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- Helping fruit producers export to the European Union
- Ewa, the subsidiary of the aviation company of Reunion island, Air Austral will land at Moroni

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- 'General Rate Increase' by COSCO on the Far East to South Africa trade
- New developments planned at the port of Oran
- MSC will introduce a 'General Rate Increase' on cargo from the Far East to West Africa



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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

New daily flight between Paris and Jakarta as from the 30th March 2014

As from the 30th March 2014, Air France will schedule a new service, a daily flight to Jakarta. The Boeing 777-300 of Air France taking off from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport to Singapore, will pursue its route to Jakarta. The future AF 254 flight will leave Paris every day at 19 h 55, arrive in Singapore at 14 h 50 the next day before reaching Jakarta at 17 h 20. The return flight will take off from Jakarta at 20 h 10, land in Singapore at 23 h 00 and the following day, it will arrive at Paris-Charles de Gaulle at 7 h 50.

84 million euros of operational losses for Air France-KLM cargo division

The cargo division of Air France-KLM has recorded operating losses of 84 million euros during the third quarter of 2013 while revenues amounted to 687 million euros, a 9.4% drop compared to the same period of last year. Air France-KLM attributed these financial results to the global economic slowdown and cargo overcapacity.

CMA CGM has entered into a strategic partnership with IT company SAP

CMA CGM has entered into a strategic partnership with IT company SAP to develop a global system to manage every step of freight management, from the yards, ports and on board vessels, to transport, transshipment and discharge.



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INDIA

Yamaha will invest 15 billion Indian rupees in a manufacturing plant in Chennai

The Japanese manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, Yamaha will delay by one year, the construction of its new plant in Chennai owing to economic slowdown.

A total of 15 billion Indian rupees will be invested. The construction works will be completed by early 2015. The new plant will have an initial annual production capacity of 450 000 before reaching 1 800 000 units in year 2018, Yamaha will develop scooter models specifically for the Indian market.

Stronger economic relationships between India and China

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has invited firms from China to invest in the manufacturing and infrastructure fields in India. He also called for Indian IT and pharmaceutical firms to gain market access to China.

He added that both countries need to secure their supplies of energy and can also work together to strengthen their capacity to meet the challenge of food security. He also encouraged both countries to promote joint research in agriculture and related activities.

India is a priority for Marks & Spencer

British clothing retailer Marks & Spencer will make India its biggest foreign market, by increasing its number of stores in that country from 36 now to 80 by year 2016. India's apparel market is currently worth US \$ 38 billion a year.



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MADAGASCAR

A total of 17 500 tons of litchis will be exported this year

The first batch of litchis was exported from Madagascar on the 7th November before the official harvest campaign which starts on the 18th November and will close by the 8th December before the rainy season which prevents the processing of litchis with sulphur.

A total of 17 500 tons will be exported this year, most of them by sea and about 200 tons will be air-lifted. A limited quantity of litchis will be exported this year so as to stabilise its selling price. Furthermore, the roads linking the litchis fields located at Foulpointe and the port of Toamasina, have been revamped.

Madagascar ranked at the 148th place by the World Bank

In its report on 'Doing business 2014', the World Bank has ranked Madagascar at the 148th place out of a total of 189 countries.

The cost of registering a new enterprise has recently doubled from 20 000 to 40 000 ariary but several improvements have been noted such as the ease of paying taxes through the introduction of an online system and a reduction in the tax level applied on companies.

New planes for Air Madagascar

Air Madagascar will renew its fleet of planes in 2014/ 15 as its current planes are becoming obsolete with a relatively high consumption of fuel and rising maintenance costs compared to the latest models.



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MAURITIUS

Cargo and freeport facilities to be extended at the airport

The state-owned company Airports of Mauritius Ltd will invest Rs 525 million to extend the cargo and freeport facilities at the airport over a surface area of 72 hectares. The project will be completed by July 2014. In addition, a hotel will be constructed at the airport to pave the way to an Aviation Hub.

Major developments at the port

In 2014, Rs 3.2 billion will be invested in port development and a further Rs 2.3 billion during the following two years.

The quay at the Mauritius Container Terminal will be extended and the navigation channel will be deepened to accommodate 3rd generation container vessels. Furthermore, a cruise terminal building will be erected, the Multi-Purpose Terminal will be upgraded and access roads at Fort William will be constructed.

Rs 865.89 million to be invested in several projects

The government plans to invest Rs 865.89 million in several major projects. In the health sector, two additional wards will be constructed at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and two blocks at Flacq Hospital. On the cultural front, a stand-alone planetarium will be built in the village of Pamplemousses. In addition, the galleries of the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre will be extended.



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MOZAMBIQUE

Around 133 million US dollars invested in rehabilitation works of 2 electric power stations

The generating capacity of the electric power stations of Chicamba and Mavuzi situated in the central province of Manica, will be increased from 63 to 86 megawatts. The rehabilitation will require around 133 million US dollars. The Mavuzi power station is 65 years old and that of Mavuzi, 46 years.

The works will take about two and a half years, and will be undertaken by a Franco-Norwegian consortium led by the companies Cegelec, Rainpower and HydroKast.

International Monetary Fund expects 8.3% growth rate for Mozambique in 2014

A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited Mozambique during 2 weeks last month. According to the IMF, the growth rate of Mozambique will attain 7% this year and rise to 8.3% in 2014 due to the increasing activities in the extractive industries, financial services, transport and communications. Moreover, the IMF expects a sustained increase in imports due to the large investment projects.

Hapag-Lloyd has stopped its Mozambique feeder service

Shipping company Hapag-Lloyd has stopped since the end of October its feeder service from the port of Durban to Maputo, Beira, Nacala, and vice-versa.

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REUNION ISLAND

Air Austral becomes profitable again

After seven consecutive semesters of financial losses, Marie-Joseph Malé, the director general of Air Austral, the air carrier of Reunion Island, announced positive financial results for the period from the 1st April to the 30th September 2013, with profits of 9.27 million euros generated.

The turnover amounted to 186 million during these six months. Air Austral has reaped the benefits of a favourable rate of exchange of the euro compared to the United States dollar as well as a 5% drop in the price of fuel which accounts for 30% of the company's expenses.

Helping fruit producers export to the European Union

A fund of 450 000 euros for this year, has been allocated to 3 producers of fruits specialised in the export to the European Union of pineapples, mangos and litchis.

This state fund aims at helping producers lower their freight expenses.

Ewa, the subsidiary of the aviation company of Reunion island, Air Austral will land at Moroni

The Ministry of Transport of Comoros island has given the authorisation to Ewa, a subsidiary of Air Austral, to land at Moroni as from the 17th November. An ATR72 500 plane will link Moroni and Nosy Be (Madagascar) twice a week.

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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

'General Rate Increase' by COSCO on the Far East to South Africa trade

The Chinese shipping company COSCO Container Line has applied since the 1st November, a 'General Rate Increase' on all shipments transported from Far East countries to South Africa. The 'General Rate Increase' amounts to 300 US dollars per TEU.

New developments planned at the port of Oran

Algeria's second port, Oran will invest US \$ 140 million in the first phase of a dedicated container terminal. A quay of 500 m and a storage area with an annual handling capacity of 500 000 containers, will be erected. The works will start next year and are expected to be completed in three years' time.

The second phase of the developments at the port of Oran, will require investments of around US \$ 620 million. A second quay 900 m long is planned and the storage area will be extended to raise the container handling capacity to 1.5 million containers per year.

MSC will introduce a 'General Rate Increase' on cargo from the Far East to West Africa

MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company) has announced that it will introduce as from the 15th December, a 'General Rate Increase' of 150 US dollars per 20 feet container and of 300 US dollars on each 40 feet container moving from the Far East to West Africa (including Angola).