

Featured *MSP Perspectives*:



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The 10th Anniversary of the Malacca Straits Patrol initiative marks a decade of cooperation by Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand, to deal with the threat of piracy and sea robberies in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Even as the numbers of reported incidents in the Straits has steadily decreased the littoral states are not being complacent.

Enforcement at Sea

Piracy and armed robbery at sea typically manifest in lucrative sea routes, of which the waters of Southeast Asia are fertile hunting grounds. According to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Annual Report 2015, the number of piracy and sea robbery attacks in Asia increased by 7 percent last year reaching 200 reported incidents.

As more incidents were being reported at the lower reaches of the South China Sea in the last few years, there were suggestions that perhaps an initiative similar to the MSP can be introduced east of the Singapore Strait. Whilst this directly points to the geographical limitation of the MSP, it has not stopped Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore from adopting the same level of operational response in partnership with other Southeast Asian neighbours.

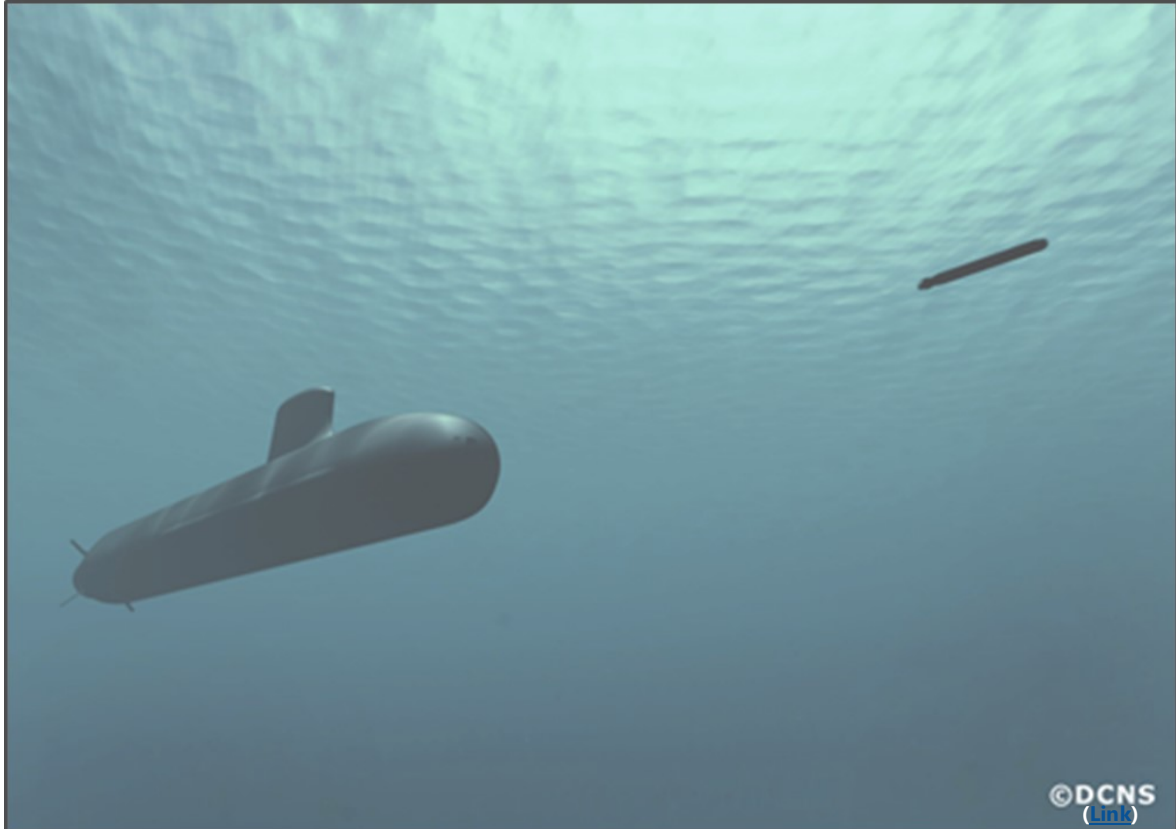
Case in point, when MT Orkim Harmony was reported lost in the South China Sea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand were able to deploy assets to assist in the search and locate efforts. IFC monitored the progress of the search efforts, ensuring good information sharing to all relevant partners, which contributed to the apprehension of the pirates by the Vietnam Coast Guard and

the eventual arrest of the mastermind by the Indonesian Navy.

However, trying to target pirates at sea is hardly an efficient way of tackling the problem in a busy waterway plied by thousands of vessels a day. Crimes at sea are often planned and masterminded on land. Whilst the visibility of the air and sea patrols has high deterrent value, to effectively deal with the root causes of piracy and other threats at sea will require actions on land. Therefore, apart from maintaining a competent force at sea, the littorals are actively engaging with their respective land-based agencies and regulators and also the shipping community.

Partnership on Land

Across the region, regulators are clamping down on potential pirate syndicates. The Indonesian Western Fleet (Armarbar) is planning to launch a piracy prevention programme to raise awareness on crimes at sea. The shipping community is the first and last line of defence against piracy and sea robbery. Close collaboration between law enforcement agencies, actions taken by regulators, and actions taken by the shipping community, are axiomatic to keeping pirates at bay.



AUSTRALIA | 26 APRIL | REUTERS

France beats rival bidders to \$40 bln Australian submarine deal

France has beaten Japan and Germany to win a A\$50 billion (\$40 billion) deal to build a fleet of 12 submarines for Australia, one of the world's most lucrative defense contracts, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull announced on Tuesday.

[Full Report](#)

JAPAN | 4 APRIL | THE JAPAN TIMES

Japan deploys 12 coast guard ships to patrol Senkakus

The Japan Coast Guard said Monday it has finished deploying 12 ships assigned exclusively to patrolling areas around the Senkaku Islands amid China's growing assertiveness in the East China Sea.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES-UNITED STATES | 4 APRIL | REUTERS

U.S., Philippines begin military exercises as maritime tension simmers

About 8,000 U.S. and Filipino troops began annual military exercises on Monday against a backdrop of tension over China's greater assertiveness in the South China Sea though a Philippine commander played that down as the reason for the drills.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 5 APRIL | XINHUA

Construction of Zhubi Lighthouse in South China Sea completed

China's Ministry of Transport on Tuesday held a completion ceremony for the construction of a lighthouse on Zhubi Reef, marking the start of its operation.

[Full Report](#)

SOUTH KOREA | 6 APRIL | YONHAP

Military conducts anti-N. Korean hovercraft drill near sea border

South Korea used two Cobra gunships to conduct a live-fire exercise on Wednesday intended to counter attacks by North Korean hovercraft near the maritime border, an Army official said.

[Full Report](#)

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THE PHILIPPINES | 8 APRIL | BUSINESS MIRROR

Navy unit reactivated as military shifts focus on Scarborough Shoal

THE Armed Forces on Friday reactivated Naval Forces Northern Luzon (NavForNL) that will focus on the Scarborough Shoal that has been effectively occupied by China.

[Full Report](#)

PHILIPPINES-VIETNAM | 13 APRIL | REUTERS

Exclusive: Philippines, Vietnam to explore joint patrols in South China Sea - sources

Defense officials from the Philippines and Vietnam will meet this week to explore possible joint exercises and navy patrols, military sources said, shoring up a new alliance between states locked in maritime rows with China.

[Full Report](#)

THE PHILIPPINES-UNITED STATES | 14 APRIL | THE MANILA TIMES

PH, US start joint sea patrols

The Philippines and the United States had started joint patrols at the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) amid China's increasing reclamation and militarization activities in disputed waters.

[Full Report](#)



NEW ZEALAND | 15 APRIL | THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD

Govt likely to sell idle Navy ships

Two of the Navy's in-shore patrol vessels will likely be sold, as Opposition parties claim staff shortages are the reason they aren't being used.

[Full Report](#)

ASEAN-UNITED STATES | 18 APRIL | USNI NEWS

The Philippines at Forefront of New Pentagon Maritime Security Initiative

The Pentagon recently began funding maritime security projects with countries in the South China Sea

aimed at giving them the capability to monitor activities in their territorial waters and air space amidst concerns of regional Chinese expansion.

[Full Report](#)

AUSTRALIA | 18 APRIL | REUTERS

Australia accelerates naval shipbuilding program to secure jobs

Australia will speed up plans to build more naval vessels in domestic shipyards, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Monday, making an announcement that could find favour with voters just weeks ahead of a likely federal election.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 19 APRIL | CHINA DAILY

In a first, Navy plane lands on Yongshu

The historical landing of a naval patrol aircraft on Yongshu Reef, part of the Nansha Islands, reflects that China's installations in the South China Sea can provide better service in fulfilling the country's humanitarian mission there, analysts said.

[Full Report](#)

NORTH KOREA | 23 APRIL | REUTERS

North Korea fires submarine-launched missile: South Korea

North Korea fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile off its east coast on Saturday, South Korea said, amid concerns that the isolated state might conduct a nuclear test or a missile launch ahead of a ruling party meeting in May.

[Full Report](#)

UNITED STATES | 25 APRIL | REUTERS

U.S. challenged China, 12 others on navigation rights last year

The U.S. military conducted "freedom of navigation" operations against 13 countries last year, including several to challenge China's claims in the South and East China seas, according to an annual Pentagon report released on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 30 APRIL | REUTERS

China trains 'fishing militia' to sail into disputed waters

The fishing fleet based in this tiny port town on Hainan island is getting everything from military training and subsidies to even fuel and ice as China creates an increasingly sophisticated fishing militia to sail into the disputed South China Sea.

[Full Report](#)



INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-THE PHILIPPINES | 29 APRIL | TEMPO

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines to discuss Joint-Patrols in May

The Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law, and Security Affairs, Luhut Binsar Panjaitan, said that the upcoming meeting between Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines - which is set to happen early in May 2016 - might bring up the possibility of conducting joint-sea patrols in areas prone to hijacking and piracy.

[Full Report](#)

KOREAS | 1 APRIL | REUTERS

South Korea says fishing vessels turn back after North disrupts GPS signals

North Korea's efforts to disrupt GPS signal reception in the South forced some fishing vessels to return to port on Friday, South Korea said, amid heightened tension over a recent nuclear test and rocket launch by its neighbour.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-VIETNAM | 3 APRIL | TUOI TRE

Vietnam seizes Chinese oil tanker for infringing its waters

A Chinese oil tanker and its crew were captured by Vietnamese border defense soldiers in the Gulf of Tonkin earlier this week for intruding into Vietnam's maritime territory, the border defense command said.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 5 APRIL | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indonesia sinks 23 foreign fishing boats

Indonesian authorities on Tuesday blew up 23 foreign vessels that were captured for fishing illegally in the country's waters.

[Full Report](#)

INDO-PACIFIC | 7 APRIL | THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Philippines hosting forum on Asean maritime security

The Philippines is hosting the 8th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Maritime Security.

[Full Report](#)

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SINGAPORE | 7 APRIL | CHANNEL NEWSASIA

Singtel partners Inmarsat to offer cybersecurity tools for maritime sector

Local telco Singtel will be offering its cybersecurity tools to be embedded with Inmarsat's hardware used in the maritime sector, both parties announced on Wednesday (Apr 6).

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 8 APRIL | JAKARTA GLOBE

New Indonesian Patrol Ships to Set Sail for Natuna, Other Border Areas

Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjiastuti has officiated the launching ceremony of four locally built Orca patrol ships that will join the Indonesian Fisheries Inspectorate Vessels System (Skipi) armada, media reports said on Friday (08/04).

[Full Report](#)

INDO-PACIFIC | 12 APRIL | THE JAKARTA POST

Komodo military exercise kicks off in West Sumatra

The Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo (MNEK) commenced on Tuesday, with President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo scheduled to open the event involving 32 countries in Padang and the Mentawai Islands, West Sumatra.

[Full Report](#)

INDO-PACIFIC | 14 APRIL | TEMPO

Western Pacific Naval Symposium 2016 to Discuss Maritime Security

The 15th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS) is being held in Padang, West Sumatra, from April 13 to 14, 2016, to discuss maritime security, according to the Indonesia Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Ade Supandi.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 15 APRIL | THE JAKARTA POST

National scene: House to strengthen Maritime Security Board

The House of Representatives Commission I, which oversees security, plans to boost the authority of the Maritime Security Board (Bakamla) following a recent series of maritime border violations by foreign vessels.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 21 APRIL | REUTERS

Indonesia fears piracy surge on shipping route could make it 'new Somalia'

Indonesia fears piracy on a shipping route along its sea border with the Philippines could reach Somalian levels and has told vessels to avoid danger areas, officials said on Thursday, after a spate of kidnappings.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA-VIETNAM | 21 APRIL | VIETNAM PLUS

Vietnam, China coast guards conduct joint fishery patrol

The coast guards of Vietnam and China are conducting a joint fishery patrol on shared fishing grounds in the Tonkin Gulf from April 19 – 23, Quan doi Nhan dan (People's Army) daily reported.

[Full Report](#)



SOUTH KOREA | 26 APRIL | KBS WORLD NEWS

Additional Patrol Ship to Crack Down on Illegal Chinese Fishing

The Korea Coast Guard will deploy an additional patrol boat near the maritime border in the Yellow Sea to crack down on illegal fishing by Chinese fishing boats.

[Full Report](#)

INDONESIA | 27 APRIL | TEMPO

Gov't Task Force Probes Chinese Fishing Vessel

Indonesian Illegal Fishing Eradication Task Force, Satgas 115, is investigating a China-flagged fugitive fishing vessel FV Hua Li-8 which was caught in the Aceh waters last Friday (April 22).

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-SRI LANKA | 30 APRIL | DAILY FT

Sri Lanka, India navies hold 26th IMBL meeting aboard Sri Lankan naval ship

The Navies of Sri Lanka and India held the annual International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting aboard a Sri Lankan naval ship in the mid seas on Thursday.

[Full Report](#)



SINGAPORE | 5 APRIL | STRAITS TIMES

MPA gives 10% concession on port dues for bulk carriers

China released its annual ocean development index (ODI) report on Friday at an international forum held in the east port city of Qingdao, Shandong Province. More help is at hand for the ailing shipping industry, with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) granting bulk carriers a 10 per cent concession on port dues.

[Full Report](#)

EGYPT | 4 APRIL | SHIP AND BUNKER

Suez Canal Offers Incentive of 30% Discount to Container Ships

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) has announced that it has reduced tolls for container ships traveling the Suez Canal from the port of New York and its southern ports, heading to the Port Kelang and its eastern ports, by 30 percent for the period of March 7th to June 5th 2016.

[Full Report](#)

INDIA-JAPAN | 5 APRIL | DAILY SHIPPING TIMES

Japanese fleet owners in full force for GAIL shipping tender

Top Japanese fleet owners have applied for India's biggest shipping tender worth \$7 billion issued by state-run natural gas firm GAIL (India) Ltd to hire 11 new liquefied natural gas (LNG) carriers to ferry gas from the US.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 10 APRIL | STRAITS TIMES

Triyards Holdings wins €44m contract for 2 LNG-powered ferries

Singapore-listed Triyards Holdings said on Sunday (April 10) its unit Strategic Marine has secured a new contract with Rederij Doeksen (Royal Doeksen) for the construction of two Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)-powered aluminium catamarans.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 11 APRIL | INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

Mandatory electronic data exchange for international shipping adopted

Mandatory requirements for the electronic exchange of information on cargo, crew and passengers have been adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as part of a revised and modernized annex to the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL), which aims to harmonize procedures for ship's arrival, stay and departure from port.

[Full Report](#)

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INDONESIA-JAPAN | 13 APRIL | GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

Japan to finance lion's share of \$3bn Indonesian port

The government of Japan has offered Indonesia a low-interest loan to build a deepwater port at the town of Patimban on the northern coast of Java.

[Full Report](#)



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AUSTRALIA | 18 APRIL | REUTERS

Australia funds lead bids for \$4.1 billion Port of Melbourne sale: sources

Three consortia of Australian and international funds have submitted bids for a 50-year lease of the Port of Melbourne, Australia's biggest shipping container terminal, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

[Full Report](#)

VIETNAM | 20 APRIL | HELLENIC SHIPPING NEWS

Van Phong Port project revived

Nha Trang Port JSC has received a licence to revive Van Phong Port in the central Vietnamese province of Khanh Hoa, which stalled several years ago after the original investor ran out of funds.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 21 APRIL | SPLASH 24/7

Guangzhou port to develop new auto terminal

Guangzhou Port Group and SAIC Motor have signed an agreement to jointly develop Haijia Automobile RoRo Terminal project as part of the international automobile logistics park in the new Nansha Free Trade Zone.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 22 APRIL | SHIP AND BUNKER

MPA: MGO Mass Flow Metering in Singapore "as Early as 2017"

Mandatory mass flow metering for MGO bunkering

could come as soon as 2017, Captain M Segar, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)'s Assistant CEO of Operations, said Thursday.

[Full Report](#)

HONG KONG-GERMANY | 26 APRIL | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Genting Hong Kong seals Nordic Yards takeover

Genting Hong Kong has concluded the EUR 230.6 million (around USD 260 million) acquisition of Nordic Yards' three shipyards in Wismar, Warnemunde and Stralsund, Germany, the company said.

[Full Report](#)

KOREA | 28 APRIL | SEATRADE MARITIME

Samsung Heavy Industries hit by \$4.6bn FLNG cancellation from Shell

Embattled South Korean shipbuilder Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI) has been hit by a \$4.62bn cancellation from Shell for three FLNG new buildings.

[Full Report](#)

SINGAPORE | 29 APRIL | WORLD MARITIME NEWS

Phase 1 of Singapore's Mega Terminal Project Kicks Off

Phase 1 of the Tuas Terminal project, which upon completion will boast 20 deep-water berths capable of handling about 20 million TEUs per year, was launched today, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said.

[Full Report](#)

GLOBAL | 29 APRIL | EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Mergers: Commission approves container liner shipping merger between CMA CGM and NOL, subject to conditions

The European Commission has cleared under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of Neptune Oriental Lines ("NOL") of Singapore by rival CMA CGM, a French shipping company with worldwide activities. The clearance is conditional upon NOL leaving the G6 liner shipping alliance.

[Full Report](#)

CHINA | 29 APRIL | SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

China's Cosco bleeds more as shipping pain worsens

Shipping giant China Ocean Shipping Group (Cosco) swung into the red with a net loss of 4.48 yuan in the first quarter, as the shipping industry worldwide hit a new low on weak trade and falling commodities prices.

[Full Report](#)