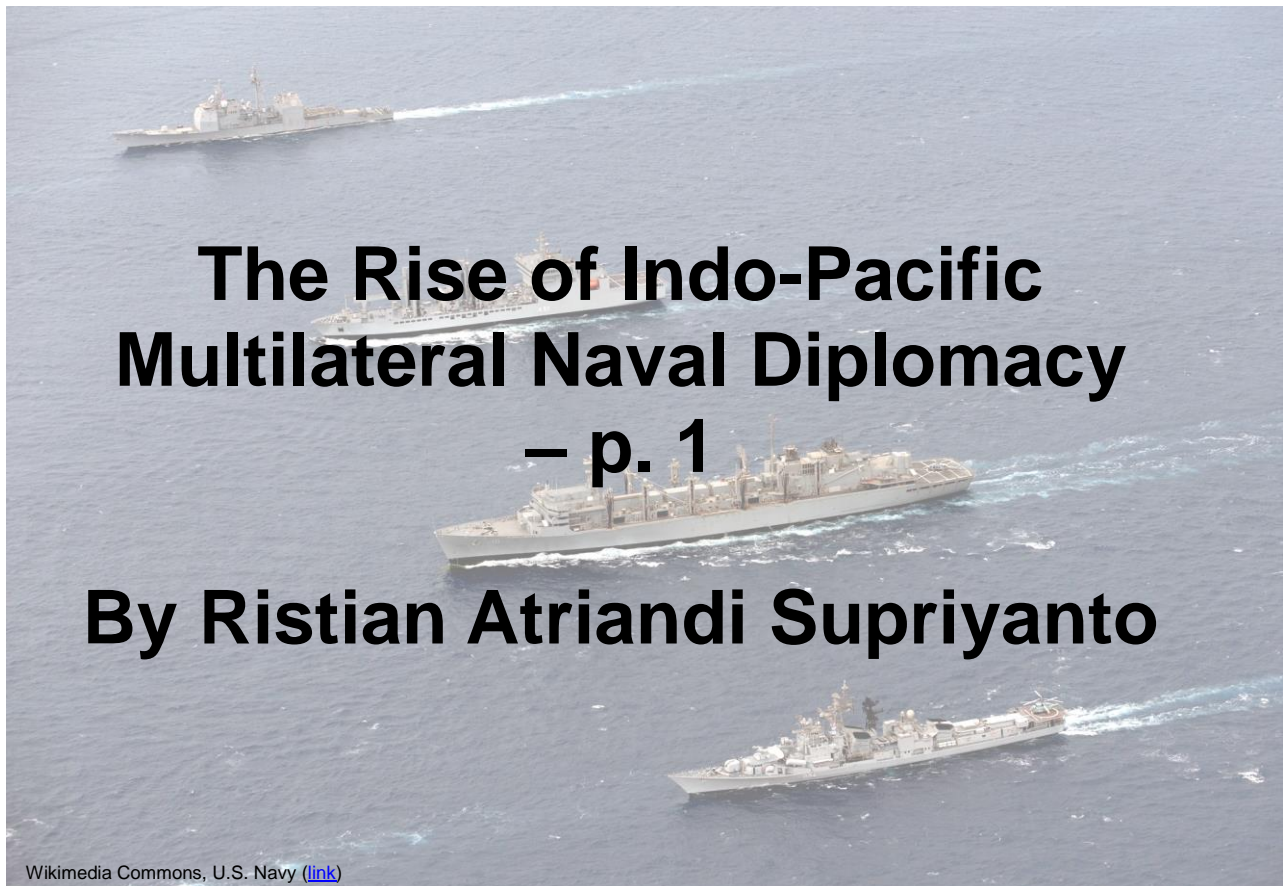


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MSP PERSPECTIVES



The Rise of Indo-Pacific Multilateral Naval Diplomacy

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A glance into recent international exercises and fleet reviews in the Indian and Pacific Oceans (Indo-Pacific) suggests a growing appetite for multilateral naval diplomacy. The 2014 [MILAN](#) and [MALABAR](#) exercises, the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) [Exercise KOMODO](#), and the 2014 [RIMPAC exercise](#) are only a few that attest to that growth. Ranging from naval exercises to international fleet reviews and disaster relief operations, why is there seemingly a growing appetite for multilateral naval diplomacy?

Simply defined, naval diplomacy is the use of naval force to support foreign policy. In its multilateral form, naval diplomacy involves more than two navies at one time. Activities of naval diplomacy can range from port 'goodwill visits' and disaster relief operations to counter-piracy and assertions of sovereignty in disputed waters. The latter activity can be called 'gunboat diplomacy,' described by [James Cable](#) as 'the use of threat of limited naval force, other than as an act of war.' Participation in multilateral naval diplomacy can thus convey mixed political messages of fame, friendship, and fear.

Fame. Navies participate in multilateral naval diplomacy because they want to show or demonstrate their might and pride to their peers. A warship can be as much a fighting instrument as it is a national symbol. Might and pride may partly account for Indian and Chinese ambitions to build a blue-water navy demonstrated by indigenous developments of [aircraft carriers](#). Similarly, Malaysia's and Indonesia's drives for naval modernisation are partially motivated by their desires to become a 'world class navy' with new acquisitions of frigates and submarines. Displaying might and pride through multilateral naval diplomacy can also create a 'demonstration effect' to be aware of one's own weaknesses and/or superior capabilities as compared to other navies. This can provide the incentive for capability-improvement, such as through increases in naval expenditure or acquisitions of new platforms.

Friendship. Apart from gaining fame, participation in multilateral naval diplomacy is sought to win friends. Naval diplomacy can demonstrate the cooperative

dimension of navies and dispel trust deficits perceived to exist among them. Naval cooperation can be both a means and an end in itself to build, and show existing, trust between navies, such as fleet reviews. Friendship can simultaneously improve interoperability between navies. Transnational problems like piracy or natural disasters require not only a whole-of-government, but across-governmental approach. By exercising or working together, navies can learn lessons and establish a pattern of expectations from one another. When a contingency arises (be it a tsunami or hijacked tanker), navies know what to expect from each other in order to mount an effective collective response.

Fear. Notwithstanding its peaceful purposes, participation in multilateral naval diplomacy can belie intentions. For one, 'coalition-building' naval diplomacy can display resolve to deter foes, such as through joint exercises. Perceiving a containment, China protested the [2007 MALABAR exercise](#) involving the US, India, Singapore, and Australia. By the same token, naval exercises are a way to collect intelligence on a potential adversary. Being a participant in the 2014 RIMPAC exercise didn't stop China from sending a [surveillance ship](#) to spy on the exercise held in the vicinity of Hawaii. On the other hand, fear can motivate 'crisis management' naval diplomacy. Naval skirmishes in response to maritime territorial and boundary disputes are a potential of miscalculation and misunderstanding. States fear that competitive naval assertions of sovereignty in disputed waters could precipitate protracted crises, if not inadvertent conflict.

Despite their increasing salience, a big question lingers on whether multilateral naval diplomacy actually contributes towards greater regional stability. Not only can naval diplomacy build trust and enhance interoperability, but it can also conceal malign intent. The efficacy of naval diplomacy will, however, remain. At its least, participation in multilateral naval diplomacy allows deeper insights into how naval counterparts (allies, friends, or potential foes) think and behave.

NAVAL DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY



TTTNIS, Wikimedia Commons ([link](#) and [license](#))

CHINA—JAPAN | 1 JULY | NEW YORK TIMES

Japan announces a military shift to thwart China

TOKYO — Japan's prime minister announced a reinterpretation of the country's pacifist Constitution on Tuesday, freeing its military for the first time in over 60 years to play a more assertive role in the increasingly tense region. The decision by the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will permit Japan to use its large and technologically advanced armed forces in ways that would have been unthinkable even a decade ago when they were limited to defending the country.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—VIETNAM | 4 JULY | INDIAN EXPRESS

Amid China spat, Vietnam to build 32 patrol ships

Vietnam plans to build 32 new coastal patrol vessels, boosting its maritime muscle and surveillance capacities amid an increasingly tense territorial dispute in the South China Sea with its far larger neighbour China. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said the government would spend USD 540 million on the new coast guard and fishery patrol vessels.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 6 JULY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Japan reportedly set for first arms export under new rules

TOKYO: Japan is set to approve its first arms export following relaxation of its self-imposed ban, as the nation aims to boost its global military and economic presence, a report said Sunday. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries plans to export a high-performance sensor

to the United States, which will use it in the Patriot Advanced Capability-2 (PAC-2) missile defence system to be exported to Qatar, the Nikkei business daily said without citing sources.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA—JAPAN | 7 JULY | NEWS.COM.AU

Australia to ink new submarines deal with Japan

AUSTRALIA will be the first country to benefit from Japan's new "non-pacifist" constitution when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe inks a landmark military technology deal with Tony Abbott in Canberra on Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 8 JULY | BANGKOK POST

Navy launches submarine squadron

The Royal Thai Navy's Submarine Squadron was officially launched at Sattahip naval base in Chon Buri

province yesterday. Navy chief ADM Naronng Pipattanasai presided over the ceremony. The squadron also has a training centre for a submarine command team, which is intended to compile knowledge on submarine operations.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN—U.S. | 9 JULY | KYODO NEWS (GLOBAL POST)

Japan MSDF officer to work at key naval unit of Pentagon

An officer of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force is set to work in a core U.S. naval unit at the Defense Department on a regular basis from August, Japanese and U.S. government sources said Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA | 10 JULY | REUTERS

India raises military spending, eases foreign investment limit in arms industry

(Reuters) - India boosted defence spending by 12 percent in 2014-15 over the previous year in a budget presented on Thursday and further opened the domestic weapons industry to foreign investment to help rebuild the military and narrow the gap with China.

[Full Report](#)

TAIWAN | 13 JULY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Taiwan using drones to spy on China

TAIPEI: Taiwan has started using unmanned surveillance aircraft to spy on China to reduce the risk to its pilots from an increased deployment of Chinese missiles, media reported on Sunday. The army in March commissioned a fleet of 32 unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, developed by the military-run Chung Shan Institute of Science and Technology.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—U.S. | 15 JULY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

US admiral in China for top-level navy talks

BEIJING: The chief of the US Navy met his Chinese counterpart Tuesday for talks aimed at improving cooperation between their fleets following concerns over regional territorial disputes and potential armed conflict.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA—RUSSIA | 15 JULY | RIA NOVOSTI

India, Russia start naval drills in Sea of Japan

VLADIVOSTOK/NEW DELHI, July 15 (RIA Novosti) – A ceremony for the beginning of the Russian-Indian

naval exercise Indra-2014 was held Tuesday in Vladivostok, a spokesman for Russia's Eastern Military District has said.

[Full Report](#)



CHINA—U.S. | 20 JULY | REUTERS

China sends spy ship off Hawaii during U.S.-led drills

(Reuters) - China has sent a spy ship to international waters off of Hawaii during a giant U.S.-led naval exercise involving 22 countries, even as Beijing participates in the drills for the first time this year, the U.S. Navy said on Sunday. The Navy played down any U.S. intelligence risk associated with the proximity of the Chinese surveillance vessel and noted that China also sent a similar ship to monitor the last Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise two years ago.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—SOUTH KOREA | 25 JULY | KOREA JOONGANG DAILY

Korea, China to establish a new defense phone line

South Korea and China agreed in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) inked Wednesday to set up a direct telephone line between their defense chiefs. Kim Min-seok, the spokesman for the Korean Ministry of National Defense, said in a briefing yesterday in Seoul that establishing a direct high-level military hotline "will play a role as a communication channel to invigorate the military cooperation of each country and assure security in the Northeast Asia region."

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 28 JULY | BLOOMBERG

China adds East China Sea drills to military exercises

China announced new military drills in the East China Sea, adding to exercises under way in other areas that may further disrupt domestic air travel and add to tensions with neighbors over territorial disputes in the region. China begins five days of drills in the East China Sea tomorrow, the Ministry of Defense said in a statement on its website yesterday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA—U.S. | 28 JULY | BLOOMBERG

China's Navy offers massages in soft-power display in Hawaii

On a Chinese hospital ship off Hawaii, crew members demonstrate traditional massage techniques to U.S. sailors. The mood is one of collegiality, even after China opted out of Japan-led humanitarian drills at the world's largest international naval exercise.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE—U.S. | 30 JULY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Singapore, US kick off joint military exercise in South China Sea

SINGAPORE: The naval forces of Singapore and United States will carry out joint exercises in the international waters of the South China Sea as part of this year's Exercise CARAT (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training), which begins on Tuesday (July 29).

[Full Report](#)

MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY



AUSTRALIA | 23 JULY | INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES

Australia: Search for MH370 will not be interrupted despite MH17 disaster

The search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will continue despite a leading expert being sent to Ukraine to oversee the recovery of bodies of Australian passengers aboard MH17. Australia's deputy prime minister, Warren Truss, has assured that efforts to find the missing plane will not be delayed due to the absence of Angus Houston, the head of the search operation, who has been sent by Prime Minister Tony Abbott to the crash site in eastern Ukraine.

[Full Report](#)

SEYCHELLES—CHINA | 2 JULY | IHS JANE'S

Seychelles takes delivery of new Chinese patrol boat

The Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) formally took delivery of the bespoke Type 62 patrol boat Etoile (607) during a ceremony on 17 June. The vessel was donated by the People's Republic of China as part of its efforts to bolster the tiny island nation's maritime security capacity.

[Full Report](#)

INDIAN OCEAN | 4 JULY | SEYCHELLES NEWS AGENCY

Largest ever amount of hashish seized off the East coast of Africa

(Seychelles News Agency) - The crew of the Australian naval frigate HMAS Darwin has seized and destroyed 6.2 tonnes of hashish valued at \$250

million in what has been confirmed as the largest ever seizure of the illegal drug made in the Indian Ocean, according to a press statement from the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 8 JULY | MALAY MAIL

PM shakes up Esscom after recent security lapses

PUTRAJAYA, July 8 — In a bid to allay growing unease over the recent string of kidnappings in Sabah, Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced today a restructuring of the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom), giving added focus to security in the state's porous maritime border.

[Full Report](#)



BANGLADESH–INDIA | 8 JULY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Bangladesh, India welcome court's ruling on sea border

DHAKA: Bangladesh and India on Tuesday welcomed an international court ruling which established their new sea border, ending a decades-long dispute over the resource-rich area. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali hailed the ruling announced on Tuesday by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague as a "victory and a win-win situation for both sides".

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 11 JULY | MARITIME & PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

MPA leads multi-agency team for emergency preparedness exercise at sea

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) today held a full-day emergency preparedness exercise, codenamed "Exercise Blue Dolphin 2014" where evacuation of some 700 passengers and crew members onboard a passenger vessel was carried out.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 14 JULY | SEATRADE GLOBAL

Owner of hijacked Moresby 9 hit by pirates three times this year in SE Asia

The hijacking of the tanker Moresby 9 and the stealing of its cargo, was the third such incident to hit its owner this year, according ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA | 16 JULY | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Pirates attack Malaysian tanker in S. China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR: Pirates have attacked a Malaysian tanker and stolen the gas oil cargo before releasing it in the latest attack in Southeast Asian waters, officials said on Wednesday.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA | 22 JULY | ICC-CCS

IMB reports worrying trend of small tanker hijacks in Southeast Asian waters

The Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Maritime Bureau (IMB) raises concerns over a worrying trend of small tanker hijacks in its 2014 half yearly report released today.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA–INDONESIA | 23 JULY | SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Separate rooms, limited sun for asylum seekers

Family members among 157 asylum seekers being detained on the high seas in separate rooms on a customs vessel are allowed out for meals and "approximately three hours" of daylight a day, according to a document lodged with the High Court on Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA—INDONESIA | 25 JULY | RAKYAT POST

Bodies of three Indonesian women found in boat tragedy off Muar

The bodies of three Indonesian women were recovered while 13 others were rescued when a boat sank 15 nautical miles south-west of the Sungai Muar estuary near the Straits of Malacca, yesterday morning.

[Full Report](#)

MALAYSIA | 27 JULY | THE STAR

Shafie: Curfew appropriate measure to ensure security

KOTA KINABALU: Despite inconveniencing some fishermen, the dusk-to-dawn curfew in Sabah's eastern maritime area is a decisive action to stop cross-border criminal activities, said Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal.Shafie.

[Full Report](#)

NORTH KOREA | 29 JULY | BBC

UN blacklists North Korea arms ship operator

The UN Security Council has blacklisted the operator of a North Korean ship seized in July 2013 near the Panama Canal with Cuban weapons on board. The move means Pyongyang-based Ocean Maritime Management is now subject to an international asset freeze and travel ban.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 29 JULY | YONHAP NEWS

Senior Coast Guard official arrested over Sewol ferry sinking

GWANGJU, July 29 (Yonhap) -- The captain of a Coast Guard patrol boat was arrested on Tuesday to face questioning over the maritime police's botched initial response to April's ferry sinking that claimed more than 300 lives, prosecutors said.

[Full Report](#)



ASIA | 29 JULY | LLOYD'S LIST AUSTRALIA

ASIA: Piracy falls, but severity rises

RECAAP, the Singapore-based regional anti-piracy information hub, reports eight incidents of piracy in the South China Sea for the first half of 2014, noting the increase in both incidents and the severity of the attacks.

[Full Report](#)

SHIPPING, PORTS AND THE MARITIME ECONOMY



GLOBAL | 2 JULY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Cost reductions - top priority for box carriers

Drewry's 2Q14 Container Forecaster highlights that there is a widening gap between the positive financials of the few carriers really focused on cutting costs and the rest of the top 20 lines, as they battle with the pressure of falling freight rates. Drewry forecasts that once again, average freight rates will be lower than in the previous year.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 3 JULY | MARINE LOG

Keppel Shipyard inks \$735 million deal for FLNGV conversion

Singapore's Keppel Shipyard Ltd (Keppel Shipyard), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Keppel Offshore & Marine Ltd (Keppel O&M), has inked a \$735 million contract with Golar Hilli Corporation, a subsidiary of Golar LNG Ltd, to convert the 125,000 m3 Moss type LNG carrier Hilli into a Floating Liquefaction Vessel (FLNGV).

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 4 JULY | MARITIME TODAY

Wallenius Wilhelmsen wins Melbourne bid

Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (WWL) says that its joint venture with subsidiary MIRRAT has been announced as winner in its bid to operate automotive terminal 'Melbourne Australia'. Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) have selected Melbourne International Ro-Ro Automotive Terminal (MIRRAT) for the development of the automotive and Roll-On Roll-Off (RoRo) terminal in Webb Dock West.

[Full Report](#)

ASIA | 3 JULY | MARITIME EXECUTIVE

Too many ships, too few cargoes - brokers

Rates for capesize bulk carriers on key Asian routes are set to slide next week as too many ships chase too few cargoes from Australia and Brazil, brokers said. There are around 32 capesize ships in ballast and currently available for charter, with another 72 ships becoming free in the next two weeks, a Singapore-based capesize broker told Reuters on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

THAILAND | 5 JULY | MARITIME TODAY

Sinwa establishes first subsidiary in Thailand

Listed on the SGX Mainboard and Asia Pacific's leading marine, offshore supply and logistics player, Sinwa Limited ("Sinwa" or "the Group"), announced that the Group received confirmation yesterday that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Sinwa Offshore Pte. Ltd. ("SOPL") has incorporated Sinwa (Thailand) Ltd. ("STL") in Thailand on 18 June 2014.

[Full Report](#)

Grain exporters to feel more price pain

An improved outlook for global bulk shipping rates spells bad news for grain exporters as they go into the latest sales campaign, with increased freight costs squeezing profit margins and adding to price competition in leading markets.

[Full Report](#)

Singapore shippers give 2M cautious welcome

Asian shippers have given a cautious welcome to the new 2M alliance between Maersk and MSC while also warning regulators to guard against it morphing into a larger alliance that could contravene competition regulations.

[Full Report](#)

Trans-pacific container shipping group aims for rate rise

Container shipping companies were urged to raise Asia-U.S. freight rates by at least \$600 per 40-foot container (FEU) with effect from Aug. 1, their organization TSA said on Wednesday. Members of the TSA (Transpacific Stabilization Agreement) include 15 of the world's biggest container shipping lines such as Denmark's Maersk Line, a unit of A.P.

[Full Report](#)



Ken Hodge, Flickr, Wikimedia Commons ([link](#) and [license](#))

ICIS: East Asian LNG prices sink

Dipping demand seems to have pushed East Asian front-month spot liquid natural gas (LNG) prices to their lowest levels since March 2011. However, traders anticipate a strong rebound in early negotiations for deliveries over the coming winter,

according to ICIS, a petrochemical market information provider.

[Full Report](#)

Box alliances 'still the way to go'

The rejection by Chinese regulators of the P3 alliance between Maersk, CMA CGM and MSC on competition grounds will not prevent lines from working more closely together in a bid to cut costs, according to Drewry Shipping Consultants. With Maersk and MSC already forming the reduced 2M alliance, and a possible counter-move predicted potentially involving CMA CGM, CSCL and UASC, Drewry expects other carriers to follow suit.

[Full Report](#)

Chinese export boom beneficial to shipping

Strong Chinese exports for the month of June triggered an increase in shipping and port operations worldwide. Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) reports that the analysts expect favourable export tides to flow over to the second half of 2014, with some analysts projecting a double-digit improvements year-on-year.

[Full Report](#)

Australian maritime unions standing their ground

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and the Australian Maritime Officers Union (AMOU) have confirmed they will push ahead with a legal challenge to the Abbott Government's attempt to allow an influx of foreign workers in the offshore.

[Full Report](#)

Indonesia's PT PLN orders world's first CNG carrier in China

In another breakthrough in natural gas shipping Indonesian power company Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PT PLN) has ordered the first ever CNG carrier at Qingdao Wuchuan Heavy Industry shipyard in China. The world's first CNG carrier will be 110 m in length and have a capacity of 2,200 cu m, will be dual-classed by ABS and Indonesian class society Biro Klasifikasi Indonesia.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 29 JULY | SEATRADE GLOBAL

China expresses concerns over 2M alliance of Maersk, MSC

The Chinese government and the influential China Shipowners' Association (CSA) have expressed concerns over the recently proposed 2M container shipping alliance between Maersk Line and Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC).

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 30 JULY | MARINE LOG

Hyundai Heavy reports red ink quarter

Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., the world's largest shipbuilder, yesterday reported its worst ever quarterly net loss — 616.6 billion won (US\$601.7 million) in the April-June period, compared with a net profit of 66.8 billion won a year ago, according to a regulatory filing.

[Full Report](#)