



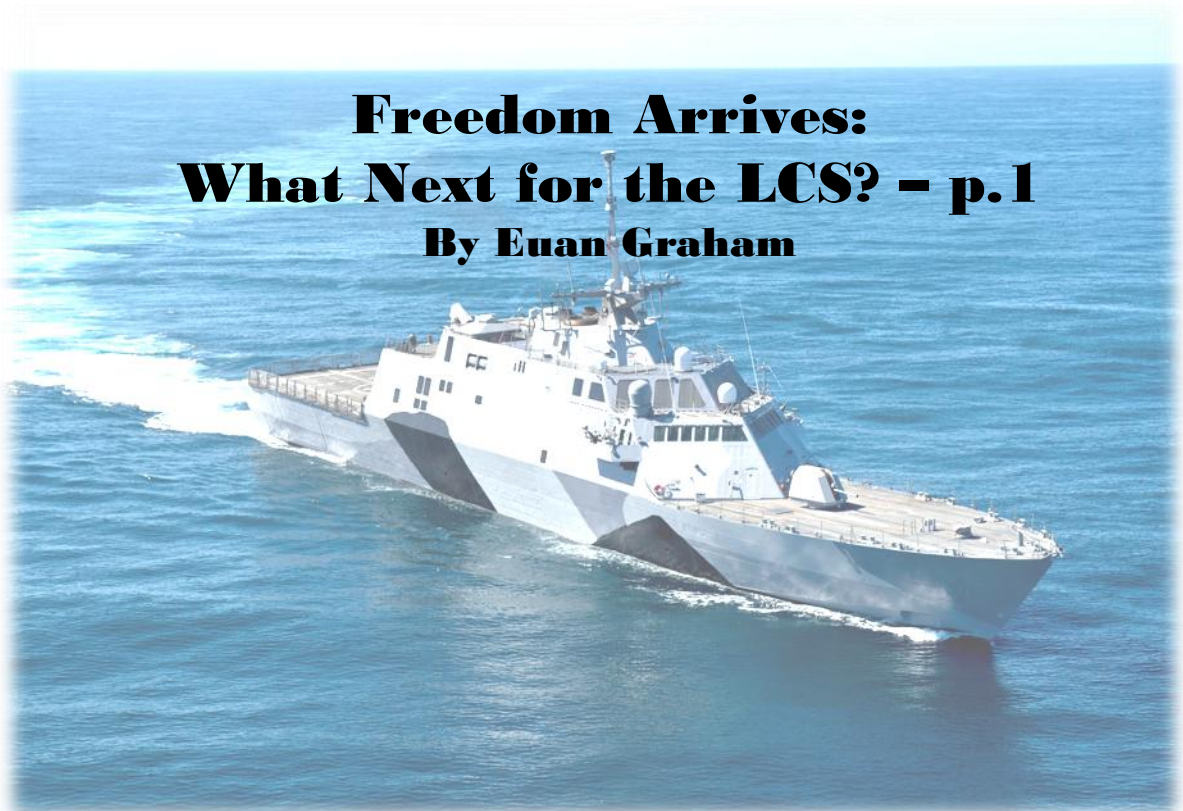
**S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**
A Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University

Broader Horizons



A Monthly Maritime Bulletin and Perspectives of the Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Featured *MSP Perspective*:



Freedom Arrives: What Next for the LCS? – p.1 By Euan Graham

MSP Perspective:

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Naval Development & Policy:

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PSA Profits up 10.7% as Singapore Terminals Set New Record – p. 11

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MSP Perspectives

Freedom Arrives: What Next for the LCS?

By Euan Graham
Senior Fellow, Maritime Security Programme

The US Ambassador to Singapore described the arrival of the Littoral Combat Ship USS Freedom (LCS-1), to Changi Naval Base on 18 April as opening a new chapter in the "[US-Singapore partnership promoting peace and prosperity in Southeast Asia](#)". What constraints and opportunities lie ahead for the LCS deployment to the region?

The basic LCS concept, conceived in 2001, calls for a single platform capable of consolidating missions performed separately by the US Navy's legacy fleet of patrol craft, mine warfare ships, and frigates. A further requirement was set for a high-speed, shallow draft warship suited to "littoral" regions like Southeast Asia. Modularity is the main innovation, as each LCS can be configured to [mission-specific modules](#) for surface warfare, minesweeping and anti-submarine warfare, which can be switched quickly to meet tactical requirements. In Southeast Asia, up to four vessels will "rotationally deploy" from Singapore, while in the Gulf a flotilla of eight LCS will eventually operate from Bahrain. The US Navy remains committed to acquiring up to 52 LCS, though the final number could be significantly fewer depending on performance and budgets.

Compounding the inevitable teething difficulties that attend the introduction of any new class of warship, two rival and radically different LCS "seaframe" designs - a monohull (LCS-1, 3, 5 etc) and a trimaran (LCS-2, 4, 6 etc) - were put into advance production. The US Navy may ultimately "down-select" one LCS type, but swapping modules on the same hull currently requires up to 96 hours. This could limit the tactical agility of the LCS where small numbers of ships are deployed, although the modular concept should still act as a force multiplier overall.

Standardisation of crew and training is also complicated by the existence of divergent LCS variants. This is relevant since the concept was sold partly on its slim-sized crew, as an economising measure. Critics have also targeted survivability issues because the LCS was built to a lower standard than the Perry-class frigates which it is partly replacing. In fact, the LCS was designed to fill a perceived post-cold war capability gap in shallow water, not sea control. While China's naval modernisation has since refocused the US Navy's attention on sea control missions, the LCS' defenders argue that the ships are not designed for autonomous war-fighting and could perform "combat" roles alongside fleet elements better equipped for force protection.

To "prove its worth" to programme critics and against the possibility of a future down-select decision, the LCS may be tasked to find other operational niches in Southeast Asia that "fit" its capabilities and demonstrate broader value for the US re-balance. In the Philippines, where a US naval presence is being actively courted in reaction to Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea, the LCS will be welcome. Closer to Singapore, the going may be harder – depending on the mission.

Freedom's much vaunted "sprint" speed, in excess of 40 knots, will give the LCS a tactical edge in maritime intercept operations, including counter-piracy. International law permits States to respond to piracy attacks outside territorial waters, but in the Malacca Straits this is politically problematic as Singapore's neighbours view security in the Straits as an exclusive littoral state responsibility.

Others were initially more concerned that the LCS deployment would upset China. That said, given the long lead time since the deployment was announced, neighbouring states have already "priced in" the LCS's arrival as an extension of the US-Singapore security partnership, while local elites tacitly support the forward US presence in the Western Pacific. China, though naturally cautious about any enhancement of US capabilities around the South China Sea, appears to understand that the LCS is not a game-changer in the regional naval balance. In the course of its various deployments from Singapore, whatever the mission, the LCS is bound to spend much of its time operating in and transiting the South China Sea, in the process fulfilling the most irreducible quality of naval capability -- presence.

Naval Development & Policy

SINGAPORE-US | 18 APRIL | DEFENSE NEWS

USS Freedom Arrives in Singapore

USS Freedom, the U.S. Navy's first littoral combat ship, arrived in Singapore on Thursday, just over six weeks after leaving San Diego for the type's first major overseas deployment, the U.S. Navy announced. "Freedom has met every milestone of this deployment on time and with the professionalism you would expect of U.S. Navy Sailors," Cmdr. Timothy Wilke, commanding officer of the ship's Gold Crew, said in a press release.

[Full Report](#)

US-PHILIPPINE | 5 APRIL | AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

US, Philippine troops start war games amid China tensions

MANILA — Thousands of US and Filipino troops began annual military exercises on Friday that the Philippines said were vital to building its defence capabilities to face the rising threat of China. Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario used the launch of the 12-day Balikatan manoeuvres to accuse China of destabilising Asia with aggressive and illegal actions in the South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 6 APRIL | THE JAKARTA POST

Navy opens new base prepared for submarines

Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) chief of staff Adm. Marsetio opened on Friday the Palu Naval Base in Palu, Central Sulawesi, as part of an effort to secure Indonesian waters, especially in the eastern part of the country. The naval base is located on a 13-hectare plot in Palu's Watusampu subdistrict, Ulujadi district, of which only 2.8 hectares have been built on.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-INDIA | 7 APRIL | HINDUSTAN TIMES

China's submarines in Indian Ocean worry Indian Navy

An increasing number of Chinese submarines venturing into the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) pose a grave danger to India's security interests, a classified defence ministry document has revealed. Citing subsurface contact data shared by US forces, the document said at least 22 contacts were recorded with vessels suspected to be Chinese attack submarines patrolling outside Beijing's territorial waters last year. It has warned that the "implicit focus" of the Chinese navy appears to be undermining the Indian Navy's edge "to control highly-sensitive sea lines of communication".

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 7 APRIL | CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Taiwan plans to expand pier in disputed islands

TAIPEI: Taiwan plans to expand a pier on one of the disputed Spratly islands, officials said Sunday, as the rest of the claimants beef up military deployment in the South China Sea. The Coast Guard Administration has budgeted Tw\$19 million (\$640,000) to evaluate the project, which is part of its efforts to boost defence capabilities in the disputed area this year. "The fund will mainly be used to do an environmental impact study near Taiping Island," a coast guard official told AFP.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 9 APRIL | GLOBAL POST

PN says PHL territorial waters too vast for navy to effectively secure

The series of maritime incursions and groundings off Tubbataha Reef, Sulu Sea, is not a reflection on the professionalism and dedication of the Philippine Navy (PN) but on the fact that the country's territorial waters is too vast and our naval and air assets too limited in number to effectively secure these areas from continued encroachment. This was said Tuesday by Col. Edgard Arevalo, head of the PN civil-military operations in Palawan, when asked why the Navy failed to detect the Chinese fishing vessel entering the Tubbataha Reef area.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN-JAPAN | 14 APRIL | FOCUS TAIWAN

Taiwan not seeking Japanese submarine technology: MND

Taipei, April 14 (CNA) The Ministry of National Defense (MND) dismissed a news report Sunday that said Taiwan has explored the possibility of acquiring submarine technology from Japan. Describing the report in the United Evening News as "untrue," the MND said that there has been no change in Taiwan's desire to purchase submarines from the United States and that it will continue to work toward that goal.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 17 APRIL | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

First live-fire drill in five years as part of Taiwan's Han Kuang exercises

Taiwan has begun its largest military exercises since 2008, which will today see a live-fire drill on Penghu Island in the middle of the Taiwan Strait. The drill will review the armed forces' ability to defend Taiwan against a simulated attack by mainland forces. It is the first time since Ma Ying-jeou became Taiwanese president in 2008 that the annual Han Kuang exercises will see the firing of live ammunition. The exercises, which began on Monday, are the island's most important war games involving the army, air force and navy.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN-US | 19 APRIL | TAIPEI TIMES

US likely to aid Taiwan's sub-building program: Schriver

If Taiwan decides to build its own diesel-electric submarines, the US will "very likely" provide some assistance, a former US official said. Randall Schriver, a former US Department of State and Pentagon official, said there were "multiple pathways forward" for Taiwan to acquire submarines. He was speaking at the launch of a new report on Chinese reactions to US arms sales to Taiwan.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 19 APRIL | DEFENSE NEWS

China Issues Relatively Tame White Paper

TAIPEI – The innocuously titled paper, "The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces," provides little new information about China's military. This has not stopped media pundits and analysts from squawking about the underlying meanings of China's 2013 defense white paper. Such dissection of Chinese defense papers is common enough and should be put into perspective.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA-PACIFIC | 21 APRIL | DEFENSE NEWS

Special Report: Asia-Pacific Spending Spree

TAIPEI — The Asia-Pacific will comprise 26 percent — nearly \$200 billion — of global naval and maritime security builds in the next 20 years as complex relationships and rivalries drive procurements designed for particular regional challenges. New builds in Asia and Australia include six aircraft carriers, 128 amphibious and 21 auxiliary ships, 12 corvettes, two cruisers, 42 destroyers, 235 fast attack craft, 115 frigates, 34 mine countermeasures, 82 offshore patrol vessels (OPVs), 255 patrol craft and 116 submarines, said Bob Nugent, vice president of advisory services at AMI International, a naval analysis firm based in Bremerton, Wash.

[Full Report](#)

State Media: China Plans Second, Larger Aircraft Carrier

BEIJING — China is planning a second and larger aircraft carrier, a top naval officer said, according to state media, after its first carrier was commissioned last year as part of a military buildup. The confirmation of a second vessel comes amid escalating maritime territorial disputes between China and its neighbors, and the United States' increased focus on Asia, which has riled China. "China will have more than one aircraft carrier," Song Xue, deputy chief of staff of China's navy, said at a ceremony Tuesday to celebrate the 64th anniversary of the founding of China's navy, the Xinhua news agency reported Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

Japan to Strengthen Maritime Security

TOKYO—Japan unveiled steps to boost security around its remote islands Friday, including stronger cooperation between its thinly stretched coast guard and navy, amid a continuing territorial dispute with China. The new maritime policy guidelines also expand patrol and information gathering capabilities, and call for "dealing appropriately" with foreign vessels that anchor or stay in Japanese territorial waters without pressing reasons.

[Full Report](#)

Warship to join US fleet in hot zone

THE guided-missile frigate HMAS Sydney is about to join the US Seventh Fleet in Japan at a time of heightened tensions on the Korean peninsula and in the South China Sea. The warship will be "embedded" with a US aircraft carrier strike group operating out of Yokosuka. The deployment comes as the Gillard government is working to manage Australia's relationships with China and the US after the Prime Minister sealed a "strategic relationship" with Beijing during her recent visit, and with the new defence white paper due out in June.

[Full Report](#)

China officially labels Senkakus a 'core interest'

BEIJING – The Chinese Foreign Ministry announced for the first time Friday that China regards the Senkaku Islands a "core interest." "The Diaoyu Islands are about sovereignty and territorial integrity. Of course, it's China's core interest," ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a press conference, using China's name for the Japanese-administered isles in the East China Sea. Taiwan claims the isles as the Tiaoyutai.

[Full Report](#)

Chinese Signaling for Conflict: A Predictive Pattern

TAIPEI — As things heat up in the East China Sea over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, it might be wise to know the signals China uses to warn of war and how Beijing handles crisis management. A new report released in April by the Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs at the National Defense University looks at the history of Chinese threat and retaliation signaling. It offers up a future signaling scenario involving the South China Sea that should be required reading for the US Pacific Command and the US National Security Council.

[Full Report](#)

Philippine's Department of National Defense drops plan to buy used ships, to buy new instead

MANILA, Philippines - The Department of National Defense (DND) is discarding its earlier plan to acquire used ships and is now planning to buy two brand-new frigates to boost the Navy's security capabilities. DND Undersecretary Fernando Manalo said acquiring second-hand ships would be more costly in the long run as these would require repairs and upgrades. "We realized that it will be expensive in the long run if we are going to buy second hand (ships). As much as possible, if we have budget, we will buy new ones," he said in a press briefing on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

Singapore's DPM Tharman commissions second Archer-class submarine

SINGAPORE - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam commissioned the Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) second Archer-class submarine at Changi Naval Base this afternoon. The RSS Swordsman was acquired from the Royal Swedish Navy in 2005 and was launched in Karlskrona, Sweden on Oct 20, 2010. She had undergone various sea trials in Sweden before returning to Singapore on Dec 31 last year.

[Full Report](#)

Maritime Safety and Security



CHINA - JAPAN | 24 APRIL | CNN

Chinese and Japanese ships cluster around disputed islands

The fragile relationship between China and Japan came under fresh strain Tuesday as ships from both sides crowded into the waters around a disputed group of islands and nearly 170 Japanese lawmakers visited a controversial war memorial. The Japanese Coast Guard said eight Chinese government ships had entered waters near the contested islands in the East China Sea on Tuesday morning, the largest number to do so at any one time since tensions surrounding the territorial dispute escalated last year. China said its ships were there to monitor the movements of Japanese vessels in the area after a Japanese nationalist group chartered a flotilla of fishing boats to take dozens of activists there.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA-PACIFIC | 2 APRIL | BANGKOK POST

Australia: People smuggling rising

Growing cross-border movements of people throughout the region is fuelling human trafficking and people smuggling, Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr said Tuesday. "People smugglers and human traffickers continue to thrive," Carr told the Bali Process ministerial conference on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and other transnational crime in Bali, Indonesia. Carr said the Asia-Pacific region played host to 9.5 million people of concern to the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR, including refugees, internally displaced people and people without states.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH CHINA SEA | 2 APRIL | FISHUPDATE.COM

New fishing clashes erupt between China and Vietnam

TENSIONS are mounting between Vietnam and China over fishing rights in the South China Sea, with fears that an armed clash may not be far away. Vietnam has accused China of setting one of its trawlers alight after firing at it. But Beijing has denied the accusations saying it merely fired flares towards the vessel. The Chinese defence ministry said the flares were fired after four boats near the disputed Parcel islands did not heed warnings to leave

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 3 APRIL | NEW STRAITS TIMES

'Possible link between smugglers, terrorists'

The authorities are widening their probe into cigarette smuggling cases to check for possible links to terrorism funding. Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry enforcement division director Mohd Roslan Mahayudin said the ministry was taking this approach as there was a previous case where an individual was charged under the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing Act 2001 for smuggling DVD compact discs into the country. "We have not found any terrorism links with cross-border cigarette smuggling so far, but we are not discounting the possibility that there could be a connection with syndicates operating underground."

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 9 APRIL | ASIA ONE

Two Singaporean anglers killed in collision

Two Singaporean anglers were killed and another is still missing after the boat they were in collided with a fishing trawler. Five other Singaporean anglers were hurt in the incident which took place at about 4.30pm on Sunday. OCPD Deputy Supt Johari Jahaya said the deceased were identified as Raymond Cheng Yuen Chi, 35, and Ng Eng Hua, 37. He said a search-and-rescue operation for the missing angler, Chen Wan Seng, 47, who fell into the sea, was still ongoing by marine police and maritime agency personnel, assisted by local villagers.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PHILIPPINE | 9 APRIL | ABS-CBN NEWS

Chinese vessel runs aground at Tubbataha

A Chinese fishing boat ran aground at Tubbataha Reef before midnight Monday, an official said, nearly three months after a similar incident involving a US Navy minesweeper destroyed a portion of the protected marine sanctuary. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), citing information from Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) Superintendent Angelique Songco, said a 48-meter-long Chinese fishing boat ran aground some 1.1 nautical miles east of the ranger station of the protected marine site. PCG Spokesperson Commander Armand Balilo said the grounding incident in the UNESCO World Heritage site occurred at around 11:45 p.m.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 11 APRIL | BANGKOK POST

Hong Kong ferry crash captains face manslaughter charges

Two Hong Kong boat captains appeared in court Thursday accused of manslaughter over a ferry collision last year that claimed 39 lives in the city's worst maritime disaster in decades. Chow Chi-wai, 56, and Lai Sai-ming, 55, were charged with 39 counts of manslaughter over the incident, which generated shock in the Asian financial hub, one of the world's busiest ports, that prides itself on its safety record. The two defendants, who appeared calm, face life imprisonment if convicted.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-PHILIPPINE | 12 APRIL | CNN

Philippines arrest Chinese 'poachers' after reef collision

China has urged the Philippines to "guarantee the safety and legitimate rights" of fishermen who have been taken into custody for poaching after their vessel ran aground on the protected Tubbataha Reef -- the latest incident in often tense relations among nations in the South China Sea. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei made his comments on Thursday, state-run Xinhua reported, a day after Philippine authorities formally charged 12 fishermen with poaching and attempting to "corrupt public officials," the Tubbataha management office said in a news release.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 12 APRIL | ASSOCIATED PRESS

14 Afghan asylum seekers rescued in Indonesia

Officials say Indonesian fishermen have rescued 14 Afghan asylum seekers after their boat sank near the Sunda Strait, while dozens of others are feared missing. A coast guard official in the West Java town of Sukabumi who gave his name only as Ade said they were rescued early Friday. He said he had no further information, but that the Australian Maritime Safety Authority had reported that the boat capsized with 72 people on board while en route to Australia.

[Full Report](#)

WORLD | 16 APRIL | TRAVEL BLACKBOARD

Cruise ships pick up illegal immigrants and fishermen around the world

Cruise ships have always played their part in maritime safety, diverting to rescue lost souls across the world's oceans, but over the last few days three cruise ships have rescued fishermen and migrants in three separate incidents. In Asia, it is reported that SuperStar Aquarius assisted Taiwan Coast Guard to rescue six fishermen in Taiwan waters, with all the fishermen wearing life jackets and floating in the sea. SuperStar Aquarius is reported to have arrived at the scene, sheltering the group from wind and swell as they were safely picked up by Taiwan Coast Guard, after which SuperStar Aquarius resumed her itinerary, sailing to Yonagumi.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 19 APRIL | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Six missing after two boats collide in Hong Kong

Rescue teams in Hong Kong Friday stepped up the search for six crew members missing at sea after two boats collided in fog, as officials investigated the cause of the latest incident to hit the city's busy waterways. The incident comes after a ferry collision claimed 39 lives in October in the city's worst sea disaster in decades, and also follows a crash between a passenger ferry and a barge earlier this month, in which more than 30 people were injured. The 11 crew from a 96-metre-long (315 foot) boat carrying construction waste were thrown into the water after it collided with another vessel and sank off Stanley, on the southeast of Hong Kong Island Thursday evening.

[Full Report](#)

BANGLADESH | 19 APRIL | DEUSTCHE WELLE

Pirates rule the Bay of Bengal

Bangladeshi pirates have created a reign of terror in the Bay of Bengal by regularly robbing fishermen, kidnapping them for ransom and even killing them. In a single attack they killed 32 fishermen last month. After a week-long, deep-sea fishing trip in the Bay of Bengal, a group of 35 Bangladeshi fishermen were bound for home in Chhanua near Chittagong with their catch when they were attacked by pirates. In that March 27 attack the pirates fired on the fishermen, before taking control of the three trawlers.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 24 APRIL | YAHOO7 NEWS

Greenpeace activists board coal ship off Australia reef

Six activists from conservation group Greenpeace boarded a coal carrier on the edge of the Great Barrier Reef Wednesday, calling for an end to exports of the fuel. The group, from five major coal exporting and consuming nations in Asia-Pacific that are being targeted by Greenpeace, sailed out to the MV Meister to stage a protest on the bow urging an end to the "Age of Coal". "Australia's coal exports are the nation's greatest contribution to climate change and plans are under way to roughly double the volume of coal we export," Greenpeace said in a statement.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 28 APRIL | BORNEO POST ONLINE

Armed pirates strike local tugboat in Indonesian waters

Armed pirates struck a local tugboat in the Indonesian waters of the South China Sea on Wednesday, robbing its crew and making off with thousands of ringgit in cash and valuables. The incident, which was reported to police yesterday upon the crew's arrival here, occurred around 3.30am when three speedboats carrying roughly 15 pirates caught up with the tugboat while it was making its way here from Port Klang.

[Full Report](#)

Shipping, Ports, and the Maritime Economy

SINGAPORE | 4 APRIL | SHIP & BUNKER

PSA Profits up 10.7% as Singapore Terminals Set New Record

Singapore-based port operator PSA International said it increased its revenue 4.3 percent to S\$4.5 billion (\$3.6 billion) in 2012, while its net profit rose 10.7 percent to S\$1.3 billion (\$1 billion) as its flagship Singapore Terminals set a new record for the volume of cargo handled. CEO **Tan Chong Meng** said the company's growth was particularly impressive given difficulties in the shipping market, which included high bunker prices.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 1 APRIL | SHIP & BUNKER

LNG Bunkering on Yangtze River to Start in August

Chongqing Fujiang Energy Technology Company (Fujiang Energy), a subsidiary of Fortune Oil Plc. plans to begin offering liquid natural gas (LNG) bunkering on the Yangtze River in August 2013. With a total capacity of 2,000 cubic meters, the station was said to be able to fill 20 vessels per day. The company was said to be initially offering free conversion for vessels of large shipping companies to use LNG, then taking a cut of the resulting energy savings made by the shipping companies.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 2 APRIL | SHIP & BUNKER

Golden Ocean Orders Two Fuel-Efficient Bulkers from Japan

Golden Ocean Group Limited says it has ordered two fuel-efficient 60,000 deadweight tonne (dwt) Supramax bulk carriers from Japan Marine United Corporation (JMU). The company plans to receive the vessels in the first quarter of 2015.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 3 APRIL | SHIP & BUNKER

Chemoil Starts Bunker Operations in Port Klang

Chemoil has started physical bunkering operations in Port Klang, Malaysia, the Singapore-listed supplier has told Ship & Bunker. "Several of our key customers have been asking us for a long time to consider supplying bunkers

in Port Klang, and we are pleased to respond to their interest with this new service offering," said Chemoil CEO Thomas Reilly.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 15 APRIL | THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Australian Ports Sale is Largest Transport Deal Globally in 2013

Australian Ports Sale is Largest Transport Deal Globally in 2013 Friday's 5.07 billion Australian dollar (US\$5.3 billion) ports deal has set several milestones. The transaction saw an Industry Funds Management-led consortium beat two other consortiums led by Canadian pension funds in an auction of 99-year leases for Port Botany and Port Kembla in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 15 APRIL | THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Keppel Secures New Jackup Order for US\$226 Million from Falcon Energy Group

Keppel FELS Limited (Keppel FELS), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Keppel Offshore & Marine (Keppel O&M) has secured a contract from Singapore-listed Falcon Energy Group Limited (Falcon Energy) through its subsidiary, FTS Derricks, to construct a KFELS Super B Class jackup rig.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES | 16 APRIL | MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT

Japanese investors want Batangas port used more

Japanese investors in the Philippines urged the national government to come up with a set of policy measures increasing the use of the Batangas international seaport, saying it will solve the perennial problem of traffic congestion in Metro Manila. In a forum with government officials, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc. (JCCIFI) noted that discussions promoting the use of the Port of Batangas have been going on for a long time, and "what is needed now is implementation."

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG | 17 APRIL | BLOOMBERG

Li Ka-Shing Port Workers Widen Protests After New Wage Offer

Hundreds of port workers at Li Ka-shing's Hong Kong terminals surrounded his Cheung Kong Center headquarters in the city's business district after rejecting a pay raise aimed at ending a three-week strike. Contract workers of Li's Hongkong International Terminals Ltd. were offered a 7 percent raise by their employers, the company said in an e-mail, compared with the workers' demand for a 23 percent increase.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 18 APRIL | BLOOMBERG

Valemax Ore Ship Seen Landing in China for First Time Since 2011

Vale SA (VALE5) sent one of the largest iron-ore carriers to a Chinese port in what may be the first call by one of the ships in the country since 2011 as the mining company tries to overcome restrictions on the vessels. The Vale Malaysia, a so-called Valemax vessel able to haul about 400,000 metric tons of the commodity used to make steel, entered the Chinese port of Lianyungang on April 16, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 20 APRIL | THE CHINA POST

Evergreen Marine adds 2 vessels to its fleet in South Korea

Evergreen Marine Corp., the nation's largest container shipping firm, held an inaugural ceremony for two new vessels in South Korea yesterday. The new 8,452 TEU model will begin serving the Fareast-Europe shipping route at the end of the month. Evergreen held the ceremony at Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) on April 18 and 19. The two vessels, each of which will have a capacity of 8,452 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs), are named "Ever Liven" and "Ever Logic."

[Full Report](#)

SRI LANKA | 20 APRIL | LANKA BUSINESS ONLINE

Sri Lanka to host high level regional port forum

Sri Lanka will host a regional port conference and exhibition in May, showcasing the island's rapid advancement as South Asia's emerging maritime hub and growing commercial opportunities, organizers said. The 2013 Sri Lanka Ports, Trade & Logistics Conference, Exhibition & Awards is organized by Seatrade Communications, a consultancy and will be on the theme of 'Accelerating Development, Promoting commercial opportunities in South Asia's emerging maritime hub'.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 22 APRIL | SINOSHIP NEWS

China Shipping expands footprint in Fujian

China Shipping has inked various projects cooperation agreements with the Fujian provincial government this weekend. Shanghai-based China Shipping will take Fujian as a major business base for shipping, logistics, financial services, crew manning and other relevant business, Li Shaode, chairman of China Shipping said. The company will also take part in the construction of the big cruise home port project at Xiamen, launching or jointly operating cruise routes to Taiwan from Fujian.

[Full Report](#)

MYANMAR | 22 APRIL | MIZZIMA

Yangon Port to host 14 new jetties

Myanma Port Authority announced on Monday that it will build 14 more jetties at Yangon Port in addition to the 18 existing ones, a move that will effectively double freight handling, the state-run *New Light of Myanmar* reported on Monday. Union Minister for Transport Nyan Tun Aung said that seven of the 14 are to be built through joint venture and foreign aid.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 23 APRIL | POWER ENGINEERING

Corporate: Singapore LNG Terminal on track for 2Q launch; gets ready for global suppliers

Towering storage tanks for liquefied natural gas (LNG), jetties for tankers to berth and unload their LNG cargo and a complex maze of pipes have gradually defined the skyline at the Meranti Seafront of Jurong Island over the last three years. The Singapore LNG Terminal now occupies as much as 10% of the 32 sq km man-made island off the southwestern part of the city-state. Scheduled to begin operations in 2Q2013, the LNG terminal will be able to import and store liquefied gas and could boost Singapore's aspirations to be Asia's first LNG trading hub.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 25 APRIL | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

HNA-owned shipping firm Grand China Shipping chased for US\$60m

Creditors are seeking at least US\$60 million from Grand China Shipping (Hong Kong), a Hong Kong-registered shipping subsidiary of HNA Group, a leading mainland company which has financier George Soros as a shareholder. Legal sources said the total amount, which includes unpaid charter hire and ship broker commissions on ships leased by the firm, would climb as creditors lodged proofs of debt to support their claims.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 27 APRIL | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

Shipping industry hit hard by dock strike

While the dockers strike is costing Hongkong International Terminals a reported HK\$5 million a day, the actual cost of the dispute is costing the maritime and logistics industry much more as ships and cargo are diverted to other ports. Alan Lee Yiu-kwong, chairman of the Hong Kong Container Terminal Operators Association, said it was too early to estimate how much the month-long dispute was costing and how much cargo Hong Kong had lost. The association represents the terminal companies including HIT, Modern Terminals and Cosco-HIT that operate port facilities at Kwai Tsing.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 29 APRIL | THE STANDARD

Sinopec in \$11.7b deal for gas carriers

China Shipping Development (1138) and Sinopec Kantons (0934) are to spend HK\$11.71 billion to buy six LNG carriers, which will be chartered to Sinopec (0386). Both companies said the deal is to expand their logistics business. China Shipping said steady rental income will be generated as Sinopec will lease the carriers for the transportation of LNG to and from its Australia Pacific Project.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 30 APRIL | SHIP & BUNKER

Chinese Shipbuilders “Very Interested” in LNG Fuelled Vessels

Lloyd's Register, who recently joined with Wärtsilä to present information on liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuelled vessels to the Chinese shipping industry, says shipbuilders in the country are "very interested" in gaining technical expertise in the area. "Our Chinese clients are very interested in learning more about LNG," said Rafael Riva, Lloyd's Register's business development strategy manager in China.

[Full Report](#)