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Ports

Maersk in Chinese terminal venture

Xiamen facility to be operating by end of 2006, writes Sam Chambers in Hong Kong

THE port operating arm of Danish giant A.P. Moller Maersk, APM Terminals, is investing Yuan1.5bn (\$181m) in a 50-50 joint greenfield port venture with Xiamen Port Group.

The pair will develop Xiamen Songyu Container Terminal on 70 hectares of land. The plan is to get operations under way by December, 2006, with three berths on 1.24 km of quayside with depths of 17 m envisaged. Xiamen, where Hutchison Port Holdings has berths, saw throughput of 2.3m teu last year. CSX World Terminals also has a presence in the port city, which is ideally located should direct trade restart with Taiwan which lies not far across the Taiwan Strait. APM Terminals also has berths at Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan. APM Terminals signed the deal for the port during the eighth China International Fair of Trade and Investment which started in Xiamen on Wednesday.

At the signing ceremony for the 50-year agreement, A.P. Moller Maersk's chief executive for Greater China, Tom Behrens-Sorenson said: "We have always felt at home here in Xiamen. "Moreover, the dynamic markets of Xiamen and Fujian province, together with Xiamen's strategic location as a trade hub, makes Xiamen an ideal location for APM Terminals to expand upon terminal activities. "The investment takes our

commitment towards the city of Xiamen and our clients in Fujian province to a new level and we are looking forward to commence construction shortly."

Xiamen authorities have targeted the city to have an 8m teu handling capacity by 2010. Its prime exports include fishery products and IT-related goods.

APM Terminals has container handling operations at more than 35 terminals including in Shanghai, generating an annual throughput of more than 22m teu.

Shippers will have to pay an extra Yuan120 per feu out of the booming port city of Shenzhen starting next month.

This extra cost, defined as port construction fees, is the latest narrow the gap in costs between Shenzhen and Hong Kong to the south which is still the most expensive container port in the world. Each teu will have a Yuan80 fee added.

The ministry of communications is levying the fee. Most airports in China levy construction fees, Shanghai's being Yuan90 for instance.

Shenzhen's three ports at Shekou, Chiwan and Yantian have grown beyond all recognition since the mid-1990s, surpassing the 10m teu mark last year.

By Lloyd's List's estimate it is US\$282 cheaper to handle a feu in Shenzhen than it is in Hong Kong.



Overseas Marilyn was flying a yellow quarantine flag yesterday, waiting just outside the Houston Ship Channel near Galveston, Texas. The US-flagged ship is under a voluntary quarantine as health officials try to determine whether one of its 20 crew members died of Lassa fever, a virus common in West Africa. Operated by OSG Shipping Management, the ship had carried 24,800 tonnes of phosphate from Casablanca, in Morocco.

AP

World Briefing

Jakarta bomb

A CAR bomb exploded outside the Australian embassy in Jakarta, killing at least eight people and wounding more than 130 in an attack police blamed on al-Qa-eda-linked militants. The blast came days ahead of Indonesia's presidential election and exactly a month before Australia's general election.

Iraq battles

UNITED States-led forces launched operations in three Iraqi rebel strongholds, killing nearly two dozen insurgents in a town near the Syrian border and bombing targets in Falluja.

The French government held a crisis meeting over the fate of two journalists held hostage in Iraq after a new purported statement from the kidnapers denied they had demanded a ransom or set a deadline. And an Italian government official flew to the Middle East to seek help in securing the release of two female Italian aid workers.

Gaza deaths

ISRAELI forces thrust into Gaza's largest refugee camp, killing four Palestinians including a nine-year-old boy, as the army tightened its grip on the northern part of the coastal strip.

Cinema alert

POLICE have found explosives, detonators and

a gun in a cinema in Russia's second city St Petersburg which was closed for renovation, the interior ministry said.

Russia has been on a high state of alert following a wave of attacks blamed on Chechen separatists, but a St Petersburg security source said several men arrested in connection with the find were most likely small-time criminals.

Chechen rebels, in a swift reply to a Russian bounty offer for their leaders, promised to give \$20m to anyone helping them to capture President Vladimir Putin.

Camp attacked

PAKISTANI jet fighters and helicopter gunships pounded what the military called a terrorist training camp near the Afghan border, killing at least 50 mostly foreign militants.

Britons killed

SIX British soldiers were killed when their helicopter crashed in the Czech Republic, a Czech defence ministry spokesman said.

Korean admission

SOUTH Korean government scientists extracted a small amount of plutonium in a one-off experiment in 1982, the science and technology ministry said in the second such disclosure in a week.

Ireland launches maritime skills institute

By Michael Grey

A NEW institute to raise the skill levels of people working in the maritime industry in Ireland was opened yesterday in Dublin by Dermot Ahern, the Irish minister for communications, the marine and natural resources.

Established at the National College of Ireland, the International Maritime Studies Institute will offer a range of maritime related courses at graduate and post graduate level in addition to voca-

tional courses for those already working in the marine services sector.

The institute will provide, for the first time in Ireland, an "accredited, fully integrated and progression-based educational platform for the maritime industry".

Courses offered include a National Certificate in Maritime Studies, BA in Maritime Management and MBA in Shipping and Logistics, while future provisions

will include a Graduate Diploma in Shipping and MA in Shipping and International Trade.

Links have been established with Copenhagen Business School and 10 other university partners. Support has come from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, the Marine Institute of Ireland, the Dublin Port Company and the Irish Marine Development Office.

Speaking yesterday as he opened the new institute, the minister said that it was critical to enable the country to "develop the potential of the marine economy in Ireland". The maritime sector employs 3,000 people afloat and ashore, while there are about 6,000 directly employed in the shipping services sector.

There is strong interest in the shipping industry in joining the Irish Register, according to the de-

velopment manager of the Irish Maritime Development Office.

Rory McGuire says that in the region of 100 vessels and owners are at present interested in joining, "but," he adds, "with the tight control and emphasis on quality that we are imposing, it is unlikely that a large percentage of these vessels will be accepted, in particular tonnage above 20 years." **Comment — Page 5**

Herrod sells Discovery for health reasons

By Rajesh Joshi in New York

GERRY Herrod, the distinctively reclusive cruise executive, has sold out of Discovery World Cruises, the company he launched last year to market winter voyages to exotic locales such as Antarctica and the South Pacific.

The decision was influenced primarily by health issues, Lloyd's List understands.

All Leisure Group, the British company chaired by Roger Allard, will acquire the 1972-built, 20,186 gt Discovery on May 16 next year and

will also take over the related Gerry Herrod companies domiciled in Britain and the US. The price could not be immediately ascertained.

All Leisure Group already has the Discovery on a five-year charter for the summer months through to 2007, and markets world cruises to a predominantly British clientele under the Voyages of Discovery brand.

Discovery World Cruises was formed last year with offices in Fort Lauderdale and London to market

and operate the ship during the winter months.

The entire operation and staff, headed by managing director David Yellow and including cruise director David Lawton, will be transferred to All Leisure Group.

Mr Herrod will continue as chairman until the sale is consummated and as a consultant thereafter. All Leisure will continue the winter itineraries Mr Herrod has started, Discovery said.

Mr Herrod formed Orient Lines in the early 1970s and sold the company to Norwegian Cruise Lines in 1998. In the 1980s he started Ocean Cruise Lines, which was sold to the French group Accor.

The executive returned to the cruise business just before September 11, 2001, through the purchase of the Discovery. The ship was called Hyundai Pungak at the time, but it is better known as the star of the US television series Love Boat.

Concor to run cross-border trains

INDIA'S state-owned Container Corporation of India (Concor) has decided to run container freight trains to neighbouring countries Pakistan and Bangladesh, writes Shirish Nadkarni. An investment plan of Rs7.5bn

(\$162m) over the next three years has been mooted, and aims to double the company's annual container handling capacity from 1.2m to 2.4m teu.

A formal order for 72 rakes has been placed with wagon manufacturers.

Last Word

Ring the changes SOMEWHERE out there is the missing quarter deck bell that once rang at the Prince of Wales Sea Training School.

Now the school's old boys would like it back.

The Prince of Wales Sea Training School was founded at Limehouse in east London 1920 to train boys for service as deck ratings in the Merchant Navy.

Twenty years later the school, operated by the British Sailors Society, moved to Stalham and eventually transferred in 1953 to Dover, where it remained until its closure in 1976.

Nearly 5,000 boys were trained at the school during its existence and there are still hap at Dover.

The Prince of Wales Sea Training School Society attempts to record the history of the school and director Andy Gale would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of any school memorabilia.

"We are particularly keen to locate the whereabouts of the quarter deck bell," says Mr Gale.

Broken dreams

A Chinese proverb says, "Even a fool can have one good idea in a thousand." This is about one of the other 999.

In the months leading up to the world exposition Expo 2000 Hannover, someone with too much time on his or her hands thought how nice it would be to exploit visitors to the ancillary maritime exposition "Expo am Meer" in Wilhelmshaven.

So the "botel" Rüstringer Friese dropped anchor near the Wilhelmshaven-dam Grodenamm.

The word "dam" was no doubt running through the minds of the entrepreneurs as it became obvious that few wished to spend the night in a botel. Since then, the 40 m long and 8 m wide vessel has been buffeted by the weather and the fates.

Now a daring Berlin businessman has bought the rustbucket and plans to run a small youth hotel in the German capital beginning next April.

The Rüstringer Friese will be brought to shipyard Neue Jadewerft to transform it for the grand opening. Yet no cosmetic transformation can disguise the fact that it remains — a botel.



Standing from the left: Peter Oltmann, Schiffahrtsgesellschaft Oltmann; Uwe Boysen, Carl Bock & Co.; Bernd Meyer, NSB; Claus-Peter Offen; Albrecht Gundermann, LISCR; Bozidar Petrovic, NSB; Holger Strack, Rickmers Reederei. Sitting from the left: Holger Schulze-Westhof, Peter Doehele Schiffahrts-KG; Stefan Bartsch, NSB; Gregory deRuiter, Blue Star Chartering; A Onac, NSB; Mr Behrens, Johs, Thode. Goalkeepers are Dierk Tamke, Transeste, and Gerhard Binder, August Bolten.

Order of the boot

BEWARE, SV Hamburg and St Pauli! The inexorable rise of Hamburg's banking fraternity knows no bounds and your places in Germany's top football divisions could be in danger.

Seriously, for we refer to the banking sector's rejuvenated soccer team, which has put one across its shipowner rivals after a number of demoralising defeats in recent years.

Spearheaded by Philipp Wunschmann of Commerzbank and Alexander Stuhlmann, chief executive of HSH Nordbank, the bankers had the owners under almost constant pressure and, despite the sterling efforts of goalkeeper Gerhard Binder of August Bolten and Bozidar Petrovic of NSB, the bankers ran out 5-3 winners against Claus-Peter Offen's plucky side.

Dresdner Bank hotshots Marco Neumann and Andreas Leimbach each bagged a brace for the bankers with Udo Bandow, head of the supervisory council of Vereins-und Westbank getting the other goal.

Peter Oltmann of Schiffahrtsgesellschaft Oltmann replied with two goals for the owners and Albrecht Gundermann of LISCR grabbed the third despite the attention of a bankers' defence superbly marshalled by Oliver Trennt of Vereins- and Westbank.

Klinsi, were you watching?

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