

IOR-ARC Newsletter

A Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation



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Disclaimer

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Editor's Note

The inaugural issue of the IOR- ARC Newsletter tracks the recent developments in the region relating to maritime security, trade and investment, fisheries management, disaster and risk management, science and technology and tourism.

In order to deal with the emerging maritime challenges in the region, the Indian navy has embarked on a programme of planned expansion. Recently, Thailand in a bid to enhance its defence capability, signed a deal to acquire Black Hawk helicopters from the United States. The Mozambique minister for defence has proposed that the joint anti-piracy operations undertaken by Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania be extended northwards to patrol Kenyan waters as well.

There have also been some interesting developments in the economic arena. In a bid to promote cooperation in the Indian Ocean region, India, the current chair of the IOR-ARC, has contributed one million dollars to the IOR-ARC secretariat. The recent natural gas finds in Tanzania have put the country on the world energy map. In a remarkable development, Indonesia has pledged a billion dollar loan to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the condition that the funds be used to aid crisis ridden countries in Africa and Asia apart from those in Europe. Further, the merger of Korea's merchant marine with Hong Kong's T S Lines and the resultant freight route integration will help expand cargo mobility among IOR-ARC members.

Many developments have also taken place in other spheres. Kenyan farmers and traders have sought a common fishing policy for both Kenya and Tanzania. Mozambique has recently set up its first photovoltaic energy laboratory which, apart from providing training, will also serve as a resource and research centre.

Meanwhile, Australia and Indonesia have agreed to strengthen communication in order to mitigate sea disasters. The United States has intensified discussions with Thailand to create a regional disaster relief hub in the country.

In the field of tourism, the World Economic Forum in 2011 ranked Tanzania second in terms of natural beauty. The Guinness Book of World Records has declared the Borobudur temple in Indonesia as being the largest Buddhist archaeological site.

This monthly newsletter is compiled by the IDSA on behalf of the IOR-ARC. We look forward to comments and suggestions from our readers.

Ruchita Beri

Editor

Maritime Security

Indian Navy plans expansion in the Indian Ocean region; Piracy menace in the Indian Ocean has declined; Indian Navy's operational preparedness in the Indian Ocean region to be reviewed; Key naval station in Andaman and Nicobar Islands opened; Australian Senate unable to pass bill on offshore processing for asylum seekers; Thailand acquires two Black Hawk helicopters; Tanzania and US continue maritime partnership; Kidnapped South African couple rescued; Russia restores its military bases; Kenya beefs up security at sea; Malaysia and US sign MoU to combat transnational crime; Mozambique calls for extending anti-piracy patrols to Kenya; Mozambique elected to UN body under Law of Sea; Seychelles and China deepen military relationship

The Indian Navy is planning an expansion which will cater to emerging maritime security challenges in the Indian Ocean region and beyond. Currently, various ships like the INS Savitri, INS Tabar among others have been deployed in the high seas to survey the Exclusive Economic Zones of Seychelles and Mauritius as well as are engaged in anti-piracy patrol in the region. According to the Indian Naval Headquarters, 50 modern ships are currently on order and more acquisitions are in the pipeline. The Navy also plans to become a three Battle Carrier Groups force by 2020.¹

India's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Nirmal Verma, said that the Indian Navy had shown exemplary courage in controlling the menace of piracy in the Indian Ocean in the last two years. He said that the naval ships and the men had intercepted several pirate trawlers and mother ships near the Lakshadweep coast.²

In the light of China rapidly modernizing its naval fleet to spread its influence in the Indian Ocean region, Indian Defence Minister, A K Antony said that the Indian Navy's operational preparedness would be reviewed. The measures taken by the Navy and the Coast Guard to strengthen coastal and maritime security during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks was also to be reviewed.³ Earlier, India had deployed several of its ships in the Indian Ocean region. INS Tabar is on convoy escort duty and anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden. A fleet of four vessels was also deployed as part of the Navy's sailing mission in the South China Sea.⁴

In other developments, India opened a key naval station, the INS Baaz in the southern part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that will enable it to boost its ability to monitor the Strait of Malacca. The base will soon be operating heavier military planes from the Indian Air Force fleet. The base also enables the Indian military to kick

¹ "How Indian Navy is expanding and modernizing", *NDTV.com*, June 25, 2012, at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/how-indian-navy-is-expanding-and-modernising-235746>

² "Piracy menace in Indian ocean has minimised in last 2 yrs", *DNA*, June 20, 2012, at http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_piracy-menace-in-indian-ocean-has-minimised-in-last-2-yrs_1704401

³ "Antony to review Navy plans to counter Chinese influence", *The Pioneer*, July 15, 2012 at <http://dailypioneer.com/nation/80873-antony-to-review-navy-plans-to-counter-chinese-influence.html>

⁴ "India expanding presence in Indian Ocean Region", *The Indian Express*, July 13, 2012 at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-expanding-presence-in-indian-ocean-region/961607/0>

start operations in the event of maritime activities in the region being threatened.⁵

Three Australian merchant ships rescued a boat carrying asylum seekers that had capsized and sunk. One hundred and thirty survivors and one body were recovered from the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, the Australian Senate debated a bill to allow boatpeople to be sent offshore for processing. But the government has been unable to pass the legislation through the parliament without the support of the opposition.⁶

Thailand's Royal Thai Army has signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to acquire two UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters through the United States government's Foreign Military Sales channel. Upon delivery, Thailand will become the first member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to fly the very latest version of the Black Hawk helicopter.⁷

Tanzania and United States have continued to maintain high level diplomacy and in that light, a Military Sealift Command-chartered High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) arrived in Dar es Salaam on June 23 for a twelve day port visit supporting Africa Partnership Station (APS).⁸

Somali Defence Minister Hussein, Arab Isse announced that Somali security forces have rescued a South African couple, Debbie Calitz and Bruno Pelizzari. The couple was kidnapped by Al-Qaeda-affiliated pirates in the Indian Ocean and held for 18 months. The operation took place in the lower Shabelle region of southern Somalia, close to Mogadishu.⁹

The Russian government intends to restore the military-technical support of their ships at the former military bases in Cam Ranh (Vietnam), Lourdes (Cuba) and the Seychelles. On July 27, the Russian Navy Commander, Vice Admiral Viktor Chirkov announced that this move was not about plans for a military presence, but rather the restoration of the crew resources.¹⁰

The Kenyan government's plans to establish special security unit patrols at sea and offshore are at an advanced stage. Fisheries Development Minister, Amason Kingi said the government will soon begin recruitment of Coast guards, a new law enforcing unit for the Kenyan waters.¹¹

Malaysia and the United States of America have upgraded their security cooperation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding

⁵ "India gets hawk eye over Strait of Malacca", *NDTV.com*, July 30, 2012 at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/india-gets-hawk-eye-over-strait-of-malacca-249214>

⁶ "Australia debates offshore asylum-seeker processing", *France24.com*, June 28, 2012, at <http://www.france24.com/en/20120628-australia-debates-offshore-asylum-seeker-processing>

⁷ "Thailand signs LOA to be first in Southeast Asia to operate Sikorsky UH-60M helicopters"; *Avionics Intelligence*, July 10, 2012, at <http://www.avionics-intelligence.com/news/2012/07/10/thailand-signs-loa-to-be-first-in-southeast-asia-to-operate-sikorsky-uh-60m-helicopters.html>

⁸ "Maritime partnership between U.S., Tanzania focuses on security, safety", *Daily News Online*, July 08, 2012, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/features/popular-features/7191-maritime-partnership-between-us-tanzania-focuses-on-security-safety>

⁹ "Two South African hostages freed in Somalia raid", *Capital FM*, June 21, 2012, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/06/two-south-african-hostages-freed-in-somalia-raid/>

¹⁰ "Russia to revive army bases in three oceans", *Pravda.ru*, August 01, 2012, at http://english.pravda.ru/russia/politics/01-08-2012/121804-russia_army_base-0/

¹¹ "Kenya: New plan to beef up security at the sea", *All Africa*, July 23, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201207231926.html>

(MoU) on Assistance in the Field of Transnational Crime. According to Malaysian Home Minister, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and US Attorney General, Eric Holder, a major feature of the MoU was corruption, which was included to create awareness among enforcement agencies in both countries.¹²

Mozambican Defence Minister, Filipe Nyussi argued that the joint anti-piracy patrols currently undertaken by Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania should move further north to cover Kenyan waters to ensure that piracy is combated.¹³

Mozambican geo-scientist, Estevao Mhanjane has been elected a member of the Commission on the

Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a technical body of the United Nations set up under the Convention on the Law of the Sea. The purpose of the Commission is to analyse proposals for extending the continental shelf of coastal states.¹⁴

The mid-July visit to Seychelles by a top People's Liberation Army official marks the deepening of the military relationship between the tiny Indian Ocean island state and China. The Deputy Chief of the People's Liberation Army, Gen Ma Xiaotian met with the President of Seychelles, James Michel and reaffirmed China's commitment to deepen bilateral military cooperation.¹⁵

¹² "Malaysia, US sign MoU in move to fight transnational crime"; *Borneo Post online*; July 18, 2012 at <http://www.theborneopost.com/2012/07/18/malaysia-us-sign-mou-in-move-to-fight-transnational-crime/>

¹³ "Mozambique: Anti-piracy patrols should move further North", *All Africa*, July 10, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201207101024.html>

¹⁴ "Mozambican Elected to Law of Sea Technical Body", *All Africa*, July 30, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201207310108.html>

¹⁵ "Military Diplomacy: China woos Seychelles", *The Indian Express*, July 16, 2012 at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/military-diplomacy-china-woos-seychelles/975070/>

Trade and Investment Facilitation

India announces plans for deep-sea exploration in Indian Ocean; India promises support to IOR-ARC; India to expand investments in East Java; India's trade with Malaysia increases by 40 per cent; IMF to receive \$1 billion loan from Indonesia; Residents raise environmental concerns over port expansion in Thailand; TS Lines to be expanded in the Indian Ocean region; Saudi Arabia to invest \$44 million in Sri Lankan shipping industry; South Korea gains exclusive rights to deep sea mining in Indian Ocean; Iran's first domestically-built oil tanker launched; Tanzania looks for fair deal for its gas finds, additional deep water oil and gas block to be auctioned; Kenya's insurance agency invests \$1 billion in Tanzania; Seychelles and South Africa keen on developing maritime partnership

In the first week of July, India announced its plans for deep-sea exploration for rare earths in the Indian Ocean region. The announcement came in response to China's increasing interest in mining in the region and India's concerns over China's commercial as well as strategic interests in the region. The latest development is also in line with India's policy to create a stockpile of 'strategically critical input metals' or rare earths. India has also signed an agreement to collaborate with Japan in rare-earth exploration and production.¹⁶

The government of India has vowed to continue supporting the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) with full commitment. In this regard, the Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs, India, Mr. Madhusudan Ganapathi, handed over a cheque of \$1 million to the Secretary General of the IOR-ARC Secretariat, Ambassador K.V. Bhagirath.¹⁷

In his meeting with the Governor of East Java, India's Ambassador to Indonesia, Gurjit Singh expressed the interest of Indian companies to invest in various businesses in Indonesia's East Java province, especially in steel, textile, education and human resource development sectors. Major Indian companies have already made substantial investments in East Java and more plans will be considered. India would also offer five technical scholarships to people from East Java for short-term training programmes in India.¹⁸

A spurt in tourism and merchandise trade has helped boost bilateral trade between Malaysia and India. Trade was at an all-time high of \$12.5 billion in 2011, a 40 per cent increase from the previous year. The growth was chiefly attributed to the burgeoning economies of both nations and the increasing bilateral trade. An exponential rise in tourism also helped enhance the bilateral relationship.¹⁹

¹⁶ "India launches own deep-sea mining initiative", *Miningweekly.com*, July 05, 2012 at <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/india-launches-own-deep-sea-mining-initiative-2012-07-05>

¹⁷ "India vows continued regional cooperation", *Daily News Online*, July 01, 2012, at <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/6914-india-vows-continued-regional-cooperation>

¹⁸ "India keen to invest in Indonesia's East Java", *IANIS*, June 26, 2012, at <http://india.nydailynews.com/business/a40b16692b13992a41de5207f86ebb91/india-keen-to-invest-in-indonesia-s-east-java-with-image>

¹⁹ "India, Malaysia trade up 40%", *Business Line*, July 7, 2012, at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/article3613813.ece>

Hatta Rajasa, the chief economic minister of Indonesia, has confirmed that his country would loan US \$1 billion to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a contribution to the multilateral institution's efforts to secure global economy. The money was pledged after a meeting in Jakarta between visiting IMF chief, Christine Lagarde and Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. Hatta had earlier said that Indonesia would loan the IMF on the condition that the fund would not be exclusively channeled to the Euro zone but also to financially-troubled African and Asian nations. Lagarde later confirmed that the IMF would not allocate funds from Indonesia to any specific region²⁰.

The Thai government was called on to postpone studies into the expansion of Laem Chabang Port by the residents nearby, amid growing environmental concerns. The news follows the proposal put forward by the Transport Ministry to invest as much as 120 billion Baht to further expand the Chon Buri port over the next seven years. In addition, there are growing concerns that further expansion will have a major affect on fishing in the area that is vital to both local life and its economy.²¹

IOR Cooperation members, India and Singapore will now be covered by CIX string as Hong Kong's TS Lines joins together with Korea's Hyundai Merchant Marine. The string is aimed

at increasing connectivity between the Far East and India's western coast. The Lines will deploy five vessels of the capacity of 4,250-TEU each while the Far East-India CIX loop has calls at Busan, Shanghai, Ningbo, Shenzhen-Yantian, Singapore, Port Kelang, Nhava Sheva, and back to Singapore and Busan. These Lines can be integrated into TS Lines which are existent in Australia and West Asia and cover most of the Indian Ocean region. The freight route integration will be able to connect and help expand the cargo mobility among the Indian Ocean Rim Cooperation members.²²

Sri Lanka's Board of Investment said that Hadi Hamad Al-Hammam group, a Saudi Arabia based firm, has agreed to invest US \$44 million in Seagulf Shipyard (Pvt) Ltd, a boat repair centre in Sri Lanka's Galle port. According to the Board, it was the first Saudi investment in Sri Lanka.²³

South Korea has secured exclusive rights to explore and develop a deep sea mine in the Indian Ocean that is estimated to produce over US \$300 million worth of minerals like gold, silver and copper per year.²⁴

Iran launched the first of the four oil tankers built for Venezuela's state oil company in the Persian Gulf on July 25. The tanker can carry 75,000 barrels of oil and costs around US \$52 million. The tankers are Iran's first exports in shipbuilding.²⁵

²⁰ "Indonesia conforms \$ 1 billion loan for IMF", *The Jakarta Globe*, July 10, 2012, at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/business/indonesia-confirms-1-billion-loan-for-imf/529718>

²¹ "Residents raise environmental concerns over Laem Chabang Port expansion", *Marine Insight News*, July 3, 2012, at <http://marineinsight.com/news/residents-raise-environmental-concerns-over-laem-chabang-port-expansion/>

²² "Hong Kong's TS lines helps expand China, India network", *The Hindu*, July, 10, 2012, at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-logistics/article3625113.ece>

²³ "Sri Lanka boatyard with US \$ 44 mn Saudi investment", *Lanka Business*, June 30, 2012, at <http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?nid=588354778>

²⁴ "S Korea wins rights to undersea mine in Indian Ocean", *Business Standard*, July 30, 2012 at <http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/s-korea-wins-rights-to-undersea-mine-in-indian-ocean/38250/>

²⁵ "Iran launches first domestically-built oil tanker: report", *Xinhua*, July 25, 2012, at http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-07/25/c_131738162.htm

Recent discoveries of massive offshore natural gas fields in Tanzania by different international exploration companies have placed the country on the world energy map. According to the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, after recent discoveries, Tanzania's proven world class natural gas resources stand at a whopping 47 trillion cubic feet. The discoveries are expected to bring into the country billions of investment that might transform the economy, particularly in the energy, agricultural and manufacturing sectors.²⁶ It is estimated that the natural gas resources will last for more than 100 years.²⁷

In other developments, Tanzania will auction an additional deep water oil and gas block in its next bidding round near the sea border of Mozambique, where companies including Eni SpA and Anadarko Petroleum Corp. have discovered natural gas. Tanzania will open a licensing round for nine offshore exploration blocks on September 13, 2012.²⁸

The African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) of Kenya has said it has facilitated over US \$1 billion worth of investment and trade in Tanzania by 2011, a move which makes the insurance firm to be among the biggest investors in the insurance industry in the country. According to ATI, the projects ranged from constructing roads and buildings to power plants as well as cover to a US\$ 200 million financing facility to fund government infrastructure projects.²⁹

Seychelles President, James Michel and his South African counterpart, President Jacob Zuma, held bilateral discussions on the sidelines of the 19th Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. President Michel has hailed South Africa as a key player to ensure the development of the blue economy in the Southern Indian Ocean, and the two countries are looking to develop a maritime partnership based on shared security, development of ports and maritime trade, as well as further enhancing tourism based development in the region.³⁰

²⁶ "Fair deals needed for our gas finds", *Daily News Online*, June 26, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206260445.html>

²⁷ "Local gas stock to last 100 years", *Daily News Online*, July 23, 2012, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/7764-local-gas-stock-to-last-100-years>

²⁸ "Tanzania will auction additional deep water block near gas finds", *Bloomberg*, July 13, 2012, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-13/tanzania-will-auction-additional-deep-water-block-near-gas-finds.html>

²⁹ "Kenyan insurance firm invests \$ 1 billion in Tanzania", *East African Business Week*, July 01, 2012, at <http://www.busiweek.com/opportunities/3113-kenyan-insurance-firm-invests-1b-in-tanzania>

³⁰ "Seychelles and South Africa look to form maritime development and tourism partnership", *e TN Global Travel Industry News*, July 16, 2012, at <http://www.eturbonews.com/30186/seychelles-and-south-africa-look-form-maritime-development-and-t>

Fisheries Management

Fishermen call for uniform policy for Kenya and Tanzania; Seychelles' fishing industry recovers after 2010 pirate attacks; Tanzania strengthens surveillance in territorial waters

Fish farmers in Kenya have called for uniform size of fishing nets between Kenya and Tanzania at Lake Jipe. The Kenyan traders lamented that while Tanzania fishing policies allow two and a half inch size nets, Kenya allows four inches thus endangering fish at the border lake. They also added that the fish species were endangered since one country allowed fishing of fingerlings. Collaborative research on the lake between the two countries has also been proposed.³¹

After international anti-piracy efforts and boats carrying armed guards deterred attacks by Somali pirates, the fishing industry of Seychelles is beginning to recover. The Indian Ocean islands' economy depends on tuna exports and tourism, both badly hurt after pirate attacks sent foreign fishing boats out of its waters in 2010.³²

The Tanzanian Deputy Minister for Livestock Development and Fishing, Mr. Benedict Ole Nangoro said that the Tanzanian police in close coordination with community policing have strengthened patrol in the Coast of the Indian Ocean. He said that during 2011 and 2012, surveillance was strengthened and not a single foreign vessel was seen fishing in the country's territorial waters.³³ The government is also committed to protecting its territorial waters in the Indian Ocean in a bid to boost small scale fishermen and tame illegal fishing activities by both locals and foreigners. The move will protect the ocean environment and help fishermen reach main ocean areas thereby increasing their income.³⁴

³¹ "Fishermen call for EAC common policy", *The Star*, June 27, 2012, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/local/coast/82137-fishermen-call-for-a-common-policy-between-kenya-and-tanzania>

³² "Seychelles' fishing industry recovering from piracy", *Reuters*, July 05, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/07/05/us-seychelles-piracy-idUSBRE8640QF20120705>

³³ "Illegal Fishermen Sail Away From Tanzanian Territorial Waters", *Daily News Online*, July 06, 2012, at <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/parliament-news/7105-illegal-fishermen-sail-away-from-tanzanian-territorial-waters>

³⁴ "Local fishing activities in Indian Ocean to get new push", *IPP Media*, July 22, 2012, at <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=43923>

Disaster Risk Management

Indonesia, Australia sign defence deals and agree to strengthen communication during sea disasters; US intensifies discussions with Thailand to create regional disaster-relief hub

Indonesian Defence Minister, Purnomo *Yusgiantoro* and his Australian counterpart, Stephen Smith signed deals on defence cooperation in Darwin, Australia, on July 2, 2012 in the backdrop of the second Indonesia-Australia Annual Leaders' meeting. The defence deals include areas covering law enforcement and disaster mitigation, transnational crime, terrorism and peacekeeping apart from a grant of four refurbished heavy transport aircrafts from the Australian government.³⁵ Meanwhile, Australia and Indonesia have agreed to strengthen

communication during sea disasters and also look into exchange programme of search and rescue specialists to combat smuggling of people.³⁶

In the recent weeks, the US Pentagon has intensified discussions with Thailand for creating a regional disaster-relief hub at an American-built airfield that housed B-52 bombers during the 1960s and 1970s. US officials said that they are also interested in more naval visits to Thai ports and joint surveillance flights to monitor trade routes and military movements.³⁷

³⁵ "Indonesia, Australia sign defense deals", *The Jakarta Post*, July 3, 2012, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/07/03/indonesia-australia-sign-defense-deals.html>

³⁶ "Australia rescues 162 from Indonesian waters", *Emirates247.com*, July 05, 2012, at emirates247.com/news/region/australia-rescues-162-from-indonesian-waters-2012-07-05-1.465968

³⁷ "U.S. eyes return to some Southeast Asia military bases", *The Washington Post*, June 5, 2012, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-seeks-return-to-se-asian-bases/2012/06/22/gJQAKP83vV_story.html

Science and Technology & Academic Cooperation

Mozambique and Germany sign technical cooperation agreement; Mozambique inaugurates first photovoltaic energy lab; Researchers caution over increased death of blue whales in Sri Lanka; Unprecedented Indian Ocean heat wave to provide insight into climate change; Large per cent of Indonesia's coral reefs damaged; Indian government offers scholarship to Tanzanian civil servants

Mozambique's Foreign Minister, Oldemiro Baloi and German Ambassador, Ulrik Klockner signed a technical cooperation agreement to help Mozambique adapt to climate change. Under the agreement, Germany will give 5.6 million Euros to support the Mozambique government's strategic plan for mitigating the effects of climate change.³⁸

The Mozambique authorities, on July 23, inaugurated the country's first photovoltaic energy laboratory intended to train students under the reform of technical and professional education. The laboratory will also act as a resource and research centre for the public and private sectors.

According to researchers, ship strikes are a leading cause of death among whales around the globe. They added that the problem is particularly troublesome in Sri Lanka where a largely unstudied population of blue whales, possibly numbering in thousands, has come under increasing pressure from commercial shipping and from a boom in unregulated whale-watching boats off Sri Lanka's southern coast.³⁹

According to a research led by the University of Western Australia, an unprecedented Indian Ocean heat wave that had peaked in March 2011 could provide crucial insights into how extreme climatic events affect sea life. The coastal margins along Australia's western coast form a biodiversity hotspot and transition zone between tropical and temperate ecosystems.⁴⁰

An assessment conducted by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia or LIPI) concluded that 70 per cent of Indonesia's coral reefs suffer from varying degrees of damage. Coral reef monitoring was carried out in 77 regions across Indonesia. The various reasons for reef damage have been attributed to factors including explosive fishing, mining waste, and bleaching driven by global warming.⁴¹

India has awarded five scholarships to Zanzibar civil servants to study in the country through its 'Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC)' programme. Last year, 48 scholars from Zanzibar alone attended various training programmes in India.⁴²

³⁸ "Mozambique and Germany sign technical accord", *All Africa*, July 02, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201207030184.html>

³⁹ "Growing ship traffic threatens blue whales in the Indian Ocean", *The New York Times*, July 3, 2012, at <http://india.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/03/growing-ship-traffic-threatens-blue-whales-in-the-indian-ocean/>

⁴⁰ "Unprecedented Indian Ocean heatwave creates melting pot", *Phys.org*, July 23, 2012 at <http://phys.org/news/2012-07-unprecedented-indian-ocean-heatwave-pot.html>

⁴¹ "70 percent of Indonesia's Coral Reef damaged", *Mongabay.com*, July 15, 2012 at <http://news.mongabay.com/2012/0715-indonewswrap.html#>

⁴² "Indian Government Offers Scholarship Slots", *Daily News Online*, July 11, 2012, at <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/parliament-news/7334-indian-govt-offers-scholarship-slots>

Tourism

India's Supreme Court bans commercial and tourism activities in tribal habitat in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Kenyan government turns to Africa for tourism markets; Regional tourism growth and strategy discussed at RETOSA meeting; World Economic Forum ranks Tanzania second in its Tourism Competitiveness report; Indonesia's Buddhist temple declared as world's largest archaeological site

The Supreme Court of India has banned all kinds of commercial and tourism activities close to the Jarawa tribe's habitat in the Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Indian Ocean. In the past, the government came under the scanner for failing to protect the tribe.⁴³

Kenya has now turned to Africa and emerging markets to sustain the country's tourism industry due to the Eurozone crisis. Europe is Kenya's largest source market and the ongoing crisis has forced the country to diversify its market and products on offer to entice tourists from emerging markets. Kenya has partnered with Morocco to help enrich its networks and insights into intra-Africa tourism business.⁴⁴

The 47th Executive Meeting of the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa (RETOSA) was held in Seychelles between July 11 and 13, 2012. The RETOSA meeting was attended by over 40 delegates from the Southern African Development Community. It discussed issues of regional integration, focusing on regional

tourism growth infrastructure and development, including a tourism master plan for 2012 and beyond for the region.⁴⁵

The World Economic Forum ranks Tanzania second only to Brazil in its 2011 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report. This gives Tanzania's tourism industry an advantage. However, both local and foreign investors in the tourism sector in Tanzania are unhappy with the current licensing regime. The tourism licensing regime is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism under Tanzania Tourism Licensing Board, formerly known as the Tanzania Tourism Licensing Agency.⁴⁶

The Guinness Book of World Records has declared Borobudur temple in Magelang, Central Java, as the world's largest Buddhist archeological site. Built in the 9th century, the Mahayana Buddhist temple is 123x123 square meters in size and has an area volume of 60,000 cubic meters. Previously, UNESCO had designated the temple as a world heritage site, number 592.⁴⁷

⁴³ "Supreme Court bans tourism near Jarawa reserve in Andaman", *The Economic Times*, July 04, 2012, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-07-04/news/32537045_1_jarawa-reserve-andaman-trunk-road-andamanese

⁴⁴ "Government turns to Africa for tourism markets", *All Africa*, June 25, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206251278.html>

⁴⁵ "Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa kicks off in Seychelles", *e-Turbo News*, July 11, 2012, at <http://www.eturbonews.com/30119/regional-tourism-organization-southern-africa-kicks-seychelles>

⁴⁶ "Tanzania: A case of bad tourism licensing", *Daily News Online*, July 08, 2012, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/features/popular-features/7189-tanzania-a-case-of-bad-tourism-licensing>

⁴⁷ "Guinness names Borobudur world's largest Buddha temple", *The Jakarta Post*, July 4, 2012, at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/07/04/guinness-names-borobudur-world-s-largest-buddha-temple.html>

Upcoming Events

- **ICT/BPO International Conference**
12-14 September, 2012
Hilton Resort & Spa
Flic en Flac, Mauritius
- **Meeting of Heads of Archives**
25-26 September, 2012
Conference Hall, India International
Centre, New Delhi
- **Indian Ocean Global Forum**
25-26 September, 2012
La Meridien Hotel
New Delhi, India
- **7th Annapoorna World of Food India**
26-28 September, 2012
Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India
- **International Conference on Education
and Globalization**
2-3 October, 2012
Tehran, Iran
- **“New Technology, R&D and
Commercialization” in IOR-ARC
Region**
Regional Senior Officials Meeting
8-10 October, 2012
Tehran, Iran
- **Workshop on Management of Fish &
Other Marine Resources**
17-19 October, 2012
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
- **12th Council of Ministers Meeting**
29 October-02 November, 2012
Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- **Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum
2012**
30-31 October, 2012
Hotel Galadari Colombo, Sri Lanka
- **Global Maritime Annual Conference**
3-4 November, 2012
Gujarat, India
- **32nd India International Trade Fair**
14-27 November, 2012
Pragati Maidan, Delhi
- **43rd International Film Festival of
India**
20-30 November, 2012
Goa, India
- **Workshop on IT Skill Development &
e-Governance**
3-4 December, 2012

About the IDSA

Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN Centre

The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) is a non-partisan, autonomous body dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security. Its mission is to promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

The Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN Centre of IDSA focuses on understanding developments in the African and the Indian Ocean Region. The Centre also endeavours to analyse India's engagement with Latin American countries, particularly in forums such as the IBSA and BRICS. In addition, the Centre carries out research on the broader theme of India and the United Nations.

This newsletter, compiled by IDSA on behalf of the IOR-ARC, covers the recent developments in the fields of maritime security, trade and investment facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk management, tourism, science and technology & academic cooperation in the member countries of the IOR-ARC.



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