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Indian Ocean Watch

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This Newsletter tracks developments in the following countries of the Indian Ocean region

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

In the last month, there have been several significant developments relating to our areas of coverage. India and Australia agreed to strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation and the two sides are scheduled to hold a joint naval exercise in 2015. The Indian Navy will participate in the International Fleet Review in Sydney later this year. China released a 'blue book' outlining its strategy to secure interests in the region and highlighting its commercial objectives over military ones. Separately, former president of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom views the US rather than China as more likely to upset the balance of power in the Indian Ocean by seeking to set up a base on the island nation.

Seychelles has signed the UN Arms Trade Treaty that aims at regulating global trade in conventional arms. The country is among 155 others that have voted in support of the adoption of the treaty. Meanwhile, Australia has joined the Seychelles-based Regional Anti-Piracy Prosecutions and Intelligence Coordination Centre aimed at countering piracy, terrorism and narcotics trade in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman. In other maritime cooperation news, Yemen and Djibouti have agreed to cooperate on maritime issues affecting both countries, while Kenya has sought greater cooperation with India to address the threat of piracy emanating from the Somali coastline. Singapore's relative success with deterring hijacking incidents in the Strait of Malacca through a joint counter-piracy task force may prove useful to other countries battling piracy.

International maritime sanctions continue to affect the Iranian maritime industry with top foreign shipping lines having cut ties with the country. Iran's oil revenues have also declined drastically owing to lack of international insurers for its oil tankers, and a fall in number of customers.

We hope our readers find this issue useful!

Ruchita Beri

Editor

MARITIME SECURITY

India, Sri Lanka and Maldives sign maritime security pact

India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have agreed to share capacities and information to address threats to maritime security such as piracy, terrorism and gunrunning in the Indian Ocean, at a meeting on Trilateral Cooperation on Maritime Security. They also agreed to pursue sustainable development of the maritime environment. Besides equipping the countries better to deal with emergencies such as cyclones or a tsunami, the development would also help fishermen and others who depend on the maritime environment for their livelihood. Four meetings have been held at the senior official and technical level with representatives from the three sides after the first NSA-level trilateral talks on maritime security held in Male in October 2011. The second NSA-level meeting had reviewed the action plan evolved by technical experts. The current meeting reviewed it again and signed the formal document which lays out the initial steps to be taken to create a joint platform.¹

Indian Navy's Boeing P8I surveillance aircraft lands in Dega

The first of eight Boeing P8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMP/ASW) aircrafts made its maiden landing at INS Dega airfield in Andhra Pradesh, India. The aircraft is based at Indian Naval Air Station *Rajali*, Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu and will operate under the administrative and operational control of the Eastern

Naval Command. Boeing has developed the aircraft as a variant of P-8A Poseidon aircraft of the US Navy. It is equipped with both foreign as well as indigenous sensors for maritime reconnaissance, anti-submarine operations and for electronic intelligence missions. State-of-the-art sensors, highly potent anti-surface and anti-submarine weapons are integrated with the aircraft. India's maritime surveillance capability in the Indian Ocean Region receives a boost with the induction of the aircraft into its naval forces.²

India's CCTNS will be fully indigenous

The Union Home Ministry has decided to take the help of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to make the proposed nationwide Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) project fully indigenous. The ministry was warned by intelligence agencies that using a foreign satellite could make critical databases vulnerable to eavesdropping by other countries. The much-delayed CCTNS project will connect 14,000 police stations across all the 28 States and seven Union Territories in India, when fully operational. It will create a nationwide networking infrastructure for the evolution of an IT-enabled, state-of-the-art tracking system for crime investigation and detection of criminals. A group of some 820 VSATs (Very Small Aperture Terminal) (two-way ground satellite systems) will be networked by a satellite. The project was conceived in 2009 by the then Home Minister P. Chidambaram after the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. The network is expected to be ready by 2015.³

¹ "Indian Ocean security pact signed", *The Hindu*, July 9, 2013, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/south-asia/indian-ocean-security-pact-signed/article4898042.ece>

² "Navy's Boeing P8I touches down at INS Dega", *The Hindu*, July 18, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/navys-boeing-p8i-touches-down-at-ins-dega/article4925354.ece>

³ "ISRO steps in after red flag over Thai satellite for crime-tracking system", *The Hindu*, July 29, 2013, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/isro-steps-in-after-red-flag-over-thai-satellite-for-crimetracking-system/article4964121.ece>

Carat 2013 brings US, Singapore together for joint military exercises

Singapore and the US navies conducted a joint naval exercises under the code name Carat 2013 beginning July 15. The 12-day drill involved 1,400 personnel, eight ships, two submarines, and helicopters and warplanes from the two sides. Carat which is the shortened form of “Cooperation afloat readiness and training” is the 19th exercise of its kind conducted by Singapore. The series of drills included, for the first time, the Royal Singapore Navy’s Archer class submarine RSS Archer and the US Navy’s littoral combat ship USS Freedom.⁴

Biden visit to Singapore seen as strategy to secure trade, security relations

US Vice President Joe Biden’s visit to Singapore has been seen as a strategy to settle maritime disputes and enlarge trade ties. As part of a Southeast Asian tour, Biden was scheduled to meet Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father Lee Kuan Yew. Singapore is considered as the US’s strategic pivot and in this regard the Vice President will be paying a visit to Pratt and Whitney, the US’ aerospace center in Singapore, and also to the US’ navy combat ship USS Freedom deployed in Singapore. His visit is also expected to witness discussions over issues relating to the South China Sea. The visit is also anticipated to develop the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) between the ASEAN countries and the US. Some analysts however view Biden’s visit as an effort to contain the Chinese influence in the region.⁵

Iranian ship seized by Yemen was likely bound to Somali, says UN report

A confidential UN report obtained by Reuters has indicated that an Iranian ship carrying arms that was seized by Yemen in January this year may have been bound for Somalia. The report by the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea that monitors compliance with UN Security council sanctions cites Yemeni officials as saying that diesel that was found on board the ship may have been intended for Somalia. The report also raises concerns about the flow of weapons to al-Shabaab militants since the UN eased an arms embargo on the Somali government earlier this year. Iran has rejected suggestions that the country is involved in supplying arms to Somalia. Yemen is currently the top source of arms in Somalia. The UN report also indicates that al-Shabaab remains strong, and is the principal threat to security in Somalia.⁶

International vessels warned of risk of terrorist attacks off Yemen

The maritime security company Gulf of Aden Group Transits (GoAGT) issued warnings to international vessels operating off the coast of Yemen. The warning followed a security alert issued by several Western governments for countries in the Middle East and North Africa amid threat of terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda-linked groups in the region. The UK government also issued a Level 3 security alert to British shipping operators off the Yemeni coast; a Level 3 alert suggests credible information is available

⁴ “Singapore, US hold joint maritime warfare exercise”, *The Straits Times*, July 15, 2013 at <http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/singapore/story/singapore-us-hold-joint-maritime-warfare-exercise-20130715>

⁵ “Security, trade likely to top agenda in Biden’s Singapore trip”, *Channel News Asia*, July 26, 2013 at <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/security-trade-likely-to/757000.html>

⁶ “Arms Ship Seized by Yemen May Have Been Somalia-bound”, *The Maritime Executive*, July 2, 2013 at <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/Arms-Ship-Seized-by-Yemen-May-Have-Been-Somaliabound-2013-07-02/>

that a security threat is probable or imminent. The GoAGT provides around 50,000 man days of protection at sea annually, and recruits from the UK Royal Marines, Parachute and other Army regiments, the Irish Navy, Estonian Army and Filipino Marines.⁷

Indonesia, China to expand maritime safety cooperation

Indonesia and China have agreed to strengthen cooperation on maritime safety, including through the International Maritime Organisation and the

International Hydrographic Organisation, in areas such as navigation safety and search and rescue. The two countries are the two most populous on the eastern coasts of Asia. The agreement included a joint exercise held in Indonesia between the maritime personnel of the two countries on July 18, and exchange of knowledge and technology in ship seaworthiness, shipbuilding, and in sea victim search and rescue. China has contributed 1 billion yuan to expanding cooperation with Indonesia, and 3 billion yuan to China-Asean maritime cooperation.⁸

⁷ “All international ships are at risk of attack by terrorists off Yemen and not just British flagged vessels”, *Hellenic Shipping News Worldwide*, August 7, 2013 at <http://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/News.aspx?ElementId=d29cc120-f161-43a1-a7f6-2cf32cb39737>; Also see “Britain warns shipping firms over Yemen”, *Maritime Connector*, August 7, 2013 at <http://maritime-connector.com/news/security-and-piracy/britain-warns-shipping-firms-over-yemen/>

⁸ “RI, China expand maritime safety cooperation”, *antaranews.com*, July 14, 2013 at <http://www.antaranews.com/en/news/89846/ri-china-expand-maritime-safety-cooperation>

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Mozambican delegation interacts with CII on investment opportunities

The Confederação das Associações Económicas de Moçambique (CTA) hosted an interaction with a delegation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on July 4. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Mineral Resources of Mozambique, the representative of the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Commission of the Indian Republic in Mozambique and the representative of the Centro de Promoção dos Investimentos (CPI), Mozambique. The CTA has invited Indian investors to invest in Mozambique at a time when the country is experiencing one of the largest growth rates in the SADC region. The two countries have identified potential areas of investments for Indian investors including in the six corridors of the country in the fields of agriculture, railway lines, energy, industry and commerce, tourism, economic and social infrastructure and science and technology.⁹

IOR-ARC commits for ‘open regionalism’

The Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) organised the first Economic and Business Conference which came up with a communiqué committing the group formally to the concept of “open regionalism”. Transfer of technology and building capacity in countries that needed them were two key themes at the conference. The Association has also highlighted that economic co-operation in the littoral cannot be inward looking and must become a springboard for connecting with

existing trade communities in Asia and Africa for its full potential to be realised. However, a free-trade area in the Indian Ocean may still be a vision for the future. The idea of ‘open regionalism’ means that while member countries will be encouraged to bring down barriers to trade with each other, they can also continue to be part of other regional trade groups.¹⁰

India opens US\$217 mn credit line for Mozambique

A US\$217 million credit line to finance infrastructure projects in Mozambique has been opened by the Exim Bank of India. The facility was formalised in Maputo on July 4 with the signing of three accords by Mozambique’s Finance Minister Manuel Chang and Exim Bank’s Executive Director David Rasquinha. The credit line is based on concessional terms, repayable over twenty years with a two per cent interest rate. The agreement follows on from the US\$500 million credit line opened after Mozambique’s President Armando Guebuza visited India in 2010.¹¹

Tanzania, India to strengthen bilateral ties

India’s Minister of State for External Affairs Ms Preneet Kaur has visited Tanzania to discuss strengthening of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Among other bilateral co-operations in the pipeline with Tanzania is an arrangement by which Tanzanian agricultural products will enjoy free exports to India. The Tanzanian Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr Bernard Membe, said that Tanzania has also been earmarked to benefit from India in the areas of health services,

⁹ “Interactive Session on Mozambique-India Trade & Investment Opportunities”, *All Africa*, July 3, 2013, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201307091758.html>

¹⁰ “Next big idea in the Indian Ocean”, *The Hindu*, July 5, 2013, at <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/next-big-idea-in-the-indian-ocean/article4885639.ece>

¹¹ “Exim Bank of India opens \$217 million credit line”, *All Africa*, July 8, 2013, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201307090302.html>

education and information and communication technology (ICT), apart from tax-free agricultural exports. A joint commission on Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation between the two countries has already been set up for cooperation in the areas of trade and industry. Water, Energy and Mining, Defence and Security, Finance, Multilateral Cooperation and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Development are some other areas for cooperation. India has also been receiving more patients from Tanzania in recent years for medical care.¹²

China encouraged to invest in Tanzanian tourism sector

Tanzania has encouraged Chinese investors to invest in the country as there are unexplored opportunities in the tourism industry. According to the Director of Tourism in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ibrahim Mussa, the investment could be beneficial to both Tanzanian and Chinese investors. Mussa highlighted Chinese expertise in the areas of training tourism personnel to meet the demands of tourists visiting the country. Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) has already prepared an Investment Prospectus, which provides areas and opportunities of investments in the parks. China has also promised to promote 'Destination Tanzania' in China to increase the number of Chinese tourists going to the country.¹³

The 'Aims' sub-regional group meeting

An official position document for small island developing states (Sids) has been unanimously adopted in a meeting of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (Aims) sub-regional grouping. A final position document that reflects the concerns and voices of all the sub-regions in totality to take to

the third international Sids conference in Samoa next year will be prepared after a meeting of the Aims representatives with their Caribbean and Pacific island counterparts. The under secretary-general of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Desa), described the island nations as the natural 'custodians of the ocean'. Key issues outlined in the meeting included the urgent need to combat the impact of climate change, the need for renewable energy, the importance of food security and the need to improve access to finance and technology. It was also felt that Seychelles had emerged as a strong proponent of reaching a "fair deal for Sids". The head of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) advocated a greater global sense of responsibility for the world's oceans, and suggested a stand-alone sustainable development goal on the issue or to work on the creation of an international body to govern the ninety-eight percent of the world's marine area that remains entirely unregulated.¹⁴

China Communication Construction Company to build port city in Sri Lanka

A US\$1.4 billion port city complex will be built by a Chinese company on reclaimed land near the harbour of the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) has finalised the deal with China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC) and the construction will begin by the month of September. The SLPA plans a new 22-floor headquarters, hotels, apartments and recreational activities in the city. The CCCC will be given 50 hectares (123 acres) of the land on a 99-year lease. Chinese companies have emerged as key infrastructure partners in Sri Lanka and have already built air and sea ports, highways and railroads in the strategically located Indian Ocean island along East-West trade routes.¹⁵

¹² "Tanzania, India set to improve bilateral relations", *Daily News Online*, July 9, 2013, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/19666-tanzania-india-set-to-improve-bilateral-relations>

¹³ "Chinese investors could improve tourism sector", *Daily News Online*, July 19, 2013, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/features/popular-features/20113-chinese-investors-could-improve-tourism-sector>

¹⁴ "Close of meeting of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (Aims) sub-regional grouping", *Seychelles Nation*, July 22, 2013, at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=32297>

¹⁵ "Chinese firm to build \$1.4 bln Port City", *Daily Mirror*, July 25, 2013, at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/news/32864-chinese-firm-to-build-14-bln-port-city.html>

EU to sign economic partnership agreement with Kenya, East African community unhappy

Kenya is viewed as the fastest growing economy in the East African Region in comparison to its neighbours. The EU plans to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya. This agreement, however, could distance Kenya from the East African Community that holds nations that are yet to witness development. The underdeveloped countries are allowed to trade with the EU and export any commodity other than weapons. Kenya's flowers, fruits and vegetables occupy a major portion in EU-Kenya trade.¹⁶

Ho Chi Minh City, Thailand to generate discussion on economic cooperation

Thailand and Vietnam are in discussions to enhance bilateral economic cooperation and increase investments. A high level delegation meeting was held in July between Le Manh Hai, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City and Vatachari Vimooktayon, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Commerce of Thailand. Thailand has expressed interest in promoting economic cooperation with Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City. Thailand currently has investments worth US\$155 million in 108 projects in Ho Chi Minh City and the city aspires to attract further investments from Thailand in the future.¹⁷

Iran bolsters oil tanker fleet to help sustain crude exports

Iran has acquired several new oil tankers in order to increase reliance on its own fleet and help sustain its

crude oil shipments affected by sanctions imposed by the US and EU. Sanctions have cut Iran's oil exports by more than half of pre-sanction levels. Foreign shipping companies have refused to continue business with Iran, fearing loss of business from Western countries. All the vessels acquired are part of a US\$1.2 billion 2009 order with two Chinese shipyards for 12 new super-tankers. Iran's main tanker operator, NITC, has also been affected by sanctions on ship insurance. Tehran has recently offered to underwrite insurance for vessels to maintain oil exports to India, but industry sources remain sceptical since the sanctions also prevent banks from transferring cash out of the country.¹⁸

India, Bangladesh discuss launching of coastal shipping service

Delegations from India and Bangladesh met in Dhaka in the second week of July to discuss technical aspects, including operational and safety standards, relating to the launch of coastal shipping service between the two countries. The two sides also discussed simplification of rules and regulations for plying of non-IMO (International Maritime Organisation) coastal ships. The service will shorten and make cost-effective the movement of goods and also enhance ship-borne bilateral trade. It is also expected to cut the trade imbalance between the two countries by US\$1 billion. A full-fledged service will begin if a trial-run is found financially viable. Three Bangladeshi ports (Chittagong, Mongla and Pangaon), and four Indian ports (Paradip in Orissa, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Haldia in Paschimbanga and Kakinada port near Chennai) will be used for the coastal shipping service.¹⁹

¹⁶ "Kenya Mulls A Breakaway: As EU Trade Beckons, East African Community Urges Restraint", *IBT Times*, July 17, 2013 at <http://www.ibtimes.com/kenya-mulls-breakaway-eu-trade-beckons-east-african-community-urges-restraint-1362423>

¹⁷ "Thailand ,HCMC discuss economic cooperation", *Saigon GP Daily*, July 25, 2013 at <http://www.saigon-gpdaily.com.vn/Business/Economy/2013/7/105729/>

¹⁸ "Iran Bolsters Oil Tanker Fleet as Sanctions Noose Tightens", *The Maritime Executive*, August 6, 2013 at <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/Iran-Bolsters-Oil-Tanker-Fleet-as-Sanctions-Noose-Tightens-2013-08-06/>

¹⁹ "Bangladesh-India JTC meet to discuss operational aspects of coastal shipping", *The Financial Express*, July 11, 2013 at <http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/index.php?ref=MjBfMDdfMTFfMTNfMV8yXzE3NjA3Mw==>

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/ DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Japanese study on coastal erosion in Seychelles

Key experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) presented findings of their study on coastal erosion and flood control management in Seychelles to representatives of relevant organisations. The three-year study has recommended measures that should be taken to mitigate coastal erosion and flooding. It was found that the main drainage and flooding problems are results of urban development, improper drainage planning and design, and lowland developments. It was highlighted that future developments can cause other such disasters given increasing population and limited flat land. Some measures were also suggested to enhance coastal management and reduce flood risks in the country. The study consists of several activities to ensure the safety of residents living along the coast and the dissemination of knowledge on risk reduction to population. From the measures derived from the study, pilot projects have also been carried out at several locations by Jica experts.²⁰

Serengeti ecosystem threatened by livestock herds

The ecosystem in the western Serengeti in Tanzania is being threatened by increased migration of livestock and other human activities. The area is of crucial importance for the conservation of flora and fauna. The presence of a huge number of livestock would adversely affect tourism resources in the area. Some of the areas being invaded by herders are

located close to wildlife-rich areas. Western Serengeti is reportedly witnessing a huge number of cows belonging to herders hailing from the neighbouring districts within the lake zone region, that are threatening the survival of the Mara River Basin that forms an important part of the Serengeti ecosystem. Authorities say that they might consider the possibility of conducting an operation to remove the herders within the framework of law.²¹

Koggala lagoon in Sri Lanka on the verge of going barren

Human intervention has changed the fate of the cerulean Koggala lagoon, once a haven to a rich ecological system, as it is on the verge of going barren. Its serene beauty and past glory are being hijacked by ever increasing salt water intrusion. Attempts are being made to reverse the adverse impacts caused by unnecessary human intervention such as excessive and unrestrained sand mining. Sea water intrusion has affected the livelihoods of residents, their crops and even quality of well water.²²

India's Insat-3D to add an edge in surface monitoring and weather reading

India's latest satellite, Insat-3D, put in orbit on a European rocket, is expected to sharpen weather observation and forecasting and also enhance land and sea surface monitoring over the subcontinent and the Indian Ocean region. The first routine checks showed the satellite to be performing well. The Indian

²⁰ "Japanese experts present findings of local coastal erosion study", *Seychelles Nation*, July 10, 2013, at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=32160>

²¹ "Livestock herds hurt Serengeti eco-system", *Daily News Online*, July 11, 2013, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/19741-livestock-herds-hurt-serengeti-eco-system>

²² "Rehabilitation of Koggala lagoon now almost on the verge of going barren", *Daily Mirror*, July 16, at <http://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/172-opinion/32456-rehabilitation-of-koggala-lagoon-now-almost-on-the-verge-of-going-barren.html>

Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said it plans to switch on the meteorology instruments on the satellite in the second week of August. ISRO spent around Rs. 200 crore to build the satellite and around Rs. 350 crore on its launch and insurance costs. The launched metsat supplements the decade-old and fading Kalpana-1 and Insat-3A with four sophisticated payloads. The six-channel imager takes weather pictures of the Earth with better resolution than its predecessors.²³

E-Waste Poses Environmental Challenge in Kenya

Disposal of electronic wastes or e-wastes has been noted as a hazardous environmental threat in Kenya. This appears in the light of some of the components like mercury, lead, and chromium being heavily hazardous to the soil, water and air while some of the components like aluminium, copper, gold, and silver can be recycled. Jacob Kibwage, director of the Africa Waste and Environment Management Centre, says that the failure to possess effective mechanisms to dispose such wastes has been leading

to environmental degradation along with changing climatic patterns. He also called upon the country to effectively address the threat and establish recycling units in the country. However, recycling agencies in Kenya look at the scene as an opportunity to convert the e-challenge into an e-opportunity by recycling the wastes.²⁴

Gulf of Thailand beaches threatened by oil spill

A leak in a crude oil pipeline has caused more than 70 tonnes of crude oil to flow into the sea. The oil spill incident occurred in the Gulf of Thailand and raises concerns about adverse effects on the environment. The pipeline is reported to have been under the operation of the PTT Global Chemical which is a subsidiary of the Thailand National Petroleum Company. The leak was identified in the 16 inch diameter crude transport pipe which was around 20 kilometres southeast of the deep sea port in Rayong. The PTT Global Chemical is on the duty of sealing the leak and also ensure the containment of further spills and flows.²⁵

²³ “New metsat to add an edge to reading weather”, *The Hindu*, July 27, 2013, at <http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/new-metsat-to-add-an-edge-to-reading-weather/article4958017.ece>

²⁴ “Kenya: Electronic Waste Poses Environmental Challenge in Kenya”, *Sabahi*, July 17, 2013 at http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/features/2013/07/17/feature-02

²⁵ “Oil Spill Threatens Gulf of Thailand Beaches”, *Marine Link*, July 28, 2013 at <http://www.marinelink.com/news/threatens-thailand357017.aspx>

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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 the IDSA covers the recent developments in the fields of maritime security, economic cooperation and environmental concerns/ disaster risk management in the various countries of the Indian Ocean region.



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