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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

Disclaimer

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

EDITOR'S NOTE

From this issue, the IOR-ARC Newsletter is renamed as Indian Ocean Watch. This newsletter is brought out by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses and is no longer a collaborative effort with the IOR-ARC Secretariat. The current issue tracks news items in the areas of maritime security, economic cooperation and environmental concerns/disaster management.

At the 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC, amid calls for closer interaction among member states, the regional organisation expanded its membership to include Comoros as the 20th member and the United States of America as the sixth dialogue partner. In another important development during a recent visit to India, Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard has called for greater security cooperation between India and Australia. On the other hand, India's Defence Minister A.K. Anthony has underlined the key role of Indian navy in India's engagement with countries in the Indian Ocean region. In the meanwhile, South African National Defence Force will get additional funds from the treasury to cover for its anti- piracy patrols in the Mozambican channel.

A recent study on trade and investment prospects of the IOR-ARC reveals great prospects for regional trade in the region. At the same time in a recent conference, Malaysia called for greater economic cooperation with India. Similarly, Sri Lanka and India have appointed a joint task force to boost bilateral trade and investment. Indonesia recently hosted the fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) where the gathering discussed a successor to the world's first comprehensive agreement on disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework of Action (2000-2015) that came into effect after the 2004 Asian tsunami.

We look forward to comments and suggestions from our readers.

Ruchita Beri

Editor

MARITIME SECURITY

Comoros joins IOR-ARC, US joins as its sixth dialogue partner

The 12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IOR-ARC welcomed the Union of Comoros as its 20th member and the United States of America as the sixth dialogue partner of the Association. At the meeting, member states pledged to support closer interaction between the Association and other regional organisations in the Indian Ocean such as the African Union. The members also reaffirmed the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and safety and security of Sea Lanes of Communication in the Indian Ocean. The importance that trade facilitation measures have in the context of regional trade and investment expansion was noted. The importance of better preparedness to fight natural and other disasters in the maritime domain was also underscored. The member states also emphasised the need for building human connectivity by deepening cultural cooperation and promoting tourism in the region. The member states stressed on the role that the IOR-ARC troika can play in facilitating cooperation through regular interaction amongst its members.¹

Australia adds new amphibious ship to its fleet

Meanwhile, a new ship was added to the Australian navy with the first 'Landing Helicopter Dock Amphibious' ship arriving in the country. The 230 metre long ship will be able to carry more

than a thousand people, 100 armoured vehicles, 12 helicopters and a 40-bed hospital.²

Australia keen on enhancing defence ties with India

Australia's Prime Minister Julia Gillard who visited India in October said that her country was keen on stepping up defence and security cooperation with India and expressed the desire to work together to protect vital sea routes in the Indo-Pacific region. The prime ministers of the two countries reaffirmed "the positive security and defence ties between both countries and committed to enhance maritime cooperation further, including through continued joint naval exercises".³

India emphasises role of Indian Navy in regional peace and stability

At the bi-annual Naval Commanders' Conference, India's defence minister, A K Antony underlined the key role of the Indian navy in India's engagement with countries of the Indian Ocean region. He said that India's strategic location and the professionalism of its navy places a responsibility on the country to play a 'more mature and stabilising role' in the region. The minister added that the Indian government is pursuing a string of proactive engagements with countries in the region to ensure peace and stability.⁴

¹ "12th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of IORARC", Gurgaon Communique, *IORARC at 15 – The Next Decade*, November 02, 2012 at <http://www.iorarc.org/documents/communique.aspx>

² "Navy welcomes a new amphibious vessel", *Skynews.com.au*, October 18, 2012 at <http://www.skynews.com.au/tech/article.aspx?id=807038>

³ "Canberra, Delhi start talks for nuke deal", *Deccan Herald*, October 17, 2012 at <http://www.deccanherald.com/content/286189/canberra-delhi-start-talks-nuke.html>

⁴ "Antony envisages a proactive role for Navy in the Indian Ocean Region", *Press Information Bureau*, October 18, 2012 at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=88491>

Delivery of *INS Vikramaditya* delayed till 2013

India's second aircraft carrier, *INS Vikramaditya* being purchased from Russia for \$ 2.3 billion is likely to be delivered only towards the end of 2013. Defence minister A K Antony expressed concerns over the delay and added that all agencies involved in the trials and deliveries must work overtime to deliver the ship as early as possible. India also plans to upgrade its largely Soviet-era military equipment and plans to buy stealth fighters, warships, nuclear-powered submarines and tanks from Russia.⁵

India and Indonesia to boost maritime security cooperation

In the first ministerial-level defence dialogue held in Jakarta, India and Indonesia agreed to enhance their cooperation on counter-terrorism as well as work together on security issues of the Indian Ocean. Encouraged by the first joint counter-terrorism and jungle warfare exercise held earlier this year, defence minister A K Antony stressed that the two sides should continue joint exercises between the two armies, and also indicated the possibility of joint naval exercises. He also exhorted Indonesia to set up an official maritime domain information sharing arrangement between India and Indonesian navies.⁶

Indonesian sailors shipwrecked in Trinidad and Tobago

Close to 163 Indonesians in the employment of a

Taiwanese fishing company have been stranded at sea off the Trinidad and Tobago coastline for months and the company officials are yet to take responsibility. The four Taiwanese fishing boats belong to a company which has reportedly been declared bankrupt. The Indonesian government has initiated procedures to rescue its nationals.⁷

Seychelles joins Combined Maritime Forces

Seychelles has become the newest member of the Combined Maritime Forces, a multi-national naval partnership which aims to promote a safe maritime environment. Seychelles has also taken a leading prosecutorial role in the region and would shortly be the host nation. It will share a managerial role in a new centre that would coordinate prosecutions and intelligence gathering on pirate activity for allied nations who are committed to eradicate such activities from the region.⁸

Seychelles calls on COMESA to boost efforts to fight piracy

In other developments, Seychelles called on delegates - at the launch of Common Market for East and Southern African (Comesa)- to boost peace and security by fighting war economies and to envisage options to fight piracy.⁹

Seychelles' vice president appeals to new Somali leaders to push for release of hostages held by pirates

The Seychelles' vice president Danny Faure

⁵ "Delivery of *INS Vikramaditya* further delayed by a year, admits Russia", *NDTV.com*, October 10, 2012 at <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/delivery-of-ins-vikramaditya-further-delayed-by-a-year-admits-russia-277861>

⁶ "India, Indonesia to combat terror, boost maritime security," *IANS*, October 16, 2012 at http://twocircles.net/2012oct16/india_indonesia_combat_terror_boost_maritime_security.html

⁷ "163 Indonesian sailors stranded in Trinidad and Tobago," *The Jakarta Post*, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/10/21/163-indonesian-sailors-stranded-trinidad-and-tobago.html>

⁸ "Seychelles joins multi-national maritime force", *Seychelles Nation Online*, October 9, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=29084>

⁹ "Seychelles urges more Comesa input in anti-piracy efforts", *Seychelles Nation Online*, October 24, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=29251>

during talks with Somalia's minister for foreign affairs, Abdullahi Haji Hassan Nuur and the minister in the office of the president of Somalia, Abdirahim Abdi Abikar, on the sidelines of the 67th United Nations General Assembly session in New York urged the Somali government to capitalise on the recent positive developments in that country to step up the process of freeing the hundreds of hostages still being held in various parts of Somalia, especially those from the Seychelles.¹⁰

South Africa gets additional allocation for anti-piracy patrols

The South African National Defence Force secured an additional allocation of R63 million to cover the costs of increased anti-piracy patrols in the Mozambique Channel. South Africa has received numerous requests to assist in piracy operations after piracy began to move southwards from the waters off Somalia to those off Tanzania and Mozambique at the northern end of the channel. The South African navy has been maintaining an anti-piracy patrol in co-operation with the Mozambique Defence Force in the Mozambique Channel since early 2011 under Operation Copper.¹¹

Trilateral meeting on maritime security held in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka hosted a high-level trilateral meeting on maritime security with India and the Maldives in Colombo. The meeting focused on a range of issues such as the sharing of information on

shipping and tsunami warnings, and setting up of anti-piracy structures and coordination of joint Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance. Delegates also explored the possibility of oil spill response, maritime domain awareness training and joint naval and coast guard exercises. The meeting also discussed setting up of trilateral mechanisms to prevent illegal poaching.¹²

Dubai Maritime Week 2012 to be held in November

The Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA) has announced that the inaugural Dubai Maritime Week 2012 will be held between November 25 and 30 this year. The event is the first ever maritime event of its kind in the region and will be a forum for discussing the latest maritime issues and challenges with government officials, industry professionals, and operators and ship owners from across the region. It is part of the DMCA's efforts to leverage Dubai's position as a regional and global hub for trade and business and promote Dubai as a leading destination for companies working in areas including maritime transport management, offshore services, education and research, and ship repair and maintenance.¹³

South Africa insists on ratification of the 1993 protocol on safety of fishing vessels

Addressing a diplomatic conference organised by International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on the safety of fishing vessels, the South African minister of transport, Ben Martins called on delegates to help bring into force the 1977

¹⁰ "Seychelles urges new Somali leaders to hasten release of hostages", *Seychelles Nation Online*, October 2, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=29004>

¹¹ "SANDF gets R63m for antipiracy patrols", *Business Day*, October 26, 2012 at <http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/2012/10/26/sandf-gets-r63m-for-antipiracy-patrols>

¹² "Sri Lanka Navy holds trilateral meeting on maritime security", *Colombo Page*, October 20, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Oct20_1350752635CH.php

¹³ "'Dubai Maritime Week 2012' to run from November 25 to 30", *AMEinfo.com*, November 5, 2012 at <http://www.ameinfo.com/dubai-maritime-week-2012-run-november-317701>

Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, along with the 1993 Protocol. Martins opined that until the 1993 Protocol is ratified, an important sector of international maritime industry would be without a binding agreement on safety standards, leaving thousands of fishermen without any legally

binding safety standards. The IMO Secretary-General, Koji Sekimizu, said that despite improved technology, the loss of life in the fishing industry remained unacceptably high, underlining the importance of establishing a globally binding safety regime for fishing vessels.¹⁴

¹⁴ “South Africa: Delegates Called on to Ratify Fishing Safety Agreement”, *AllAfrica.com*, October 9, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201210091139.html>

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Study reveals great potential for regional trade

A study on the trade and investment prospects of the IOR-ARC in the new millennium stated that the Association could consider setting up a joint task force to identify and address various non-tariff barriers affecting regional trade in the food processing industry. It added that the task force should promote cooperation between the standard setting bodies. The report also pointed out that firms in the region could cooperate in contracting and outsourcing in several sectors including agriculture, manufacturing and services for mutual benefit.¹⁵

India, largest importer in IOR-ARC

A study conducted by the Exim Bank of India revealed that India has overtaken Singapore to emerge as the largest importer in the Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) region. Of the total imports in the IOR-ARC region in 2010, India accounted for 18.8 per cent as compared to Singapore's share of 17.8 per cent. India's trade with countries in the region has increased eight-fold to \$156.3 billion from \$19 billion over the last decade.¹⁶

USAID helps the fisheries industry in Indonesia

The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) and US Agency for International Development (USAID) signed an MOU in

Yogyakarta on October 2 to develop Indonesia's agriculture and fishery industries due to rising concerns over food security. The cooperation would enable USAID to empower Indonesian farmers by providing better credit access. The cooperation also aims to enhance Indonesia's 'blue' economy, in an effort to sustainably harness ocean and maritime resources. The agreement would also help in improving the competitiveness of workers and technology in both agriculture and fisheries.¹⁷

Malaysia is the world's 12th most business-friendly country: World Bank

According to a World Bank report, Malaysia has been ranked the 12th most business friendly country around the globe and comes out first in the category of easy procurement of credit. Malaysia has garnered this position for the first time ever since the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation began the process of compiling such rankings in 2005. The 'Doing Business 2013: Smarter Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises' report says that Malaysia stands fourth in the world when it comes to protecting investors. Malaysia was 23rd in 2010 and rose to the 18th spot this year, ahead of other affluent economies like Sweden (13th), Taiwan (16th), Germany (20th), Japan (24th) and Switzerland (28th).¹⁸

¹⁵ "Indian Ocean nations see great potential in regional ties", *Business Line*, October 23, 2012 at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/indian-ocean-nations-see-great-potential-in-regional-ties/article4026149.ece>

¹⁶ "India pips Singapore to become largest importer in IOR-ARC region", *Business Standard*, October 08, 2012 at <http://business-standard.com/india/news/india-pips-singapore-to-become-largest-importer-in-ioc-arc-region/190193/on>

¹⁷ "Indonesia and US cooperate to ensure food security", *The Jakarta Post*, October 3, 2012 at <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2012/10/03/indonesia-and-us-cooperate-ensure-food-security.html>

¹⁸ "World Bank report shows Malaysia ranked 12th most business-friendly country", *The Star*, October 24, 2012 at <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/10/24/nation/20121024071744&sec=nation>

Potential for greater economic cooperation between Malaysia and India stressed

Speaking at the biennial Conference of the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management, the chief secretary to the Malaysian government, Datuk Seri Dr Ali Hamsa said that the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and India can be strengthened further, especially in the realm of economics and tourism. He also noted that New Delhi and Kuala Lumpur can cooperate with each other by sharing their experiences in the development of cities.¹⁹

Malaysia aims to capture 2 per cent of global ship building industry by 2020

Malaysia is aiming to own two per cent of the global shipbuilding industry by 2020, up from one per cent in 2010, according to Tan Sri Ahmad Ramli Mohammad, the president and chairman of the Association of Marine Industries of Malaysia. In 2011, Malaysia garnered approximately RM7 billion in ship building and ship repair revenue. He stressed that there is a need to give a new impetus to this so called sunset industry, more so because Malaysia has the advantage of being located along the busy Straits of Malacca and also because its booming oil and gas operations employ many vessels. At present, there are over 80 active shipyards in Malaysia.²⁰

Oman invests \$14bn in Sohar port, Sohar Free Zone expansion

Omani leaders are expected to present expansion

plans for the country's northern port of Sohar at the Seatrade Middle East Maritime 2012 event to be held in Dubai from November 27-29 this year. Investments in the Sohar port expansion have exceeded \$14 billion making it one of the largest port development projects in the world. The expansion project is a result of the Omani government's initiatives to capitalise on the country's strategic location and the potential economic windfall for business and employment opportunities in Oman. Oman has signed a number of agreements this year for the port and the free zone involving global players such as US Gypsum, GHL and Algraposa, in order to boost cargo volumes and for local job creation.²¹

Seychelles signs visa exemption agreements with Sri Lanka and Mozambique

Seychelles has signed two new visa exemption agreements with Sri Lanka and Mozambique. Seychelles foreign affairs minister, Jean Paul Adam said that the two agreements will further promote friendly relations, trade and economic development between Seychelles and Mozambique, as well as between Seychelles and Sri Lanka. Once the formalities are complete the citizens of Seychelles will be able to enter and stay without a visa in Mozambique and Sri Lanka for a period not exceeding 30 days.²²

Singaporean firm Ascendas to help build Iskandar project in Malaysia

As a sign of the improving ties between the neighbours, Singapore government-linked firm, Ascendas agreed to help Malaysia in building a

¹⁹ "Malaysia, India bilateral ties can be closer," *New Strait Times*, October 2, 2012 at <http://www.nst.com.my/latest/malaysia-india-bilateral-ties-can-be-closer-1.160871>

²⁰ "Malaysia aims for 2 % of global shipbuilding industry by 2020", *The Sun Daily*, October 21, 2012 at <http://www.thesundaily.my/news/521291>

²¹ "Oman to Present USD 14 Bln Sohar Port Development Plan at Seatrade", *World Maritime News*, October 31, 2012 at <http://worldmaritimenews.com/archives/68243>

²² "Seychelles signs new visa waiver accords", *Seychelles Nation Online*, October 5, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=29043>

\$1.2 billion industrial park in Malaysia's Iskandar economic zone. Ascendas said that it would collaborate with Malaysia's UEM Land Holdings to develop a 519 acre site that will cater to industries including electronics and pharmaceuticals. Ascendas will hold a 60 per cent stake in the joint venture, while UEM Land, whose main shareholder is Malaysian state investor Khazanah Nasional, will take the remaining 40 per cent. The park will be in Nusajaya, a part of Iskandar near a bridge connecting Singapore and Malaysia.²³

Seychelles to get Sri Lankan help in fisheries

Sri Lanka's fisheries and aquatic resources development minister Rajitha Senaratne was in Seychelles on an official visit to discuss cooperation in areas relating to his ministry. Dr Senaratne said that the Sri Lankan team would study the local fisheries industry and help to modernise it. He added that cooperation between the two countries in the fisheries sector would be enhanced. The Seychelles Fishing Authority is working on a master plan for developing aquaculture in the country which would greatly benefit from Sri Lankan expertise.²⁴

Sri Lanka to hold the Commonwealth Business Forum in 2013

The visiting director general and chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Business Council, Mohan Kaul, confirmed that Sri Lanka would host the Commonwealth Business Forum in 2013 on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of

Government Meeting. The 2013 Commonwealth Business Forum is scheduled to be held from November 15-17 and its theme is 'Partnering for Wealth Creation and Social Development -the Commonwealth, Indian Ocean and SAARC'. There will also be a Trade Fair at the forum where Sri Lankan manufacturing and exports will be displayed for the international business visitors.²⁵

Sri Lanka and India appoint joint task force to boost trade and investment

The Sri Lankan information minister Keheliya Rambukwelle said that Sri Lanka and India have set up a joint task force with representatives from the private and state sectors to boost bilateral trade and investment in key sectors including pharmaceuticals, textiles and auto accessories. Rambukwelle added that an industrial zone targeting Indian investors would be set up in Trincomalee.²⁶

Sri Lanka and Thailand discuss cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and service sectors

The Sri Lankan external affairs minister G.L. Peiris held bilateral discussions with the Thai foreign minister Surapong Tovichakchaikul on the sidelines of the Asian Co-operation Dialogue Ministerial meet in Kuwait City and both ministers agreed that conditions in Sri Lanka were conducive for the expansion of the economic relationship between Sri Lanka and Thailand, with particular reference to trade, investment and tourism. The discussion focused on the infusion of technology into agricultural production and

²³ "S'pore, Malaysia govt firms agree \$1.2 bln Iskandar project", *Reuters*, October 23, 2012 at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/23/uem-iskandar-idUSL3E8LN3GN20121023>

²⁴ "Seychelles set to benefit from Sri Lanka's fisheries experts", *Seychelles Nation Online*, October 25, 2012 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=29263>

²⁵ "Sri Lanka to host 2013 Commonwealth Business Forum", *Colombo Page*, October 10, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Oct10_1349880108CH.php

²⁶ "Sri Lanka and India appoints task force to promote trade", *Lanka Business Online*, October 12, 2012 at <http://www.lankabusinessonline.com/fullstory.php?nid=357482794>

improved market access. Other areas of collaboration discussed by the two ministers included the fisheries and services sectors.²⁷

UAE considers more investments in Sri Lanka

During an interaction with the Sri Lankan minister for industry and commerce, Rishad Bathiudeen, the United Arab Emirates ambassador to Sri Lanka, Abdul Hamid Abdul Fattah K. Al Mulla, said that the UAE as the largest foreign direct investor in Sri Lanka among GCC economies and world's fourth largest oil exporter is considering more large scale investments in Sri Lanka, given Sri Lanka's current security environment and stability. Some of the areas identified for cooperation include signing of a bilateral Investment Protection Agreement with Colombo; investments in port development, port management and tourism infrastructure development in Sri Lanka and investments in tourism.²⁸

Sharjah and Singapore discuss economic and commercial cooperation

On the sidelines of the 2012 Global Entrepolis Singapore, the Sharjah Investment and

Development Authority (Shurooq) and the Singapore Business Federation jointly organised a round table meeting between delegates from a number of other Sharjah authorities and leading Singaporean companies to discuss the possible ways to strengthen economic and commercial cooperation between Sharjah and Singapore. The sectors shortlisted for cooperation included health care, logistic services, tourism, leisure, renewable energy and free zones, hospitality and conferences, planning and design.²⁹

Sri Lanka launches its first research vessel for ocean-based research

Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa officially launched *Samudrika* the first research vessel of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency at the Hambantota Magam Ruhunupura Mahinda Rajapaksa International Harbour. The research vessel would conduct ocean-based research to provide the country with information on the island's oceans and provide data to the fishing fraternity about locations where fish is rife. The vessel is equipped with advanced technology and also a laboratory that can accommodate seven scientists.³⁰

²⁷ "SL, Thailand talks focus on agriculture, fisheries and service sectors", *Daily News*, October 20, 2012 at <http://www.dailynews.lk/2012/10/20/news31.asp>

²⁸ "UAE gearing up for big investments in Sri Lanka", *Asian Tribune*, October 10, 2012 at <http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2012/10/09/uae-gearing-big-investments-sri-lanka>

²⁹ "Shurooq holds trade talks in Singapore", *Khaleej Times*, October 27, 2012 at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/biz/inside.asp?xfile=/data/uaebusiness/2012/October/uaebusiness_October308.xml§ion=uaebusiness

³⁰ "Research vessel launched in Sri Lanka for ocean-based research", *Colombo Page*, October 20, 2012 at http://www.colombopage.com/archive_12A/Oct20_1350673280CH.php

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/ DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Australian scientists find effective way to tackle reef-killing starfish

An Australian research team has found an effective way to kill the destructive crown-of-thorns starfish that is devastating coral reefs across the Pacific and Indian oceans. They have developed a culture that infects the starfish and destroys them in 24 hours. However, it is yet to be tested whether it is safe for other marine life, particularly fish. Other fresh crown-of-thorns outbreaks were reported from Guam, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea and the central Indian Ocean.³¹

India's tsunami warning centre to be upgraded

India's Tsunami Early Warning Centre will be upgraded to a global tsunami warning system by networking with other tsunami warning centres around the world. With the upgrade, the forecasting system of the Indian tsunami centre will be on par with world standards.³²

Indonesia hosts Asian ministerial conference on disaster risk reduction

More than 1,200 participants including 49 government ministers and high level delegates from Asia gathered in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction where the devastating consequences of disasters across the region was

the top agenda. The Conference is the first gathering of Asian ministers to consider a successor to the world's first comprehensive agreement on disaster risk reduction, the 'Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015): Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,' which came into effect after the 2004 Asian tsunami. The Conference discussed how to scale up action at local level and the nature of a new post-2015 agreement based on the region's experience to date. The conference was co-organised by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Indonesian National Board for Disaster Management.³³

Mozambican town threatened by erosion

Several buildings in the town of Moma, in the northern Mozambican province of Nampula, are in danger of collapse due to coastal erosion. Among the buildings at risk are the offices of the Moma district government and the residence of the district administrator, as well as homes of citizens. A team consisting of staff from the National Disaster Management Institute and from the Nampula Provincial Environmental and Public Works Directorates has been sent to Moma to study the situation. The team has called for urgent corrective measures, before buildings are actually swept away. About \$ 52,000 have been made available to minimise the problem in Moma.

³¹ "Australia scientists tackle reef-killing starfish", *IOL Scitech*, October 08, 2012 at <http://www.iol.co.za/scitech/science/environment/aussie-experts-tackle-reef-killing-starfish-1.1398698#.UJuEp2-7LNZ>

³² "India's tsunami warning system to be upgraded", *Hindustan Times*, October 17, 2012 at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/India-s-tsunami-warning-system-to-be-upgraded/Article1-946262.aspx>

³³ "Asian ministers meet in Indonesia to discuss impact of disasters on economic growth", *UNISDR*, October 19, 2012 at <http://www.unisdr.org/archive/29234>

It is believed that erosion along the Nampula coast has been worsened by climate change.³⁴

Zanzibar minister calls for measures to protect sea environment

The Zanzibar minister for livestock and fisheries Abdillahi Hassan Jihad has called for measures to protect sea environment and its endowments by fighting illegal fishing practices that destroy fish

coral reef breeding sites. He called on society to participate fully in maintaining the marine environment, particularly along the coast of Tanzania. The government would continue to mobilise people and create awareness on best practices for exploration of sea resources and call upon them to avoid illegal fishing equipment. He also emphasised the adoption of modern means to protect coral reefs.³⁵

³⁴ “Moma Town Threatened By Erosion”, *All Africa*, October 10, 2012 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201210110313.html>

³⁵ “Fight illegal fishing and coral reef destruction”, *IPP Media*, October 19, 2012 at <http://www.ippmedia.com/frontend/index.php?l=47079>

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 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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