) alliance on the Asia Europe sector and is one of the most fuel-efficient and ecofriendly vessels in the world and has 10 sister vessels of the same class. Till recently, this class of vessel was the biggest container vessel in the world. Mark Hardiman, CEO for Port of Salalah stated, "We are honoured to receive MSC Isabella in Salalah. This vessel call demonstrates our ambition to continue to be one of the major container hubs in the region and an integral part of the global transport and supply chain ecosystem. Logistics is an important pillar in the economic diversification plan of the Government of Oman. Port of Salalah has and intends to continue to play a vital role in this ambitious economic diversification strategy and are working with all stakeholders to ensure that we expand our capacity and capabilities to cater to the evolving needs of our customers."

New direct shipping route opens between Incheon and the U.S.

Incheon Port Authority announced the opening of the Pacific South 8 route for direct shipping between the United States and the Port of Incheon. Previously, the service was provided by Hyundai Merchant Marine under the name of Pacific South 1. More recently, the company joined the THE Alliance and the name was changed to Pacific South 8. Members of the alliance such as ONE, Hapag-Lloyd and Yang Ming Line now use the new route. The ports of call of Pacific South 8 are Incheon, Shanghai, Gwangyang, Busan, Long Beach, Oakland, Busan, Gwangyang and Incheon with Tacoma replaced with Oakland. Export shipping from Long Beach to Incheon takes 17 days and import shipping from Incheon to Long Beach takes 18 days. The lead time is three days shorter than that of the Pacific South 1 service. The Port of Oakland is the largest volume cargo container shipping port in the Americas and the replacement is expected to add to the reefer container handling volume of the Port of Incheon. The service from Incheon to the Americas has an annual volume of approximately 80,000 TEU.

Concessionary period to clear shipping containers from Colombo Port ends

The concessionary period granted for importers to clear the containers from all commercial ports only with basic charges ended Friday (08 May). Chairman of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority General (Retd) Daya Ratnayake said that the importers will have to pay late fees to clear the containers from 08 May. He said that the four warehouses of the Colombo Port are filled to the maximum capacity. Due to prevailing Covid-19 outbreak in the island, institutions and their staffs related to operating import and export consignments have faced large difficulties. As a result, all terminals and warehouses in Sri Lanka Ports Authority, SAGT and CICT have reached their maximum capacities, the SLPA said last month. This has further created obstacles for the continuity of port operations, and obtaining required space for positioning of containers and port cargo at terminals and warehouses in the port as the port operations and services have to be continued to fulfill the distribution of essential consumer items, medicine and medical supplies and other necessary consumer products in the island.

Iranian commercial vessels not to enter UAE ports until further notice

Chairman of the Board of Bushehr Province Dhow Owners Seyed Ali Mousavi Gomarani said that the owners of commercial vessels should not rely on the rumors about resumption of transportation with the United Arab Emirates until further notice. "Until now, no consultations have been held between the officials of Iran and the UAE regarding the normalization of the trade, which has been stopped due to COVID-19 outbreak," Gomarani said, Trend reports citing IRNA. "Efforts are being made to obtain the necessary permits for commercial vessels to be allowed entering the ports of the United Arab Emirates," he said adding that the result will be announced through official news agencies. "Following the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and all over the world, no Iranian shipment has been allowed to enter the ports of the UAE since March," Gomarani said. He added that so far, no confidential and official letters have been exchanged between the officials of Iran and the United Arab Emirates regarding the specific time for resuming transportation.

Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port receives largest petrochemical ship

King Fahd Industrial Port in Yanbu has received TORM Maren, a ship carrying 109,000 tons of gasoline. It is the largest petrochemical ship the port's Samref Station has ever received, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Friday. It is part of a strategic plan to develop Saudi ports to receive the largest and most modern international ships, and to improve the ports' performance and services. King Fahd Industrial Port has high operational and logistical capacity as well as advanced equipment, contributing to attracting a greater number of international shipping lines.



India ships second consignment of wheat to Afghanistan

India shipped the second consignment of wheat as part of its developmental assistance to Afghanistan from the Kandla International Container Terminal (KICT) in Deendayal Port Trust on May 9, according to an official statement. The wheat consignment of 435 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) or 10,962 metric tonnes was carried on M V KASHAN which berthed at Kandla International Container Terminal (KICT) on May 8 and sailed out the next morning on May 9. The shipment was part of the 75,000 metric tonnes of wheat consignment that India is supplying to Afghanistan through Chabahar port in Iran. The shippers of the consignment are Ministry of External Affairs and the consignee is Banayee Construction Company, Kabul, Afghanistan. The first lot of 203 TEUs or 5,541.90 metric tonnes of wheat was shipped on April 13 on M V NEGAR from KICT, the official statement said.

Cargo handling through Qatar's 3 ports more than triples in April

The general cargo handling through Qatar's three ports – Hamad, Doha and Al Ruwais – more than tripled year-on-year in April 2020 amid challenges owing to Covid-19 that has already destabilised global maritime industry. The general cargo handling registered a 236.33% year-on-year surge to 135,893 freight tonnes in April 2020. It was up 3.36% month-on-month, according to statistics released by Mwan Qatar. Mwan Qatar is responsible for managing the nation's seaports and shipping terminals, but the integrated port and logistics services provider is also playing a more pivotal role. It is responsible for Hamad Port and Al Ruwais Port which are commercial ports, as well as the development of Doha Port into a cruise port. The general cargo movement has consistently increased from 57,016 tonnes in January, 85,916 tonnes in February and 131,472 tonnes in March, to a cumulative level of 410,297 freight tonnes in the first four months of this year. The container handling through the three ports stood at 109,407 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), which, however, fell 8.26% and 2.95% year-on-year and month-on-month respectively in April 2020.