



### **Naval Development and Policy:**

Chinese Navy Sets New World Record, Launching 23 New Surface Warships in One Year

— p. 5

### **Maritime Safety and Security:**

Japan to send warship, aircraft to Middle East to protect vessels

— p. 6

### **Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy:**

Vietnam's effort to EC's "yellow card" acknowledged

— p. 8

## Table of Contents

<b>NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY</b>	<b>4</b>
Royal Malaysian Navy Receives First Chinese-Built Littoral Mission Ship	4
Indonesian, Indian, Australian Navies Hold Trilateral Security Talks	4
China on Mind, India Set to Hand Over Sub to Myanmar	4
HMS Prince of Wales Commissioning Ceremony Held in Portsmouth	4
China Commissions 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aircraft Carrier, Challenging U.S. Dominance	5
Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile Achieves Operational Capability with Super Hornets	5
Bangladesh Navy Receives Two Chinese Frigates	5
China Has Launched Sea Trials of New JARI-USV Armed Unmanned Surface Vessel	5
Indonesia Laid Down Hull of 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Sampari-Class Fast Attack Craft	5
Chinese Navy Sets New World Record, Launching 23 New Surface Warships in One Year	5
Indian Navy Planning to Build Six Nuclear Attack Submarines: Navy to Parliamentary Panel	5
<b>MARITIME SAFETY AND SECURITY</b>	<b>6</b>
Japan to send warship, aircraft to Middle East to protect vessels	6
Anti-maritime piracy bill introduced in Lok Sabha	6
S. Korea considering deploying troops to Strait of Hormuz	6
Malaysian Authorities Intercept Chinese and Vietnamese Oil Tankers	6
South China Sea: US stages 85 military exercised with regional allies in 2019, report says	7
Tensions mount between Greece and Turkey over maritime zone	7
Turkey-Libya maritime deal rattles East Mediterranean	7
Pirates attack five vessels in Singapore Strait in four days	7
Philippine Coast Guard Welcomes Its Newest Offshore Patrol Vessel	7
Maritime terrorism a threat, say experts amid rising piracy attacks	7
Indonesia issues protest to Beijing over Chinese vessel trespassing in Natuna	7
Two more ships attacked in Gulf of Guinea: Greek and Singaporean, 8 crew kidnapped	7
<b>SHIPPING, PORTS, AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY</b>	<b>8</b>
Vietnam's effort to EC's "yellow card" acknowledged	8
Korean Shipyard Mega-Merger Hits a Bump in Singapore	8
Asian container port expansion drives tug newbuilding demand	8
Rosatom builds on its Artic line ambitions	8
IMO launches new plastic litter prevention project	8
Hong Kong closer to tax cut for marine and specialty risks	9
World Bank approves US\$20 million credit for Grenada's transition to a resilient blue economy	9
European ports welcome Europe's green deal ambition	9
Sri Lanka not to renegotiate Hambantota Port agreement with China: president	9
China Merchants Port and CMA CGM finalise terminal acquisition	9
Turkey's 'crazy' canal plan runs into wave of criticism	9
Chabahar Port: US gives 'written' assurance to India facilitating banks to fund \$85mn equipment purchase	9
Bunker prices will rise, regardless of type, at 2020 start – MABUX	9

## **NOTES**

Please click on the links for the full report. All links and news reports are correct at the time of publication. Through this bulletin, you will be linked to external websites. We have no control over the nature, content, and availability of those sites. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorsement of the views expressed within them.

Should you encounter any problem in retrieving the articles, or if you have any comments/suggestions/request, please feel free to contact us at:

RSISMSP@ntu.edu.sg

## **Maritime Security Programme, RSIS**

### ***Editorial Team***

Olli Pekka Suorsa  
Lee YingHui



MALAYSIA | 31 DEC | JANE'S DEFENSE

### Royal Malaysian Navy Receives First Chinese-Built Littoral Mission Ship

China has handed over the first of four Keris-class Littoral Mission Ships (LMSs) on order for the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN). The handover of Keris (with pennant number 111) took place in a ceremony held on 31 December at the facilities of Wuchang Shipbuilding at Qidong, near Shanghai, according to an RMN statement issued that same day.

[Full report](#)

INDONESIA-INDIA-AUSTRALIA | 2 DEC | JAKARTA GLOBE

### Indonesian, Indian, Australian Navies hold trilateral security talks

The Indonesian, Indian and Australian navies held the three-day Trilateral Indian Ocean Maritime Security workshop in Fremantle in Western Australia last week.

[Full report](#)

MYANMAR-INDIA | 9 DEC | THE TIMES OF INDIA

### China on mind, India set to hand over sub to Myanmar

In a big boost to bilateral defence cooperation, Myanmar is set to soon commission its first-ever

submarine after it is formally handed over by India.

[Full report](#)

UNITED KINGDOM | 10 DEC | BBC

### HMS Prince of Wales commissioning ceremony held in Portsmouth

The Royal Navy's £3.1bn new aircraft carrier has been commissioned at a ceremony in Portsmouth attended by the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall.

[Full report](#)

INDONESIA | 12 DEC | ASIA PACIFIC DEFENSE JOURNAL

### Indonesia receives 10 new locally-made fast

## **attack boats, to receive 2 more soon**

The Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) formally received 10 new fast patrol boats built by local shipyards, divided into 2 different classes, while also expects to receive 2 more fast patrol boats before yearend. The handover of the 10 patrol boats to the TNI-AL was held on 9 December 2019, which will then be distributed by the TNI-AL to different naval commands nationwide.

[Full report](#)

CHINA | 17 DEC | THE NEW YORK TIMES

## **China commissions 2<sup>nd</sup> aircraft carrier, challenging U.S. dominance**

China commissioned its first domestically built aircraft carrier on Tuesday, reaching a new milestone in its ambitions to build a modern navy capable of challenging American dominance of the seas, especially in the Pacific.

[Full report](#)

UNITED STATES | 20 DEC | NAVY RECOGNITION

## **Long-range anti-ship missile achieves operational capability with Super Hornets**

U.S. defence company Lockheed Martin has delivered its first batch of Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles (LRASM) to U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer long-range strategic bomber units following the achievement of early operational capability (EOC) of the new weapon system, the company said in a December 18 statement.

[Full report](#)

BANGLADESH | 20 DEC | NAVY RECOGNITION

## **Bangladesh Navy receives two Chinese frigates**

Senior Bangladeshi Navy officials received two Chinese Type-053H3 frigates, Jiaying (Hull 521) and Lianyungang (Hull 522), in Shanghai Jiangnan Shipyard on December 18. The two missile frigates, purchased by the Bangladesh side in 2018, will steam to Bangladesh after the hand-over ceremony.

[Full report](#)

CHINA | 25 DEC | NAVY RECOGNITION

## **China has launched sea trials of new JARI-USV armed unmanned surface vessel**

According to pictures released on Twitter, China

has launched sea trials of its new armed Unmanned Surface Vessel (USV) called JARI-USV developed by the State Company China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation. In August 2019, China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC) had announced the launch of a new catamaran-hulled multirole USV.

[Full report](#)

INDONESIA | 27 DEC | ASIA PACIFIC DEFENSE JOURNAL

## **Indonesia laid down hull of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Sampari-class fast attack craft**

Indonesian state-owned shipbuilder PT PAL has laid down the fifth and sixth Sampari-class (KCR-60M) missile-capable fast attack crafts intended for the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL). The event was held on 20 December 2019 at PT PAL's shipyard in Surabaya, Indonesia.

[Full report](#)

CHINA | 27 DEC | SOUTH FRONT

## **Chinese navy sets new world record, launching 23 new surface warships in one year**

On December 26th, 2019, the launch ceremony of the sixth destroyer of Type 055 and the twenty third destroyer of Type 052D was held at the shipyard in Dalian. In just 2019, the Chinese shipbuilders launched nine destroyers for the needs of the PLA Navy, setting a new world record.

[Full report](#)

INDIA | 30 DEC | THE ECONOMIC TIMES

## **Indian Navy planning to build six nuclear attack submarines: navy to parliamentary panel**

To strengthen its underwater fleet, the Indian Navy plans to build 24 submarines, including six nuclear attack submarines, a parliamentary panel was told.

[Full report](#)



[Nippon.com](#)

JAPAN | 27 DEC | THE STRAITS TIMES

## Japan to send warship, aircraft to Middle East to protect vessels

Japan will send a warship and patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in the Middle East as the situation in the region, from which it sources nearly 90 per cent of its crude oil imports, remains volatile, a document approved by the cabinet showed on Friday (Dec 27).

[Full Report](#)

NDIA | 9 DEC | THE ECONOMIC TIMES

## Anti-maritime piracy bill introduced in Lok Sabha

A bill which seeks to provide for stringent punishment, including death penalty or life imprisonment, to those involved in piracy at sea was introduced in Lok Sabha on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 13 DEC | HANKYOREH

## S. Korea considering deploying troops to Strait of Hormuz

The Blue House National Security Council (NSC) announced on Dec. 12 that it was considering "contributing to international efforts for security in the area of the Strait of Hormuz."

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 12 DEC | BENAR NEWS

## Malaysian Authorities Intercept Chinese and Vietnamese Oil Tankers

Two ships recently intercepted in Malaysian waters may have violated international sanctions in place to prevent oil trading with Iran and North Korea, according to reports, although Malaysian officials did not mention those sanctions in public statements about the incidents.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 14 DEC | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

**South China Sea: US stages 85 military exercises with regional allies in 2019, report says**

The United States has held at least 85 joint military exercises with its allies in the Indo-Pacific region this year as it seeks to counter Beijing’s rise, particularly in the South China Sea, according to a Chinese Think Tank.

[Full Report](#)

GREECE-TURKEY | 24 DEC | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

**Tensions mount between Greece and Turkey over maritime zone**

Tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean, are rising over a Turkish maritime zone deal and the region is preparing for a difficult January.

[Full Report](#)

TURKEY-LIBYA | 25 DEC | REUTERS

**Turkey-Libya maritime deal rattles East Mediterranean**

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan paid a surprise visit to Tunisia on Wednesday to discuss cooperation for a possible ceasefire in neighboring Libya, where Ankara supports the internationally recognized government.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE STRAIT | 24 DEC | THE NEW PAPER

**Pirates attack five vessels in Singapore Strait in four days**

Knife-wielding pirates have been on a spree in the Singapore Strait in the last few days, with five vessels reportedly targeted since last Friday.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES | 26 DEC | NAVAL TODAY

**Philippine Coast Guard Welcomes Its Newest Offshore Patrol Vessel**

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has welcomed

its newest offshore patrol vessel, BRP Gabriela Silang.

[Full report](#)



SINGAPORE | 29 DEC | THE STRAITS TIMES

**Maritime terrorism a threat, say experts amid rising piracy attacks**

The increase in piracy attempts in the Singapore Strait is a cause for concern as terrorists could exploit the same loopholes to wreak havoc, say security experts.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA-CHINA | 31 DEC | THE JAKARTA POST

**Indonesia issues protest to Beijing over Chinese vessel trespassing in Natuna**

Indonesia has filed a protest to Beijing for alleged territorial violation by a Chinese coastguard vessel around the disputed Natuna waters, saying the ship has trespassed into its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

[Full Report](#)

GULF OF GUINEA | 31 DEC | MARITIME BULLETIN

**Two more ships attacked in Gulf of Guinea: Greek and Singaporean, 8 crew kidnapped**

Bulk carrier VINALINES MIGHTY wasn’t the only one attacked on Dec 30, two more ships were attacked, in different positions, at different time, 8 crew were kidnapped.

[Full Report](#)



VIETNAM | 17 DEC | NHAM DAN

## Vietnam's effort to EC's "yellow card" acknowledged

The Directorate of Fisheries (DoF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development held a press conference in Hanoi on December 26 report on the results of the second inspection the European Commission (EC) Inspection Delegation on illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU).

[Full Report](#)

KOREA-SINGAPORE | 2 DEC | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

## Korean Shipyard Mega-Merger Hits a Bump in Singapore

A South Korean plan to create a shipbuilding behemoth controlling roughly 20% of the global market is raising competition concerns in Singapore, one of many parties that have to approve the process.

[Full Report](#)

ASEAN | 2 DEC | RIVIERA

## Asian container port expansion drives tug newbuilding demand

Major strategic port construction programmes in east and southeast Asia will drive demand for new tug construction in the next decade.

[Full Report](#)

RUSSIA | 4 DEC | SPLASH 24/7

## Rosatom builds on its Arctic line ambitions

Russian state nuclear company Rosatom is buying non-controlling stake in logistics firm Delo Group from its main owner Sergey Shishkarev, as it ups its Northern Sea Route (NSR) shipping ambitions.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 6 DEC | SHIP INSIGHT

## IMO launches new plastic litter prevention project

A new global project to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from shipping and fisheries has been launched by the IMO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

*Continue on page 9*

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 11 DEC | INSURANCE ASIA NEWS

### **Hong Kong closer to tax cut for marine and specialty risks**

Hong Kong's government will submit tax cuts for marine and specialty risks to Legco next week.

[Full Report](#)

GRENADA | 16 DEC | WORLD BANK

### **World Bank approves US\$20 million credit for Grenada's transition to a resilient blue economy**

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved today a US\$20 million credit to support Grenada's transition to a resilient blue economy.

[Full Report](#)

EUROPE | 19 DEC | ESPO

### **European ports welcome Europe's green deal ambition**

The European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO) welcomes Europe's ambition as enshrined in the European Green Deal published on 11 December, to become the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050.

[Full Report](#)

PANAMA | 19 DEC | SEAFOOD SOURCE

### **EU reissues yellow card to Panama**

The European Commission has reissued a yellow card to Panama, warning that it is not doing enough to fight illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

[Full Report](#)

SRI LANKA-CHINA | 20 DEC | XINHUA

### **Sri Lanka not to renegotiate Hambantota Port agreement with China: president**

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said he will not renegotiate the Hambantota Port agreement with China and will look to ensure that the security of the port lies with the Sri Lankan side.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 23 DEC | SEATRADE MARITIME NEWS

### **China Merchants Port and CMA CGM finalise**

Broader Horizons — December 2019

## **terminal acquisition**

China Merchants Port and CMA CGM have negotiated and reached formal agreements for the acquisition of a portfolio of stakes in ten port terminals to Terminal Link, the joint venture of the two companies.

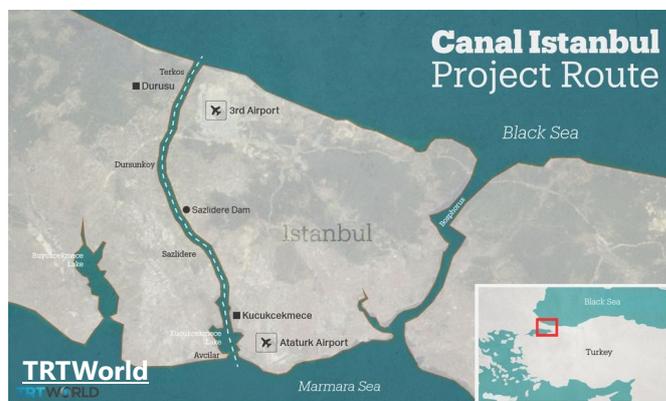
[Full Report](#)

TURKEY | 25 DEC | ARAB NEWS

### **Turkey's 'crazy' canal plan runs into wave of criticism**

Turkey is hoping to begin work on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Canal Istanbul - a gigantic shipping project that even the Turkish leader has described as 'crazy' - after the scheme was given an environment green light on Monday.

[Full Report](#)



INDIA-US | 25 DEC | THE HINDU BUSINESS LINE

### **Chabahar Port: US gives 'written' assurance to India facilitating banks to fund \$85mn equipment purchase**

In a big breakthrough, the United States has given a written assurance to India that will help facilitate global banks to fund the purchase of equipment worth \$85 million to be erected at Chabahar port which India is developing in Iran.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 31 DEC | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

### **Bunker prices will rise, regardless of type, at 2020 start - MABUX**

As the International Maritime Organization (IMO) sulphur regulation date of 1 January nears, availability of the new, very low-sulphur fuel oil is moving in the right direction - although too slowly - high-sulphur fuel oil inventories are shrinking globally at ports, and demand for marine gas oil is about to rise significantly.

[Full Report](#)