

# 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



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES



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**Members:** Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

**Dialogue Partners:** China, Egypt, France, Japan, United Kingdom

**Observers:** IORG, IOTO

### Disclaimer

This newsletter does not reflect the views of IDSA or IOR-ARC. IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.

## Editor's Note

In terms of maritime security, while the number of pirate attacks has dropped over 50 per cent in the first half of 2012, Indian Ocean continues to be a high risk area. The international task forces operating in the Indian Ocean have warned the vessels transiting in the area to remain vigilant. Efforts in dealing with the situation are on. In this regard, an EU Naval Force delegation visited Oman and Seychelles recently. The meeting focussed on cooperation in counter-piracy operations. Meanwhile, Malaysia is the first Asian country to initiate legal trials against Somali pirates. In another interesting development, India's training ship INS Sudarshini has launched a historic voyage to commemorate the two-decade-long partnership with ASEAN member-states and to strengthen naval ties with the South East Asian nations.

A number of inter-regional events were organised in India recently. At the Indian Ocean Global Forum initiative towards enhancing partnership for trade, infrastructure and resource development among the IOR-ARC member states in New Delhi, officials from Seychelles and Mauritius expressed interest in attracting Indian investments to their respective countries. Representatives from several countries within the region participated in the event. In another regional event, heads of archives of IOR-ARC member-countries met in New Delhi to discuss areas of common interest and historic heritage.

During a visit to Muscat, IOR-ARC Secretary General K.V Bhagirath interacted with the Chairman of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The two sides touched upon expanding cooperation between GCC Chambers and the IOR-ARC towards building a strong regional economy. Mozambican President, Armando Guebuza, recently inaugurated the first of its kind fisheries inspection laboratory equipped for international accreditation in the country.

In the field of science and technology, Indonesia is set to launch a satellite for monitoring maritime traffic and disaster mitigation.

**Ruchita Beri**

**Editor**

## Maritime Security

Naval forces have warned Indian Ocean is still dangerous despite a drop in piracy attacks; Bangladesh prevailed upon Malaysia to seek the release of sailors; India to upgrade defence relations with Maldives; Airstrip at Indira Point soon to be in operation; INS Sudarshini to commemorate India-ASEAN relations; Malaysia offers pirates a chance to escape execution; Oman-EU Naval Force pledge cooperation against piracy; EU and Seychelles meet on counter-piracy; Seychelles' maritime authorities to use Long-Range Identification and Tracking system; Singapore-owned oil tanker rescued from pirates off Nigerian coast; Singapore and Indonesia conduct technical discussion on maritime boundaries; Singapore and Australia conduct bilateral maritime exercise; Sweden offers Saab 340 MSA for South Africa's maritime surveillance; Sri Lanka and Japan discuss maritime issues; US and IMO help Tanzania install a coastal surveillance system

The international anti-piracy naval task forces operating in the Indian Ocean have asked shippers to continue with their high security measures, despite the over 50 per cent drop in the number of pirate attacks in the first half of 2012. The forces have also warned that as many as 191 crew members from up to 14 merchant vessels and fishing boats are still being held. The European Union Naval Force Somalia, NATO and Combined Task Force 151 (CTF 151) have called on international navies and all merchant vessels transiting the High Risk Area to remain vigilant and uphold their respective responsibilities to support the fight against piracy.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, efforts are on in Dhaka to seek the release of those sailors who were taken hostage by Somali pirates two years ago from a Malaysian ship, MV Albedo, in the Indian Ocean. The Bangladeshi department of shipping is taking initiatives to persuade the Malaysian authorities regarding this.<sup>2</sup>

India will upgrade its defence relations with Maldives by posting a defence attaché in Male. During talks between the Indian Defence Minister, A K Antony and his Maldives counterpart, Col (Retd) Mohamed Nazim, India has conveyed its support for the construction of the Maldivian National Defence Force building. In addition, India will position an Indian Navy team in the country for one year to help in the smooth functioning and operations of the Maldives' fleet and train their personnel for future maintenance operations. India will also extend the deployment of its ALH Dhruv helicopter by two more years.<sup>3</sup>

According to reports, India will soon operate a strategic airstrip at Indira Point, the country's southern-most point, to cope with future developments in the Indian Ocean region. The airstrip is likely to enhance the armed forces' assets outside the mainland.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Naval forces warn Indian Ocean still dangerous", *Global Times*, September 4, 2012, at <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/730969.shtml>

<sup>2</sup> "Dhaka in fresh push for release of sailors", *Gulf Times*, September 16, 2012 at [http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=531316&version=1&template\\_id=44&parent\\_id=24](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=531316&version=1&template_id=44&parent_id=24)

<sup>3</sup> "Indian attaché in Male to bolster defence ties", *Daily Pioneer*, September 17, 2012 at <http://www.dailypioneer.com/nation/95021-indian-attache-in-male-to-bolster-defence-ties.html>

<sup>4</sup> "Strategic airstrip to come up at Indira Point soon", *Deccan Herald*, September 25, 2012 at <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/281168/strategic-airstrip-come-up-indira.html>

In September, India's training ship, INS Sudarshini, set sail on a historic voyage for a period of six months to commemorate India's two-decade-long partnership with member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and 10 years of summit-level partnership between India and the ASEAN. The ship will cover 12,000 nautical miles and visit 13 ports.<sup>5</sup> In order to strengthen navy-to-navy ties with ASEAN countries, the voyage includes interactions with international trainees who will embark on-board in different legs of the voyage.<sup>6</sup>

Somali pirate suspects arrested in Malaysia last year have been given the chance to admit to lesser crimes in order to escape execution. Seven Somali pirates were charged with firing at the Malaysian armed forces in the process of committing a robbery in January 2011. Malaysia is the first Asian country to have intercepted these pirates in legal trials in the wake of growing countermoves to clamp down on piracy around the world.<sup>7</sup>

The Force Commander of the EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR), Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, met with the Deputy Commander of the Omani Southern Naval Area and other local authorities during a visit by the EU NAVFOR flagship to Salalah, Oman on September 1, 2012. Meetings between the two sides focused on cooperation between EU NAVFOR and Oman's

maritime authorities in counter-piracy operations as part of Operation Atalanta, the EU mission that aims to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia.<sup>8</sup>

Meanwhile, Rear Admiral Duncan Potts, Operation Commander of the EU NAVFOR met President James Michel of Seychelles on September 18, 2012. They discussed the progress made over the last three years in terms of the coordinated approach being used in the fight against piracy and the reduction in the number of piracy incidents this year. They also discussed the success of anti-piracy efforts and political progress that has taken place following the London Conference on Somalia held in February 2012. The President reiterated Seychelles' commitment concerning the prosecution of suspected pirates. Admiral Potts reassured the European Union's commitment to prevent and deter piracy in the High Risk Area, which included the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone.<sup>9</sup>

The Seychelles Maritime and Safety Administration and other local authorities dealing with maritime issues will now be able to better track Seychelles-flagged vessels with the Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) technology. Although LRIT is not new to Seychelles, it was not being used to its full potential.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> "Navy Chief flags off sailing vessel on historic voyage", *The Hindu*, September 16, 2012 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/article3903733.ece>

<sup>6</sup> "INS Sudarshini on six-month long voyage to Asean countries", *Economic Times*, September 13, 2012 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-13/news/33817176\\_1\\_asean-countries-ship-asean-region](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-13/news/33817176_1_asean-countries-ship-asean-region)

<sup>7</sup> "Malaysia offers pirate suspects no execution plea bargain", *AFP*, September 12, 2012 at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jzPeXNCjBSwXOaD82DiftcPri3dQ?docId=CNG.92f8e882d0cac04a70810207085ab1e2.591>

<sup>8</sup> "EU naval force flagship commander welcomes cooperation with Omani authorities to fight piracy", *EUNAVFOR*, September 3, 2012 at <http://www.eunavfor.eu/2012/09/eu-naval-force-flagship-commander-welcomes-cooperation-with-omani-authorities-to-fight-piracy/>

<sup>9</sup> "European Union naval force and Seychelles reinforce counter-piracy commitment", *EU NAVFOR Somalia*, September 20, 2012, at <http://www.eunavfor.eu/2012/09/european-union-naval-force-and-seychelles-reinforce-counter-piracy-commitment/>

<sup>10</sup> "Maritime authorities learn how to better track ships with new technology", *Seychelles Nation*, September 3, 2012, at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=28670>

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore reported that the Singapore-owned oil tanker which was hijacked by pirates off the coast of Nigeria on September 4, 2012 was successfully rescued. It added that the 23 crew members on board the vessel were also safe.<sup>11</sup>

Singapore and Indonesia conducted another round of technical discussions on maritime boundaries on September 17 and 18, 2012 in the eastern part of the Strait of Singapore. The meetings in Surabaya focused on terms of reference and related issues on the sea boundary in the area. Singapore's Foreign Ministry said that the heads of both the delegations acknowledged that the progress would contribute to boosting bilateral ties.<sup>12</sup>

The Republic of Singapore Navy and the Royal Australian Navy conducted a bilateral maritime exercise, Exercise Singaroo, from September 16 to 19, 2012. The four-day exercise was held off the coast of Darwin where both navies conducted maritime security drills, as well as conventional warfare drills against aerial, surface and underwater threats. Exercise Singaroo is the 16th in the series and aims to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding between the two navies.<sup>13</sup>

Swedish Aerospace and defence group, Saab offered its Saab 340 maritime security aircraft for South Africa's maritime surveillance requirements. The cost of the aircraft was fixed at \$18-million each.<sup>14</sup>

The Sri Lankan Ambassador in Japan, Admiral (retd.) Wasantha Karannagoda, met the Chief of Staff of the Maritime Self Defence Force of the Ministry of Defence of Japan, Admiral Katsutoshi Kawano and discussed maritime issues concerning the two countries. The two dignitaries focused primarily on the vitality of the sea lanes, particularly, on the southernmost part of Sri Lanka and the importance to have stability and security, mostly from pirates. Admiral Kawano expressed the desire to have greater cooperation and interaction with the Sri Lankan navy.<sup>15</sup>

The installation of an integrated radar and Automatic Identification System (AIS) for coastal surveillance was completed in Tanzania on September 17, 2012. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), in partnership with the governments of Tanzania and the United States of America, has spent the last 12 months delivering this system which will provide a coastal picture to both the Tanzanian Peoples' Defence Forces, as well as the civilian authorities at the Dar es Salaam Maritime Rescue Sub-Centre and the integral Information Sharing Centre. Initially conceived as a bi-lateral military project between the United States and the United Republic of Tanzania, IMO joined the project to integrate the system for civil and maritime law-enforcement use in order to bring all maritime agencies together to counter maritime security threats such as piracy that threaten the coast of Tanzania.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>11</sup> "Singapore-owned ship saved after being hijacked off Nigeria", *Channel News Asia*, September 5, 2012, at <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/1224234/1/.html>

<sup>12</sup> "Singapore, Indonesia hold talks on maritime boundaries", *Channel News Asia*, September 18, 2012, at <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/1226742/1/.html>

<sup>13</sup> "Singapore and Australian navies conduct maritime exercise", *Defence Professionals*, September 20, 2012, at <http://www.defpro.com/news/details/39500/?SID=b4d6dbda175a519741a2fd7e574c2e89>

<sup>14</sup> "Swedish group offers SA low-cost alternative for sea surveillance", *Engineering News*, September 20, 2012, at <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/swedish-group-offers-sa-low-cost-alternative-for-sea-surveillance-2012-09-20>

<sup>15</sup> "Ambassador Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda calls on the Navy Chief of Japan Admiral Kawano", *Asian Tribune*, September 19, 2012, at <http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2012/09/18/ambassador-admiral-wasantha-karannagoda-calls-navy-chief-japan-admiral-kawano>

<sup>16</sup> "Tanzania gets maritime security surveillance system", *World Maritime News*, September 18, 2012, at <http://worldmaritimeneeds.com/archives/65580>

## Trade and Investment Facilitation

**Mozambique and Thailand discuss areas of cooperation; Omani official meets IOR-ARC Secretary General; Seychelles, Mauritius invite Indian Investment; Seychelles and Indonesia to cooperate in SMEs; Indian Ocean MoU Committee on port State control meets in South Africa; Sri Lanka and South Africa discuss enhanced trade and investment relations**

Mozambican President, Armando Guebuza and the Thai minister responsible for overseas investment, Nalinee Taveesin, discussed the possible Thai cooperation with Mozambique in hydrocarbons and other areas. The Thai company, PTT Exploration and Production is purchasing the British company Cove Energy, which holds 8.5 per cent of the shares in the Rovuma Basin Offshore Area One, off the coast of the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado, where enormous reserves of natural gas have been found. PTT is at a very advanced stage of acquiring the participation of Cove Energy in the Rovuma Basin, which represents a step forward in Thailand's participation in the energy sector in Mozambique.<sup>17</sup>

The Chairman of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Khalil bin Abdullah al-Khunji, met with the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) Secretary General, KV Bhagirath on September 23 and discussed issues of common concern. The meeting also touched upon the potential for enhancing cooperation between the Federation of GCC Chambers and the IOR-ARC that could unify efforts towards building a strong regional economy in the region and leverage

opportunities for economic investment. Al-Khunji also discussed re-organisation of the IOR-ARC administrative structure so as to widen cooperation with institutions within member states.<sup>18</sup>

Seychelles' Minister for Finance, Trade and Investment, Pierre Laporte, at the Indian Ocean Global Forum seminar on "Enhancing partnership for trade, infrastructure and resource development" held on September 25 said that Seychelles can be an important partner for India and China. Seychelles through its geographical location and through the free trade zones can provide opportunities to Indian companies to invest in the Seychelles. According to Marc Hein, the Chairman, Financial Services Commission of Mauritius, a lot had been said about inbound investment from Mauritius into India, and in future India should look at using Mauritius as a platform to invest in Africa.<sup>19</sup>

Seychelles' special envoy for ASEAN, Nico Barito, together with the Minister for Cooperatives and SMEs of Indonesia, Syarifudin Hasan socialised the joint initiative to launch the gateway for small medium business endeavours "FORSEAA" (Forum of Small Medium

<sup>17</sup> "Guebuza receives Thai minister", *All Africa*, September 2, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209020379.html>

<sup>18</sup> "Sultanate and India meeting", Oman News Agency (ONA), September 23, 2012 at [http://www.omannews.gov.om/ona/english/newsDetails\\_inc.jsp?newsID=137362](http://www.omannews.gov.om/ona/english/newsDetails_inc.jsp?newsID=137362)

<sup>19</sup> "Seychelles, Mauritius keen on attracting Indian investments", *Business Line*, September 25, 2012, at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/article3935383.ece>

Enterprise Africa Asean) in Jakarta in September 2012. Along with the existing treaty to avoid double taxation with Indonesia, the Seychelles international free trade zone with European partners which will make the Seychelles a competitive hub for Indonesia and ASEAN businesses to enter Africa and Europe. Furthermore, Seychelles and its active role in the African Union and Indian Ocean Commission will also invite more friends for Africa to reciprocally utilise Indonesia as its hub for ASEAN businesses.<sup>20</sup>

The 15<sup>th</sup> committee meeting of the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) on port state control was held in Port Elizabeth in South Africa from September 3 to 6, 2012. Wilfred Kagimbi of Kenya Maritime Authority chaired the meeting along with delegates from nine member authorities. Sobantu Tilayi, the Executive Head of the South African Maritime Safety Authority mentioned the importance of port state control for South Africa as 98 per cent of its trade

is dependent on shipping. However, a number of members reported continuing difficulty in implementing the objectives of the IOMOU due to financial constraints that limit their access to training.<sup>21</sup>

During the South Africa-Sri Lanka Business Seminar in Colombo, South Africa's Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Professor Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize, said that South Africa would continue to network with Sri Lanka to enhance business, trade and investment between the two countries. A 30-member delegation of the African National Congress Progressive Business Forum, chaired by Prof. Mkhize, came to Sri Lanka for the seminar which focused on trade enhancement between the two countries and also strengthening of the bilateral relationship. A MoU was also signed for bilateral agreements between the Sri Lankan Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Laxshman Yapa Abeywardana and Prof Mkhize.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> "Seychelles and Indonesia join hands for SMEs development", *Seychelles Nation*, September 26, 2012, at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=28938>

<sup>21</sup> "Indian Ocean MoU committee meets in South Africa", *The Maritime Executive*, September 19, 2012, at <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/indian-ocean-mou-committee-meets-in-south-africa>

<sup>22</sup> "SA to continue to enhance investment in SL", *Daily News*, September 7, 2012, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2012/09/07/bus02.asp>

## Fisheries Management

**Mozambique fisheries laboratory equipped for international accreditation; Mozambican government and Greenpeace join hands against illegal fishing; Yemen, Spain to cooperate on fisheries and aquaculture**

Mozambican President, Armando Guebuza on September 17 inaugurated the expanded Maputo Fisheries Inspection Laboratory, the first of its kind in Mozambique equipped for international accreditation. The laboratory is budgeted at about US\$ 1.45 million. The first of the fisheries quality control laboratories in Mozambique were built in the 1980s.<sup>23</sup>

A joint team of Greenpeace International and inspectors from the Mozambican Ministry of Fisheries concluded a mission patrolling Mozambique's territorial waters on September 23, 2012. The mission which began on September 6, 2012 had a crew of 28 members from 18 countries, including Mozambique, the United States, Britain, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, Russia, Canada and New Zealand. It covered a very extensive area of the Mozambique Channel. The mission was a part of

the Mozambican government's efforts to combat illegal fishing and to ensure that fishing in Mozambican territorial waters takes place in accordance with the country's laws. Due to a lack of resources, large areas of Mozambique's territorial waters are not regularly patrolled, which makes them attractive to illegal fishing vessels.<sup>24</sup>

Yemen and Spain have agreed to cooperate in the fisheries sector in a meeting between Yemen's Minister of Fisheries and the Spanish Ambassador to Yemen held on September 19 in Sana'a. The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at developing infrastructure in Yemen's fisheries sector. Yemen which has a rare fish wealth, has affirmed the importance of utilising Spain's advanced expertise in this area.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> "Guebuza inaugurates fisheries laboratory", *All Africa*, September 18, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209190520.html>

<sup>24</sup> "Joint patrol between government and Greenpeace", *All Africa*, September 23, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209230448.html>

<sup>25</sup> "Yemen, Spain talk on cooperation in fish sector", Yemen News Agency (SABA), September 19, 2012 at <http://www.sabanews.net/en/news281443.htm>

## Disaster Risk Management

**Australia begins transfer of asylum seekers to Nauru island; Great white sharks along Indian Ocean coastline to be hunted and killed by Australia; Indonesia launches project to map earthquake-prone areas**

In mid-September, Australia announced that it would begin the transfer of asylum seekers in the country to the island of Nauru. Australia planned to fly 500 asylum seekers to the island by the end of September. Around 2000 refugees had arrived by boat since the government's announcement to reopen refugee processing centres in Nauru and Papua New Guinea.<sup>26</sup>

Following five deadly attacks by great white sharks over the last year, the Australian government has decided to hunt and kill the once-protected species along the country's Indian

Ocean coastline. Previously, sharks could only be hunted if there had already been an attack on a swimmer. But the latest spate of attacks has prompted the government to allow pre-emptive hunts.<sup>27</sup>

The Indonesian government has launched a project to map earthquake-prone regions of the country to prevent deaths from natural disasters. Given the country's high vulnerability to earthquakes, the map will help regional leaders devise policies on settlement planning and disaster awareness campaigns.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> "Asylum seekers to be transferred to Nauru later this week", *Xinhuanet.com*, September 10, 2012 at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-09/10/c\\_131840389.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-09/10/c_131840389.htm)

<sup>27</sup> "Great white sharks off Australia's Indian Ocean coastline to be hunted and killed by authorities", *Reuters*, September 27, 2012 at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/27/great-white-sharks-australia\\_n\\_1918366.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/27/great-white-sharks-australia_n_1918366.html)

<sup>28</sup> "Quake maps to identify high-risk areas", *Jakarta Globe*, September 22, 2012 at <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/quake-maps-to-identify-high-risk-areas/545772>

## Science and Technology & Academic Cooperation

**Study reveals 2012 Indonesian earthquake to be the biggest earthquake recorded; Indonesia takes a step forward in maritime surveillance; Mozambique comes out with master plan to use natural gas; Oman participates in meeting of national archive Heads of IOR-ARC member states**

A recent study has revealed that the 8.7 magnitude earthquake that struck west of Indonesia in April 2012 was the biggest of its kind ever recorded. The study confirmed suspicions of a giant tectonic plate breaking up beneath the Indian Ocean, west of Sumatra and southeast of India.<sup>29</sup>

Indonesia is poised to launch its first satellite which is equipped with an automated remote-sensing system, running within the realm of the equatorial orbit. Lapan A2 satellite, weighing 78 kilograms, was conceived and constructed by the Institute for Aeronautics and Space (Lapan). The satellite, which will be launched by mid-2013 from Sriharikota, will be monitoring maritime traffic and will also be employed for disaster mitigation and communications.<sup>30</sup>

The Mozambican government seeks to formulate a policy and strategy for the use of the country's natural gas. In a two-day workshop on the proposed 'Natural Gas Master Plan', Mozambique's Prime Minister, Aires Aly, stressed the importance of the efficient and sustainable exploitation of this non-renewable resource for the good of the public. Based on discoveries since

2006, the amount of natural gas in the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of the northern province of Cabo Delgado, is around 100 trillion cubic feet, with every possibility of rising to 150 trillion with more exploration. The plan considers everything from the exploration and analysis of the resources, through the operating plans, up to the business plan. It seeks, in the final instance, to maximise the economic and social benefits with the minimum of investment.<sup>31</sup>

Oman's National Records and Archives Authority (NRAA) participated in a meeting of the heads of national archives of members of the IOR-ARC held in India on September 25-26, 2012. The meeting was an opportunity for members to discuss areas of common interest relating to the civilisational role and historic heritage of member countries. The meeting highlighted efforts in strengthening future cooperation between the IOR-ARC members on several aspects pertaining to the Indian Ocean, an area that is linked to the cultural heritage and diversity of the member states.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> "Indian Ocean's 2012 mega-quake was biggest ever recorded", *Business Standard*, September 27, 2012 at <http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/indian-oceans-2012-mega-quake-was-biggest-ever-recorded/61460/>

<sup>30</sup> "Indonesia to launch satellite monitoring maritime traffic", *Xinhua*, September 9, 2012 at [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/sci/2012-09/01/c\\_131821419.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/sci/2012-09/01/c_131821419.htm)

<sup>31</sup> "Government drawing up master plan for natural gas", *All Africa*, September 6, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201209070378.html>

<sup>32</sup> "The Sultanate to take part in meeting of heads of National Archives of IOR-ARC in India", Oman News Agency (ONA), September 24, 2012 at [http://www.omannews.gov.om/ona/english/newsDetails\\_inc.jsp?newsID=137461](http://www.omannews.gov.om/ona/english/newsDetails_inc.jsp?newsID=137461)

## Tourism

**Seychelles launches online module of sustainable tourism in small island states; South Africa and Indian Ocean islands promote twin-centre tourism; South African Tourism wins two travel trade awards; Sri Lanka and Maldives to promote joint tourism; Tanzania urged to correspond its tourism policy to the East Africa Common Market Protocol; Tanzania to get a tourism authority**

The Seychelles Tourism Academy, in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning, is set to launch its online module of sustainable tourism in small island states. The online module open to students of tour guiding and hotel management has been tailored in partnership with the Virtual University for Small Island States of the Commonwealth.<sup>33</sup>

In the 2012 “Explore South Africa” fair that took place in Brazil and Argentina, African countries including South Africa, Seychelles, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe along with some 200 international hotel companies, destination management companies and tour operators joined to promote twin-centre holidays between South Africa and its neighbouring countries and its islands. South Africa is already enjoying large tourist arrivals from South American countries and it wants to not only consolidate this market, but also see it grow further.<sup>34</sup>

South African Tour Operator’s Association, an association representing tour operators, airlines,

hotels, ground handlers and tourist boards across Africa and the Indian Ocean, honoured South African Tourism with two travel trade awards: the Travel Bulletin Star Award for ‘Best Road shows and Events’ and the ‘Best Tourist Board’. South African Tourism won the competition among five other tourism boards, including the Canadian Tourism Commission, St. Lucia Tourist Board and Tunisian National Tourist Office. Separately, from a total of 180 entries across all categories, South African Tourism was named ‘Best Tourist Board’, ahead of eight other boards.<sup>35</sup>

During the eighth Hotel Asia 2012 Exhibition & International Culinary Challenge at the Dharubaaruge Exhibition Hall, the Maldives Minister of Economic Development, Ahmed Mohamed, said that Sri Lanka and the Maldives would sign a joint MoU to promote the two countries as one destination for tourism. He clarified that the idea was to promote beaches and diving in Maldives, while promoting culture and other activities in Sri Lanka. He added that they would also look at a proposal to woo foreign investors to both the countries.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> “Online module of sustainable tourism comes to Seychelles”, *eTN Global Travel Industry News*, September 2, 2012, at <http://www.eturbonews.com/30950/online-module-sustainable-tourism-comes-seychelles>

<sup>34</sup> “Africa and Indian Ocean islands join forces to attract tourists from Brazil”, *Breaking Travel News*, September 4, 2012, at <http://www.breakingtravelnews.com/news/article/africa-and-indian-ocean-islands-join-forces-to-attract-tourists-from-brazil/>

<sup>35</sup> “Outstanding double win for South Africa Tourism UK”, *Incentive Travel & Corporate Meetings*, September 18, 2012, at <http://www.incentivetravel.co.uk/news/awards/9499-outstanding-double-win-for-south-africa-tourism-uk>

<sup>36</sup> “Sri Lanka, Maldives to sign MoU on tourism”, *Daily News*, September 11, 2012, at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2012/09/11/bus02.asp>

Tanzania has been urged to review its tourism policy and an inclusive domestic tourism development strategy for implementation of the East Africa Common Market Protocol to benefit the local tourism sector. The vice-chairman of the Tourism Confederation of Tanzania, Mr Leopold Kabendera, said that Tanzania has many tourist attractions to attract the highest number of tourists in the region. However, it was still lagging behind.<sup>37</sup>

The Tanzanian government is planning to give more power to the Tanzania Tourist Board by

transforming it into a fully fledged tourism authority. The progress is part of the government strategy to ensure effectiveness in promoting tourism attractions around the world. Plans are underway to restructure the tourism entities, Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, Tanzania National Parks, and Tanzania Tourism Board into one entity. The restructuring would also help to trim down the expenses and bring about efficiency for mutual growth.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> “Tanzania advised to review tourism guidelines”, *East African Business Week*, September 17, 2012, at <http://www.busiweek.com/travel-and-tourism/tourism/3563-tanzania-advised-to-review-tourism-guidelines>

<sup>38</sup> “Tanzania to get tourism authority”, *East African Business Week*, September 12, 2012, at <http://www.busiweek.com/travel-and-tourism/tourism/3515-tanzania-to-get-tourism-authority>

## Upcoming Events

- **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
- **32nd India International Trade Fair**  
14-27 November, 2012  
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
- **43rd International Film Festival of India**  
20-30 November, 2012  
Goa, India
- **Workshop on IT Skill Development & e-Governance**  
3-4 December, 2012  
New Delhi/Noida, India
- **Regional Senior Officials Meeting on New Technology, R&D and Commercialisation in IOR-ARC Region**  
17-19 December, 2012  
Tehran, Iran

## 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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