

Alex Yong

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## ASIAN SHIPPER

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- [ICTSI's Syrian terminal opens for business](#)
- [China plans to forge southern Shenzhen-Rotterdam land bridge](#)
- [Kuehne + Nagel to double warehouse space at Duisburg facility](#)
- [Dragonair starts Japan services from HK to Fukuoka, Sendai](#)
- [Grand China Express Airlines launches Tianjin-Yanji service](#)
- [SIA Cargo starts weekly Singapore-Hanoi airfreight service](#)
- [Cosco reports Q3 profit of US\\$88 million on higher box volume](#)
- [MSC said to have bought 'econship' from Maersk](#)
- [Maanshan port throughput surpasses last year's total by October](#)
- [TNT to offer time-definite service in China](#)



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### ICTSI's Syrian terminal opens for business

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) has announced the start of commercial operations at its Tartous International Container Terminal (TICT) at Syria's Port of Tartous.

TICT took over operations of the Tartous terminal on October 28 and serviced its first client the same day, handling the Maersk ship, Mercosul Palometa.

Said TICT general manager and CEO Budha Majumdar: "We have been preparing for this moment for some time, and while there are still challenges, we are confident that the terminal will significantly raise the standard of container handling in the country."

TICT began operations after doing an inventory of equipment and infrastructure, finalising administrative procedures and completing civil works.

During the transition, TICT acquired and deployed two new Liebherr mobile harbour cranes, which arrived in July to provide specialised ship-to-shore container handling capacity.

Aside from the equipment purchase, other investments are also now underway for terminal superstructure, landside container handling equipment, a terminal management system incorporating user-friendly client interfaces and for human resources development and training.

Over the lifetime of the 10-year concession, TICT will invest US\$37 million in infrastructure rehabilitation and modernisation, handling equipment and IT systems as well as personnel training programmes, a company statement said.

The Tartous terminal has a 540-metre quay with a draft of 13 metres. The terminal covers an area of 25 hectares incorporating a 15,000-square metre warehouse for stripping and stuffing.



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### **China plans to forge southern Shenzhen-Rotterdam land bridge**

CHINA is developing a third Eurasian land bridge, an overland route connecting the Pacific to the Atlantic along a southern corridor from Shenzhen to Rotterdam, Xinhua reported.

The proposed land bridge would run from Shenzhen adjacent to Hong Kong, across the south western province of Yunnan, then into Burma, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, entering Europe and terminating at Rotterdam.

The route runs through 21 countries and covers 15,157 kilometres - 3,000 kilometres shorter than the ocean shipping route from south China to Europe via the Strait of Malacca and Indian Ocean.

The report said the new land bridge will make a favourable position to Yunnan, which borders on Vietnam, Laos and Burma, into full play and stimulate the economic growth of the province.

The first Eurasian land bridge, also known as the Siberian Land Bridge, runs from eastern Russia across north Asia into Europe via the Trans-Siberian Railway that

links up to Rotterdam over 13,000 kilometres.

The second Eurasian land bridge starts from eastern China port city of Lianyungang, running through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany to Rotterdam, covering a distance of 10,900 kilometres - 2,000 kilometres shorter than the first route, and 11,000 kilometres shorter than the ocean shipping route from China to Europe via the Panama Canal.



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### **Kuehne + Nagel to double warehouse space at Duisburg facility**

KUEHNE + Nagel in Germany has held a groundbreaking ceremony for the company's extension of its "logport" facility in Duisburg.

A company communique said it has been operating a state-of-the-art facility with 25,000 square metres of warehouse space on the Duisburg "logport" premises since 2003.

The second phase of construction will double the existing warehouse space on an adjacent 44,000 square metres. The extension of the property has been prompted by growing demand for the company's value-added services at this European logistics hub.

"The expansion underlines the importance of Duisburg as a logistics location for Kuehne + Nagel, and is a confirmation of our dynamic performance in the region," said Hans-Georg Brinkmann, managing director of the German Kuehne + Nagel organisation.

"Our customers benefit from the bundling and processing of goods flows at this central hub. By utilising the Europe-wide intermodal transport network at Duisburg, costs can be reduced and the environmental impact kept low."

Completion of the second phase of construction is scheduled for June 2008. The total investment amounts to EUR22 million (US\$31.82 million).

Overall, the company manages facilities with a total warehouse area of 100,000 square metres in Duisburg and provides leading trade and industry companies with tailored contract logistics services, a company statement said.



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### **Dragonair starts Japan services from HK to Fukuoka, Sendai**

DRAGONAIR, a member of the Cathay Pacific Group, has launched scheduled services to Fukuoka on Japan's southern most major island of Kyushu, and to Sendai on the east coast of country's main island of Honshu from Hong Kong from October 28.

A statement from Dragonair said that through the commencement of the services it has become the only airline to offer scheduled flights between Sendai and Hong Kong, and the only carrier to offer non-stop scheduled flights between Fukuoka and Hong Kong.

"The launch of these new services represents a significant development for Dragonair, further underscoring our long-term commitment to growing the network and boosting the Hong Kong hub," said Dragonair CEO Kenny Tang in a company release.

Fukuoka and Sendai are the third and fourth destinations to be added to the Dragonair network since the airline became a member of the Cathay Pacific Group last year. Flights to Fukuoka will operate daily and to Sendai three times a week, using Airbus A321s and A320s respectively.

For the Fukuoka service, flight KA316 is scheduled to depart daily from Hong Kong at 0850 hrs arriving in Fukuoka at 1305 hrs.

On the return route from Fukuoka to Hong Kong, flight KA317 departs Mondays at 1510 hrs arriving in Hong Kong at 1815 hrs; on Wednesdays and Sundays flights depart from Fukuoka at 1405 hrs, arriving at 1710 hrs and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays flight KA317 departs Fukuoka at 1535 hrs, arriving Hong Kong at 1840 hrs.

For the Sendai service, flight KA320 departs 1325 hrs Wednesdays from Hong Kong and arrives Sendai at 1825 hrs. Thursdays and Sundays, flights leave Hong Kong at 1440 hrs and arrive in Hong Kong at 1940 hrs.

From Sendai to Hong Kong, flight KA321 departs Mondays and Fridays at 0940 hrs arriving in Hong Kong at 1415 hrs. Thursdays, flights depart from Sendai at 0850 hrs and arrive in Hong Kong at 1325 hrs.



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### **Grand China Express Airlines launches Tianjin-Yanji service**

CHINA'S first feeder carrier, Grand China Express Airlines, is now offering a Tianjin-Changchun-Yanji service and the Tianjin-Shenyang-Yanji service, Logistics Week reported.

The two services, which started October 28, deploy Dornier 328-300s. The Tianjin-Changchun-Yanji service provides four flights - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and

Sundays - under the flight number GS7667/8.

Takeoffs are 0800 hrs from Tianjin with a stopover in Changchun at 0940 hrs, then departs 1010 hrs, arriving at Yanji at 1100 hrs. Return flights leave 1130 hrs from Yanji, land in Changchun at 1230 hrs, then departs for Tianjin at 1300 hrs, arriving at 1450 hrs.

The Tianjin-Shenyang-Yanji service provides three flights - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays - under the flight number of GS7457/8. They take off at 0800 hrs from Tianjin, arrive at Shenyang at 0920 hrs then head for Yanji at 0930 hrs, landing there at 1055 hrs. Return flights take off at 1125 hrs from Yanji, stopping over in Shenyang at 1230 hrs, then leave Shenyang at 1300 hrs and arrive at Tianjin at 1410 hrs.

Grand China Express Airlines was formed by Hainan Airlines Group in March and makes Tianjin Airport its base. The carrier has launched 78 feeder lines serving 54 cities, offering more than 30,000 flights a year. It now has a fleet consisting of 29 Dornier 328s and has ordered another 100 ERJ/EMB aircraft.



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### **SIA Cargo starts weekly Singapore-Hanoi airfreight service**

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) Cargo has launched a weekly B747-400 freighter service to the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi from November 1.

A statement from the carrier said the new freighter service will operate every Thursday on a Singapore-Hanoi-Shanghai-Singapore routing.

"Vietnam is one of the fastest growing economies in east Asia. This new freighter service together with the eight times weekly passenger services, will boost the growing freight business links between Vietnam and its key export markets in Europe, the US, China and Southeast Asia," said SIA cargo chief Goh Choon Phong.

Vietnam's top export items are crude oil, textile, footwear, coffee and wood products while the country imports machine tools, petroleum, steel, fabrics and electronics, the company said.



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### **Cosco reports Q3 profit of US\$88 million on higher box volume**

CHINA shipping giant Cosco Holdings says net profit in the third quarter of 2007

came to CNY664.09 million (US\$88.8 million) amounting to CNY1.52 billion in net earnings for the first nine months of the year.

The company, which is the parent of Cosco Container Lines, reported that revenue from its container shipping business surged 21.8 per cent to CNY11.22 billion in Q3 compared to CNY9.21 billion in the same period last year.

In the first nine months, Cosco Holdings' revenue amounted to CNY29.01 billion, 19.2 per cent higher than the CNY24.33 billion achieved in the same period last year.

Container volume in the third quarter increased 7.2 per cent from 1.38 million TEU last year to 1.48 million TEU. Since the beginning of the year the container shipping company handled a total of 4.25 million TEU, up 11.5 per cent over the same period last year.

Box volume on the transpacific lane registered the highest growth in the company's international trade with a third-quarter total of 398,675 TEU, 17.8 per cent higher than last year's 338,433 TEU. However, container volume on the intra-Asia trade, including Australia, declined 10.2 per cent to 367,105 TEU.

While box volume on the Asia-Europe trade, including Mediterranean, showed a modest growth of 6.5 per cent to 358,039 TEU, revenue from the market however surged 44.1 per cent to CNY4.14 billion making it the largest earner in the company's container shipping business.



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### **MSC said to have bought 'econship' from Maersk**

AP MOELLER-MAERSK has recently sold the 3,442-TEU Sealand Value to MSC.

MSC has renamed the vessel, MSC Tia and is expected to deploy it on the Far East-East Mediterranean trade in the Falcon service, where it will replace the smaller 2,433-TEU MSC Corinna, reports AXS-Alphaliner News.

Built by Daewoo in 1984, the Sealand Value was first classed as a 4,234-TEU vessel. It was part of a 12-ship series of the same size that were known as "econships".

The Sealand Value hull was later shortened and its bow rebuilt to raise its speed from 19 to 21 knots. It joined the APM Maersk fleet in 1999 when the Danish shipping giant acquired Sealand, the report added.



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### **Maanshan port throughput surpasses last year's total by October**

CARGO throughput of Maanshan port in Anhui province surged 43.1 per cent in the first three quarters of this year to 25.13 million tons, surpassing the total volume of 2006, Xinhua reported.

In the third quarter alone, the throughput of Maanshan port soared 75.1 per cent to a new quarterly record of 10.21 million tons, the report said.

The surging demand of iron ore, coal and growth of steel output in Maanshan has boosted the growth of port throughput, the report said.

To meet demand, port operators including Maanshan Port Group have expanded the terminals and upgraded facilities before the peak season, securing the smooth flow of imports, the report added.



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### **TNT to offer time-definite service in China**

TNT plans to launch domestic time-definite express delivery service in China, Logistics Week reported.

TNT's time-definite service will rely on the extensive domestic ground network it obtained through the acquisition of the leading local LTL (less than truckload ) provider HOAU Group.

Rival global express giant FedEx started time-definite delivery in China in June by co-operating with domestic private air carrier Okay Airways. With the acquisition of HOAU Group in July, TNT now has 56 subsidiaries and 1,250 offices in China and a network covering more than 400 cities in China.



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