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15/4/2014

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LATEST LOGISTICS AND FORWARDING NEWS

FRANCE

A bright future for Eurotunnel and its rail freight subsidiary, Europorte

The future looks bright for Eurotunnel and its rail freight subsidiary, Europorte. On the trade route between France and the United Kingdom, the competing ferry companies will be at a disadvantage in the near future. They will be faced with additional costs due to the introduction of the new MARPOL environmental regulations for vessels. These new regulations make provision for a 10-fold reduction in sulphur emissions. Eurotunnel is expecting the number of trucks transported to increase from around 1.5 million per year now to more than 2 million by year 2020.

3 flights per week by Air France between Paris and Brasilia

Since the 31st March, Air France has a third destination in Brazil after Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. The French air carrier takes off at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport, three times a week (on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to land at Brasilia airport. The flights are on board a Boeing 777-200 plane which has a capacity of 5 330 cubic feet of cargo.

GRI on dry cargo from North Europe to the Indian sub-continent

As from the 1st May 2014, the French shipping line CMA CGM will apply a 'General Rate Increase' of US \$ 200 per TEU on dry cargo from North Europe to the Indian sub-continent (India and Pakistan).



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INDIA

Atul Auto will invest Rs 1 billion to set up a new factory

The 3-wheeler manufacturer Atul Auto will invest Rs 1 billion to set up a new factory near Ahmedabad with a production capacity of 60 000 units per year. Last year, Atul Auto invested Rs 300 million in its existing plant in the region of Rajkot to double its capacity from 24 000 to 48 000 units per annum. Jitendra Adhia, its vice president finance, expects the sales growth to be between 18-20% in 2014. His company exports to several African countries including South Africa.

Strengthening of business relationships between India and Qatar

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has recently organised a forum in Chennai between representatives from different industries of India and a delegation from Qatar. Indian companies are looking to seize business opportunities arising from the FIFA World Cup which be held in 2022 in Qatar. They are interested in developing the infrastructure for this prestigious football competition. Furthermore, the Indian state minister for commerce and industry, E. M. S. Natchiappan, invited Qataris to invest in the forthcoming major infrastructure developments undertaken in India.

Rs. 22.4 billion project to tackle waterlogging problem

The minister of rural development Jairam Ramesh has given his approval to a Rs 22.4 billion project to tackle waterlogging problem in the state of Punjab.



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MADAGASCAR

A delegation from India explored partnership opportunities in Madagascar

A delegation from the Council for the promotion of exportation of pharmaceutical products of India, visited Madagascar recently. The delegates had a meeting with the regulatory authorities and explored commercial opportunities. Bitthal Maheshwari, director of Medicamen Biotech Limited, stated to the press his willingness to establish partnerships with local operators to set up manufacturing plants in Madagascar. The raw materials will be imported from India. More than 60% of generic drugs used in Madagascar come from India.

Customs waived its application note concerning minimum value

The Customs of Madagascar have taken the decision to waive its application note concerning a minimum value to be applied on specific imported products. A minimum value of one dollar was to be applied per kilo on a number of products. The previous system of declaration of value has been reintroduced for the clearing of goods.

Madagascar will be reintegrated in the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)

After a suspension of 5 years, Madagascar will be reintegrated in the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF) due to the restoration of constitutional order. This will help to boost trade between Madagascar and the 60 member countries of OIF especially in West Africa.



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MAURITIUS

Nine projects for Rs 859.65 million

Nine projects have been included in the Public Sector Investment Programme of the government. They will require a total investment of Rs 859.65 million. The projects concern the construction of additional classrooms at Lady Sushil Ramgoolam State Secondary School in the village of Triolet; the building of a training centre for the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development at Petit Bel Air near the village of Mahebourg and the construction of new blocks at Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital; the upgrading of roads at Plaines des Roches and in the neighbouring island of Rodrigues as well as a water storage project at Montagne Fayence.

Heavy forthcoming investments in port handling equipment

The Cargo Handling Corporation intends to invest heavily in new port handling equipment to sustain the increasing productivity levels and to service the bigger vessels up to 11 000 TEU which will be calling at Port-Louis in the near future. Rs 600 million have been ear marked for the purchase and installation of two new ship to shore gantry cranes, Rs 420 million for six rubber tyred gantries, Rs 180 million for the revamping of two old ship to shore cranes.

Extension of the container stacking yard at Port Louis harbour

By next year, the container stacking yard at Port Louis harbour, will be extended by 6.5 hectares. It will be equipped with reefer bridges, floodlight towers and storm water drainage.



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MOZAMBIQUE

A new terminal at the international airport of Pemba

A new terminal has been built at the international airport of Pemba, capital of the northern province of Cabo Delgado. 6.2 million US dollars have been invested. The runway now covers a length of 1 800 m and has a width of 45 m. The freight volume of the mineral resources extracted in Cabo Delgado has been increasing during the last years. The largest aircraft which can land and take off from the international airport of Pemba is the Boeing 737s.

The Ministry of Health of Mozambique has obtained a grant of 85 million US dollars

For the 2014-2016 period, the Ministry of Health of Mozambique has obtained a grant of 85 million US dollars from the 'Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria' so as to boost its fight against malaria. The grant will be used to import insecticides and spray homes with them and to distribute insecticide treated mosquito nets. In 2013, 3.2 million cases of malaria were diagnosed in Mozambique.

Attracting more cargo to the Mozambican rail and port systems

The Minister of transport of Mozambique, Gabriel Muthisse wants the Mozambican rail and port systems to attract more cargo from other countries of the region such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



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REUNION ISLAND

Increase of 18.3% in air freight traffic at Roland Garros airport

According to latest statistics, the volume of freight moving through the airport of Roland Garros in Reunion Island, recorded a 18.3% increase in February 2014 compared to the same period one year ago.

A rise attributed to the growth in the export of fruits and vegetables from Reunion Island as well as the recovery of transshipment activities.

Developing cooperation agreements between companies of Reunion and Comoros Islands

During a recent visit in Reunion Island, Abdou Nassur Madi, the minister for the protection of the environment, of energy, industry and handicraft of Comoros Island, has invited companies of Reunion Island to develop cooperation agreements with those of his island.

He said that partnerships would be favoured especially in the fields of renewable energies, health services, ICT and construction.

Statistics of imports and exports by sea

Last year, 3 480 000 tonnes of goods had been disembarked from vessels at the port of Pointe-des-Galets while only 620 000 tonnes were loaded.



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OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

The P3 alliance has obtained approval from the regulatory authority in the United States

The regulatory body of the United States, the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has given its approval for the vessel-sharing alliance between the top three container lines in the world, Maersk, MSC and CMA CGM.

Although the FMC ruled that the alliance would not be anti-competitive, it will exercise a stricter monitoring than for a standard alliance. The 3 shipping companies told the press that their P3 alliance will enable them to serve the North American markets with competitive and reliable container shipping services. The P3 alliance awaits regulatory review in Europe and Asia.

Hapag-Lloyd sets as target a slight improvement in its average freight rate

The German shipping company Hapag-Lloyd expects the volume of container traffic at global level to increase by 4.4% this year to attain 128 million TEU. However, the introduction of large capacity container ships in the Asia-related trade, will lead to a rise on the supply side, making it difficult for Hapag-Lloyd to increase its freight rates.

MSC will introduce a Bunker Contribution on some routes

MSC will introduce as from May 2014, a Bunker Contribution (BUC) for all cargo between North Europe/ Mediterranean and Southern America west coast, central America and Venezuela ports. The bunker contribution varies between 697 and 797 US dollars per TEU of dry cargo.