

DP World Chairman And Panama President Discuss Logistics And Industrial Parks

DP World Group Chairman and CEO, and Chairman of Ports, Customs and Freezones Corporation, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem met with the President of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela to explore logistics and industrial parks and other opportunities relating to the expanded Panama Canal. Bin Sulayem stressed the importance of the Americas to DP World and outlined how its operations in the region from Latin America to the Dominican Republic and Canada are supporting economies and facilitating trade, adding value to the development of logistics capability for the benefit of business. He noted the Caucedo Logistics Centre in the Dominican Republic, the smart Logistics Centre in Lurin, Peru connected through optical fibres to DP World's terminal in Callao and the development of Posorja in Ecuador with plans to build a logistics zone to create a regional trading hub.

DP World May Develop Port in Somali Region

The government of Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland may award a concession to DP World Ltd. to develop the port of Bosaso, President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali said. Ali traveled to Dubai last week to discuss the concession, he said in an interview March 21 in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, where he was on an unofficial visit. Michael Vertigans, a spokesman for DP World, declined to comment beyond saying the company continues to seek opportunities in Africa. "The discussion is ongoing," Ali said. "It hasn't yet been finalized." Puntland, situated on the tip of the Horn of Africa, declared autonomy in 1998 and severed ties with Somalia's federal administration in August 2013 after accusing the government of failing to distribute power and share resources including foreign aid with the region.

Australia Set to Reform Its Coastal Shipping

The Australian Government is proposing a reform of the country's coastal shipping sector with the aim of reducing regulatory burden. The proposals were released in a discussion paper titled Coastal Shipping Reforms Discussion Paper and the government is seeking comment from ship operators, shipping companies, and other relevant stakeholders on proposed changes. The Federal Government is proposing "greater flexibility for coastal shipping and new training opportunities...aimed at boosting coastal shipping activity." "Currently, 15 per cent of Australia's domestic freight is moved by ship, but with Australia's extensive coastline and broad network of ports, there is the potential for shipping to play a larger role in the national freight task," Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester said. "However, it has become clear that limitations in the current regulatory system are working against that potential being realized."

Shipping Confidence Steady amid Fierce Competition

Shipping confidence held steady in the three months to end-February 2017, according to the latest Shipping Confidence Survey from international accountant Moore Stephens. In February 2017, the average confidence level expressed by respondents was 5.6 out of 10.0, unchanged from the previous survey in November 2016 and equal to the highest rating since August 2015. Owners were the only main category to show an improved level of confidence, up from 5.4 to 5.6. Confidence on the part of charterers was down from its all-time survey high of 6.8 to 5.9, while that of managers fell from 6.4 to 6.0. Confidence levels in the broking sector, meanwhile, dropped from 5.6 to 4.6. Confidence was up in Europe and North America, from 5.4 to 5.5 and 5.9 to 6.1 respectively, but down from 5.7 to 5.6 in Asia. Most respondents saw 2017 as a year of retrenchment rather than improvement.

iContainers: New Alliances to 'Shake Things Up'

New shipping alliances set to come into effect next week will lead to a shortage of options for freight forwarders, online freight forwarder iContainers said. Starting 1 April, the previous four alliances will be regrouped to three, namely THE Alliance, Ocean Alliance and 2M. The effect of this new reshuffle is a reduction of shipping options, according to Carlos Hernández, the co-founder of iContainers. Already the industry has been left one player short following the collapse of Hanjin Shipping. The three new alliances represent 77.2% of global container capacity and 96% of all East-West trades.

India's Deepening Project to Make Room for Larger Boxships

India has unveiled the details of the second phase of the deepening and widening project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) to enable box ships of up to 12,500 TEUs to dock. Under the USD 309.8 million project, the existing channel would be widened from the current 370 to 450 meters for straight reach, while its draft is set to be increased from 14 to 15 meters. The project would also see the channel extended from the current 33.5 to 35.5 kilometers. The present total capacity of the JNPT for container handling is 5 million TEUs. After the fourth terminal becomes operational, this capacity is expected to increase to 9.8 million TEUs.

London P&I Club: Warranty Surveyors to Reduce Cargo Shifting Risk

Due to a recent increase in the incidence of deck cargoes shifting in heavy weather, the London P&I Club said it supports a recommendation to appoint a warranty surveyor to supervise high-risk marine construction and transportation project operations. "In the past year, LOC has seen many deck cargoes shifting in heavy weather," Paul Walton, a director with international marine consultant LOC (Hong Kong), said. After further investigation, it has been discovered that the stowage and securing of these cargoes "did not comply" with the ship's Cargo Securing Manual (CSM) or the practices laid down within the Code of Safe Practice for Cargo Stowage and Securing (CSS Code) or other applicable codes of safe practice, Walton added. "Such losses have prompted the view that a suitably qualified Marine Warranty Surveyor (MWS) should be recommended to attend such load-outs," according to Walton.

Shell Gets Access to Key Oil Hub in Panama

Royal Dutch Shell agreed to lease capacity at a large oil terminal in Panama that has been used by U.S. refiner Tesoro Corp, sources involved in the deal told Reuters, gaining much-needed storage for its crude operations. The facility, designed for storage and transshipment of oil, is owned by Petroterminal de Panama and provides up to 14 million barrels of storage capacity, a pipeline network that connects the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and docks for very large tankers. "We have signed a contract with Shell for a three-year period involving all the available space we have," said an official from the Panamanian government.

World Bank moots Freight Village concept to boost logistic sector

World Bank, which is offering its assistance in developing National Waterways - I under the Jal Marg Vikas Project, has mooted introduction of 'freight village' concept on the lines of European model at Varanasi to give boost to the logistic sector. A three-day workshop organised by World Bank was attended by senior officials including Arnab Bandyopadhyay and Bernard Aritua (World Bank), Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) member traffic Shrikant Mahiyariya and Capt IV Solanki, AK Singh of DFCCI and AK Rai and SB Singh from National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). IWAI officials said that the multi-modal terminal being developed as a part of NW-I development at Ramnagar will be a part of the freight village concept.

RCL, Penang Port Getting Ready for Mega Cruise Ships

Cruise line operator Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd (RCL) and Malaysia's Penang Port Sdn Bhd (PPSB) plan to upgrade the Swettenham Pier Cruise Terminal (SPCT) in Georgetown to accommodate berthing of larger cruise ships. Under a joint venture agreement, the parties said they would extend the existing berths to 688 metres from its current length of 400 metres, enabling the terminal to berth two mega cruise liners carrying over 4,900 passengers each. The 40/60 joint venture, which will be jointly managed by both parties, with the majority stake held by PPSB, informed that the USD 35 million upgrades would also include spaces for tour buses to ease the flow of traffic in the areas around SPCT.

IKEA considering using drones in Dubai South warehouse

IKEA is considering the use of drones for inventory management in its Dubai South distribution centre, Abdelaziz Kadri, managing director, IKEA Distribution Services DWC. "The IKEA Distribution Centre is one of the largest of its kind in the region, with a capacity to handle 120,000 cubic metres in conventional racking on eight levels of storage," says Kadri. "The 100,000sqm of storage space is split into two sections with 135 134 loading docks and 180 parking spaces in the yard for containers and trucks." The DC is currently using RFID scanning and an in-house WMS to keep track of the tens of thousands of SKUs that are stored and distributed from the facility to IKEA stores across the GCC, but according to Kadri, IKEA is looking at new ways of keep track of stock.