

# IOR-ARC Newsletter

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



**IOR-ARC**  
INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION  
FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

*idsa*  
INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES

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### Disclaimer

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## Editor's Note

There is no doubt that rising maritime piracy in the region is one of the foremost challenges facing countries in the Indian Ocean rim. In this context, Indian officials have recently reiterated that the Indian Ocean remains “an area of priority” and that India will cooperate with China in undertaking anti-piracy patrols in the region. At the same time, it is planning to survey for strategic minerals in the Indian Ocean region and also invest on a new ship for deep sea exploration. Meanwhile, in the Seychelles, construction of a regional anti-piracy centre has been initiated with the help of the British government.

Bangladesh's shipping industry has been expanding with the country exporting small and medium-sized ships. India has expressed its interest in investing in Iran's Chabahar port development. This port will serve as a gateway to Central Asia. Meanwhile, Kenya has invited tenders for the development of a deep sea port in Lamu that will facilitate trade and development in eastern Africa. Mozambique is all set to double its fish production in 2012. In order to enhance capabilities for dealing with future disasters, the South African and German navies held a disaster exercise at the Simon's Town naval base. Finally, there are signs that the Euro zone crisis may slow down tourist arrival to Mauritius.

**Ruchita Beri**

**Editor**

## Maritime Security

**Boat deal between Australia and Indonesia to enable rescue of asylum seekers; Singaporean ship carrying assylum seekers 'forced' to Australia; Australia to provide \$2 million to fight piracy in Indian Ocean; Indian Ocean is India's priority, to partner China in anti-piracy patrols; INS Arihant will complete India's 'nuclear triad'; India's maritime aircraft, P8-I will soon be launched; India to have direct communication system with Pakistan to avoid high sea standoffs; Seven Somali pirates sentenced in Kenya; Vessel licencing in Kenyan waters will improve maritime security; New anti-piracy centre in Seychelles; Three patrol vessels of South Africa's DAFF ready for deployment in September; Sri Lanka's H&M Shipping Services to provide logistics in the Indian Ocean region; Sri Lanka and Maldives discuss areas of bilateral cooperation; Coastal security strengthened to counter entry of Somali extremists to Yemen**

A new boat deal between Australia and Indonesia will be signed in September 2012 and legally enable Australian patrol boats to rescue asylum seekers whose boats capsize in Indonesian waters. This was confirmed by Indonesia's defence minister, Purnomo Yusgiantoro. If the reform deal goes through, it would permit Australian authorities to enter Indonesian search and rescue zones without requiring any special permission from the local authorities. Australian patrol boats are currently operating freely and do not require rules or guidelines to oversee their rescue patrols in the Indonesian waters.<sup>1</sup>

Responding to a distress call relayed by the Australian authorities, the Singaporean merchant vessel, *MV Parsifal* intercepted a boat of asylum-seekers off the Indonesian island of Java and picked up 67 of them. Canberra's home affairs minister, Jason Clare said that the captain of the

ship had intended to sail towards Singapore but the asylum-seekers insisted that they be taken to Australia's Christmas Island.<sup>2</sup>

According to reports, Australia will provide \$2 million to fight piracy in the Indian Ocean and to strengthen the rule of law in regional states. This brings Australia's total assistance for regional counter-piracy efforts to more than \$4.3 million since 2009.<sup>3</sup>

In early August, India's Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Nirmal Verma announced that despite major policy statements from the US regarding the shift in its strategic focus to China, India's priority remains the Indian Ocean. The CNS added that India will cooperate with China especially in anti-piracy patrols off West Asia, where Indian and Chinese navies coordinate their patrolling with the Japanese.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Australia and Indonesia to sign boat deal", *The Australian*, August 1, 2012 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/australia-and-indonesia-to-sign-boat-deal/story-fn3dxiwe-1226440064495>

<sup>2</sup> "Asylum-seekers 'force' Singapore ship to Australia", *Bangkok Post*, August 16, 2012 at <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/307911/asylum-seekers-force-singapore-ship-to-australia>

<sup>3</sup> "Australia provides \$2m to fight piracy", *The Australian*, August 10, 2012 at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/australia-provides-2m-to-fight-piracy/story-fn3dxiwe-1226447255441>

<sup>4</sup> "Navy chief says Indian Ocean is priority, not South China Sea", *Business Standard*, August 08, 2012 at <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/navy-chief-says-indian-ocean-is-priority-not-south-china-sea/482661/>



In other developments, India will soon launch its first indigenous nuclear submarine, *INS Aribant* which will be capable of firing ballistic missiles. With the submarine becoming operational, India will complete its 'nuclear triad' and its maritime and nuclear doctrines will be aligned to ensure 'nuclear insurance' from the seas.<sup>5</sup>

Meanwhile, India's US-made strategic multi-mission maritime aircraft, P8-I is gearing up for its final test flight before it is launched. The aircraft will enhance the Indian navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities. The first batch of the P8-I aircrafts is expected to be delivered to India by the next year and will be stationed in Arakonam.<sup>6</sup>

According to reports, foreign ministers of India and Pakistan will soon meet to discuss the creation of a mechanism to avoid high sea standoffs. A direct communication system is likely to be established for linking senior Pakistani naval officials with their Indian counter-parts. With China keen on expanding its naval operations in the Indian Ocean region, the Indian navy is also planning to meet its Chinese counterparts along similar lines.<sup>7</sup>

In Kenya, seven Somali pirates have been sentenced to 20 years each by a Mombasa court. The pirates were arrested in October 2009 off the

Gulf of Aden by Danish naval forces and handed over to the Kenyan authorities for prosecution. The first group of pirates had earlier been imprisoned for seven years, in 2006.<sup>8</sup>

The Kenyan Maritime Authority (KMA) director, Nancy Karigithu has said that licencing of vessels operating in the Kenyan waters will improve maritime safety and security. She urged ship owners and boat operators to ensure that their vessels are inspected and licenced. The regulation applies to ships with a length of more than 24 metres and weighing less than 300 tonnes. Speaking during the first KMA Rapid Results Initiative celebration in Mombasa, she said that the Authority is focused on improving operational safety in the Kenyan waters.<sup>9</sup>

A ceremony on August 13, 2012 marked the start of the construction of the Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecution and Intelligence Coordination Centre (RAPPIC) at Bois de Rose, the former coastguard base of the Seychelles. The project was initiated in February 2012 as per a Memorandum of Understanding when Seychelles' President, James Michel was invited by the British government to the London Conference on Somalia.<sup>10</sup>

In South Africa, three patrol vessels of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) will be deployed in September

<sup>5</sup> "India to launch nuclear submarine in arms race", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, August 11, 2012 at <http://www.smh.com.au/world/india-to-launch-nuclear-submarine-in-arms-race-20120810-23zxh.html>

<sup>6</sup> "India's US-made strategic naval aircraft prepares for launch", *Deccan Chronicle*, August 05, 2012 at <http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/nation/north/indias-us-made-strategic-naval-aircraft-prepares-launch-759>

<sup>7</sup> "India and Pakistan to hold discussions, to avert high sea conflicts", *Pakistan Defence*, August 08, 2012 at <http://www.defence.pk/india-pakistan-hold-discussions-avert-high-sea-conflicts-899/>

<sup>8</sup> "Somali pirates get 20 years behind bars", *The Star*, August 09, 2012 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/local/coast/88789-somali-pirates-get-20-years-behind-bars>

<sup>9</sup> "Vessel licencing to boost security", *The Star*, August 24, 2012 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/local/coast/91074-vessel-licencing-will-boost-security-in-waters-kma>

<sup>10</sup> "Work starts on new anti-piracy centre in Seychelles", *Seychelles Nation Online*, August 14, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=28464>

2012. According to the South African navy, the patrol vessel, *SAS Victoria Mxenge* was conducting sea trials in False Bay, while the research vessel, *SAS Lillian Ngoyi* was in the process of getting its engines fixed before deployment. The research vessel, *SAS Ellen Khuzwayo* was awaiting a fishing crew before deployment. The navy said that bridging training courses were being conducted to familiarise sailors with the specialised equipment on board the vessels.<sup>11</sup>

Mercantile Shipping Services Limited of Sri Lanka set up a new company, H&M Shipping Services Private Limited to provide logistical support to ships sailing in the Gulf region and the Indian Ocean in view of the growing attacks by sea pirates on ships in these regions. It will operate from Galle Harbour and provide services such as transportation of crew, security personnel and other logistics for ships in need of such services. The company also established a joint venture with Hemas Transportation Limited in which both parties have equal stakes.<sup>12</sup>

According to reports, Sri Lanka and the Maldives agreed to extend and strengthen bilateral

cooperation in areas such as human resource development, defence and security and protection of resources and sea lanes in the Indian Ocean. Assuring that close ties between the two countries in areas like tourism, health, fisheries, and youth affairs would continue to grow, Maldivian President, Mohamed Waheed Hassan Manik requested Sri Lanka's continued assistance in maritime security, strengthening coast guard activities, marine engineering and in the training of air traffic control personnel. The Maldivian leader also sought Sri Lankan assistance for training police personnel, special forces units and squadrons by the Sri Lankan navy.<sup>13</sup>

In Yemen, the coastal forces have increased security along the Gulf of Aden to counter Somali extremists aiming to enter Yemen to support Ansar al-Sharia, an Al-Qaeda-affiliated group in the country. Coastal forces have intensified patrols and inspection of boats arriving from African nations, in response to an announcement by Somalia-based Islamist groups that fighters would be sent to Yemen to support Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. This pledge came following strikes against Al-Qaeda by the Yemeni military.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> "DAFF research vessels ready to sail next month", *Defence web*, August 28, 2012 at [http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=27434:daff-research-vessels-ready-to-sail-next-month&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27434:daff-research-vessels-ready-to-sail-next-month&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106)

<sup>12</sup> "Sri Lankan firm finds a new business opportunity emerging owing to pirate attacks on ships", *News 360*, August 13, 2012 at <http://www.news360.lk/business-finance/news-shipping-sri-lankan-13-08-2012-firm-finds-a-new-business-opportunity-emerging-owing-to-pirate-attacks-on-ships-778695>

<sup>13</sup> "Sri Lanka, Maldives agree to extend and strengthen bilateral cooperation", *Colombo Page*, August 23, 2012 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_12A/Aug23\\_1345738584CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug23_1345738584CH.php)

<sup>14</sup> "Coastal security procedures uptick to stave off Somali extremists to Yemen", *Yemen Times*, August 13, 2012 at <http://www.yementimes.com/en/1598/news/1261/Coastal-security-procedures-uptick-to-stave-off-Somali-extremists-to-Yemen.htm>

## Trade and Investment Facilitation

**Bangladesh's shipping industry sees export boom; India weighs investment in Chabahar port for direct access to Central Asia; India resumes shipping of Iranian oil; Kenya invites tenders for new deep sea Lamu harbour, US expects to complete exploration in the Lamu basin by October; Seychelles and Mauritius establish commission to manage joint zone; Dubai-based company announces Far East-Gulf Express service; UAE National Transport Authority to support Dubai Maritime Week**

For a country that was known as a “shipbreaking nation”, Bangladesh is now exporting small and medium-sized ships to the European market. The country's shipping yards have been manufacturing and exporting ferries, cargo vessels and multi-purpose ships worth \$500 million since 2008. The shipping industry aims to get orders worth more than \$2 billion in the next five years which will in turn lead to the creation of thousands of jobs.<sup>15</sup>

India is considering three different investment options in Iran's Chabahar port that would serve as a gateway to Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan. Chabahar port could also facilitate import of minerals from Afghanistan. Following a visit by an Indian Ports Association team, a shipping ministry official said that three options for investment were submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs - to construct and operate a multi-purpose cargo berth costing \$20 million, to build a container terminal at a cost of \$30 million and to develop a bigger container terminal at a cost of \$65 million.<sup>16</sup>

According to India's Mercator shipping, the first Indian ship to carry Iranian crude oil since European sanctions were imposed on Iranian oil trade, was loaded on August 13, 2012. The ship carried around 85,000 metric tons of crude for a government refiner. The Indian government has urged government insurers to offer coverage for Indian tankers that carry Iranian import as government-backed insurance only covers up to \$100 million which is inadequate.<sup>17</sup>

The Kenyan Ports Authority has issued tenders for the design and construction of the first three berths of the planned new deep sea harbour of Lamu. Other related infrastructure is also said to be part of the tender that is now available for domestic, regional, and international bidding as rail, besides and alongside improved roads and highways, will be the key to exploiting Eastern Africa's full economic potential.<sup>18</sup> Meanwhile, Apache Corporation, a US oil and gas explorer estimates that it will successfully drill to the

<sup>15</sup> “Bangladesh shipbuilding goes for export growth”, *BBC News*, August 20, 2012 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-19315841>

<sup>16</sup> “India eyeing Iran's Chabahar port for direct access to Central Asia”, *The Times of India*, August 26, 2012 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-26/india/33401506\\_1\\_direct-access-iran-s-chabahar-indian-ports-association](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-26/india/33401506_1_direct-access-iran-s-chabahar-indian-ports-association)

<sup>17</sup> “Insurance plan lets India resume shipping Iran oil”, *Yahoo News*, August 13, 2012 at <http://news.yahoo.com/insurance-plan-lets-india-resume-shipping-iran-oil-154747549—finance.html>

<sup>18</sup> “Kenya issues bid invitations for new deep-sea berths in Lamu”, *eTN*, August 02, 2012 at <http://www.eturbonews.com/30468/kenya-issues-bid-invitations-new-deep-sea-berths-lamu>

targeted 3,250 metres depth at the Mbawa1 Prospect in the offshore block, L8 within Lamu basin by mid-October 2012. It has already drilled 1519 metres below the ground since the exercise started on August 10, 2012.<sup>19</sup>

According to reports, Seychelles and Mauritius have established a commission to manage the world's largest offshore joint management zone measuring 400,000 square kilometres of continental shelf. This will enable both countries to jointly regulate seabed activities, including the exploration of petroleum and minerals, as well as the conservation and management of living resources of the seabed.<sup>20</sup>

Separately, a Dubai-based company, Emirates Shipping Line announced a new service that will link the Far East directly to Middle Eastern ports,

with three sailings per week. The first sailing of the Far East-Gulf Express Service will begin on September 3, 2012 and the unique new service will link Korea, central and south China directly to the major Middle Eastern ports of Dammam, Saudi Arabia and Jebel Ali, UAE.<sup>21</sup>

In other developments, the National Transport Authority (NTA) of the UAE has announced that it will support the first-ever Dubai Maritime Week to be held in November 2012. The event is jointly organised by several elements of the Dubai Government and will host several maritime industry-related conferences, panel discussions, forums and other activities, in addition to celebrations of Dubai's maritime heritage. The NTA hopes that the event will strengthen the UAE's position as a regional and global trade and economic hub.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> "Oil search in the Indian Ocean gets underway", *Energy Tribune*, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/11439/Oil-Search-In-The-Indian-Ocean-Gets-Underway>

<sup>20</sup> "Seychelles and Mauritius establish commission to manage world's largest offshore joint zone", *The Commonwealth*, August 23, 2012 at <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/34580/249320/230812jointzone.htm>

<sup>21</sup> "UAE: Emirates Announces Far East – Gulf Express Service", *World Maritime News*, August 22, 2012 at <http://worldmaritimeneeds.com/archives/63714>

<sup>22</sup> "National Transport Authority backs Dubai Maritime Week", *Gulf News*, August 27, 2012 at <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/general/national-transport-authority-backs-dubai-maritime-week-1.1066704>



## Fisheries Management

**Depleting fish wealth could derail the Bay of Bengal marine ecosystem project; Kenyan Fisheries Institute plans to help fishermen with technology to increase their catch; Catches of Mauritian fishermen decline due to EU vessels; Mozambique expecting high fish production, seeks investment**

An ambitious Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem project which envisages strengthening and improving the livelihood of fishermen in India and Sri Lanka could be derailed due to the frequent stand-off between the Tamil Nadu fishermen and the Sri Lankan navy. The root cause of the problems between the fishermen of both the countries is the depletion in fish wealth and the deteriorating quality of catch over the last decade.<sup>23</sup>

The Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute plans to use satellite information to identify potential fishing zones to enable coastal fishermen increase their catch. This follows the upgrading of the satellite station at the headquarters as part of the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development project. The Kemfri plans to provide fishermen with fishing zone charts showing temperature fronts to help reduce search time for fish and

increase the catch with lesser effort.<sup>24</sup>

Mauritian fishermen who now have to compete with modern EU fishing boats say that their catch has gone down by 50 to 60 per cent. According to the fishermen, an agreement between the EU and Mauritius allows European vessels to catch 5,500 tonnes of fish a year for three years making the situation worse for them. In addition, pollution and tourist activity have reduced the fish catch in the lagoons of Mauritius over the past few years.<sup>25</sup>

Mozambique may produce around 200,000 tons of a variety of fish in 2012 as compared to 120,000 tons in 2010. The Mozambique fisheries minister, Victor Borges said that the government is seeking investments to drive the fish processing industry in the country. He told that the government has also planned to increase shrimp production by promoting aquaculture.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> “TN sailors fish in troubled waters”, *The Pioneer*, August 28, 2012 at <http://www.dailypioneer.com/home/online-channel/360-todays-newspaper/90471-tn-sailors-fish-in-troubled-waters.html>

<sup>24</sup> “Kemfri to increase coast fishing spots”, *The Star*, August 15, 2012 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/local/coast/89659-kemfri-to-identify-fishing-zones-for-fishermen>

<sup>25</sup> “Mauritian fishers want EU vessels out of their seas”, *IPS News Agency*, August 09, 2012 at <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/08/mauritian-fishers-want-eu-vessels-out-of-their-seas/>

<sup>26</sup> “Mozambique’s Fisheries Ministry expects production of 200,000 tons”, *Macau Hub*, August 21, 2012 at <http://www.thefishsite.com/fishnews/18020/production-of-200000-tons-of-fish-expected>

## Disaster Risk Management

**Australian navy faces increasing pressure from asylum seekers, government to deport new asylum seekers to Nauru or Papua New Guinea; Seychelles plans to provide shelter for stranded seafarers; Navies from South Africa and Germany held a disaster relief exercise**

In the last week of August, Australian rescue officials ended their search for nearly 100 asylum seekers from Indonesia who went missing after their overcrowded boat sank en route to Australia. Fifty-five survivors were rescued and one body was recovered. The Australian government announced that it plans to deter future arrivals by deporting new asylum seekers to Nauru or Papua New Guinea where they will be held in camps. The month of August recorded more than 1,900 asylum seekers arriving in Australia, the highest on record.<sup>27</sup> Earlier in August, the immigration minister, Chris Bowen said that rescuing asylum seekers was putting increasing operational pressure on the navy.<sup>28</sup>

According to reports, the Apostolat de la Mer, an organisation concerned with the welfare of seafarers, has received the support of the Seychelles Ports Authority to build a centre which

will cater to stranded seafarers. In the past, when such incidents occurred, seafarers had to stay on board their boats which was not always possible. The new centre will provide them refuge until they are united with their families.<sup>29</sup>

In order to prepare for rendering humanitarian assistance at short notice, the South African and German navies held a disaster exercise at SAS Simonsberg, the Simon's Town Naval Base. The South African navy's Operational Sea Training Team and the German Naval Sea Training Team simulated an exercise where the South African Navy had to render humanitarian and evacuation assistance to a small coastal community that was hit by a militant guerrilla attack. The navy said that the priority in this scenario was to save lives, stabilise and secure the area and evacuate as many people as possible.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> "Australia ends search for missing asylum seekers", *ABC News*, August 31, 2012 at <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/rush-asylum-seekers-australian-crackdown-17121172#.UEWFZ8FDwg2>

<sup>28</sup> "Boats up pressure on navy", *The Sydney Morning Herald*, August 11, 2012 at <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/political-news/boats-up-pressure-on-navy-20120810-23zy2.html>

<sup>29</sup> "Ports authority pledges support for seafarers", *Seychelles Nation Online*, August 17, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=28498>

<sup>30</sup> "SA and German navies cooperate in relief exercise", *Defenceweb*, August 24, 2012 at [http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=27396:sa-and-german-navies-cooperate-in-relief-exercise&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=27396:sa-and-german-navies-cooperate-in-relief-exercise&catid=51:Sea&Itemid=106)

## Science and Technology & Academic Cooperation

**India conducts survey for strategic minerals in Indian Ocean, sets up rare-earth mineral processing plant in Orissa; Sri Lanka and Seychelles call for protecting maritime resources in the Indian Ocean; Western Indian Ocean states' discuss challenges that threaten large marine ecosystems**

Keeping pace with China's expanding footprint in the Indian Ocean, India's Earth Sciences Ministry will undertake surveys for strategic metals on the southern Indian Ocean seabed before approaching the International Seabed Authority for a mandate to explore for metals in the south west Indian Range.<sup>31</sup> In other developments, India is building a rare-earth mineral processing plant in Orissa and is spending around \$135 million on a new exploration ship and for retooling another for sophisticated deep-water exploration.<sup>32</sup>

Sri Lanka and Seychelles agreed on the need to form a circle of Indian Ocean island states to protect maritime resources in the Indian Ocean that is shared by both countries. Discussing issues of mutual interest with his Sri Lankan counterpart, Mahinda Rajapaksa, the visiting President of Seychelles, James Michel underscored the need to pool the experience and knowledge on Indian Ocean affairs. Welcoming the

suggestion, President Rajapaksa said that the countries along the Indian Ocean should not let others exploit the resources of the Ocean. Both leaders signed three Memorandums of Understanding and an agreement in the fields of health, education and training, labour cooperation and manpower.<sup>33</sup>

According to reports, high-level government officials from countries of the western Indian Ocean –Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Somalia, Comoros, France (through Reunion) and Seychelles – held a policy advisory meeting to deliberate on challenges that threaten the large marine ecosystem. The states are aiming for a strategic action programme to set out a long-term commitment to sustainable management of the marine ecosystem. It is for the first time that senior officials from the region are deliberating on issues related to large marine ecosystems of the western Indian Ocean region.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> "Dragon-wary India fishes for metal", *Hindustan Times*, August 19, 2012 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Dragon-wary-India-fishes-for-metal/Article1-916375.aspx>

<sup>32</sup> "India joins deep sea mining race", *The Guardian*, August 30, 2012 at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/aug/30/india-mining?newsfeed=true>

<sup>33</sup> "Sri Lanka, Seychelles agree to protect maritime resources in the region, sign three MoUs", *Colombo Page*, August 21, 2012 at [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_12A/Aug21\\_1345558257CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Aug21_1345558257CH.php)

<sup>34</sup> "Western Indian Ocean states discuss 'blue economy', challenges and threats", *Seychelles Nation Online*, August 14, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=28465>

## Tourism

### Mauritius' tourism industry hit by euro zone crisis; Abu Dhabi to host international hunting & equestrian exhibition in September

The economy of Mauritius is likely to grow slower than expected in 2012 as the economic crisis in Europe has affected its tourism industry. The debt crisis in the euro zone has dampened demand for Mauritian exports and has slowed tourist arrivals to the island. The country's \$10 billion annual economy is largely dependent on exports and tourism.<sup>35</sup>

The Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority in cooperation with the Emirates Falconers' Club,

will host the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition (ADIHEX) from September 5 to September 8, 2012. The ADIHEX will showcase state-of-the-art products associated with marine and outdoor sports, hunting weapons, falconry, and equestrian sports. Exhibitors of antiques and traditional and contemporary arts will also participate. ADIHEX aims to promote interest in the fishing and maritime sector.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> "Euro crisis reached Mauritius as economy to grow more slowly than expected", *The Economic Times*, August 10, 2012 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-08-10/news/33137559\\_1\\_euro-zone-tourist-arrivals-cushion-exporters](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-08-10/news/33137559_1_euro-zone-tourist-arrivals-cushion-exporters)

<sup>36</sup> "ADIHEX 2012 to draw high marine sector participation", *UAE Interact*, August 30, 2012 at <http://www.uaeinteract.com/docs/ADIHEX-2012-to-draw-high-marine-sector-participation-/50954.htm>



## Upcoming Events

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

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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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