

JULY 2025

SMART LINKS

Industry up-to-date

Global Trade Watch

Decoding vessel trends, green shipping & what's moving markets worldwide.

People, Posts & Port Progress

From yoga mats to container stacks, explore the stories shaping our shipping world this month.

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Cranes, charts, containers — Discover the numbers shaping today's maritime industry.

Past, Present & Future of the Sea

Historic tankers, future mariners, and this month's global shipping shifts—all in one place.

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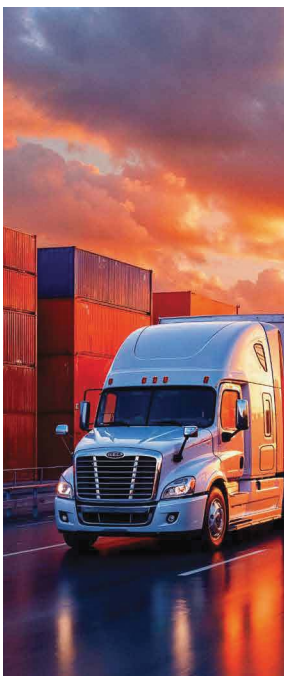
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Dear Readers,

As we unfold this latest edition of our newsletter, we are reminded of how far we've come—and where we are moving ahead. At **Smart Marine Group**, each passing month adds a new layer to our journey. Whether it's embracing digital transformation, or celebrating yoga, we are proud to say that progress flows as steadily as the tides.

In this issue, we open with a moment of wellness and togetherness—our participation in the **11th International Day of Yoga in the UAE**, represented by our **Vice President, Mr. Gunaseelan**.

Just as we honor our people, we're also celebrating **three successful years of the Smart Agro Foundation**. Our passion for sustainability doesn't stop at sea - it grows in fields, communities, & hands that sow change every day.

In this special feature, we turn the spotlight on **Malaysia's evolving economic landscape**, as the nation navigates a transformative era marked by resilient domestic growth, bold port expansions, and a booming manufacturing sector.

Through the **Social Snapshot Wall**, we celebrate the most impactful moments from our digital universe. These are not just posts—they are stories that resonate with our people and our values. Posts that reached thousands, like the touching **Mother's Day video** or the poetic celebration of our 19-year milestone, show that connection and engagement are about authenticity.

To further enrich your reading experience, we've included a **Maritime History Snap** highlighting Sweden's renowned Landsort - a double-hulled oil tanker that set new standards in maritime engineering and safety.

You'll also find some **fun and learning** in our **Maritime Explorers Club column**—this time explaining **bunker fuel** to young readers. After all, the future of shipping depends on the curiosity we spark today.

As always, thank you for being part of our journey. Let's keep riding the waves - boldly, wisely, and smartly.

Team Smart Marine

01. Smart Marine Updates

A look inside SMG

From celebrating wellness with Yoga in the UAE to embracing green agriculture and advancing our tech infrastructure, here's how we're growing smarter together.

06

02. Social Snapshot Wall

Where content makes waves.

This section features our most-viewed posts, eye-catching visuals, and storytelling that made our digital audience stop, react, and share.

09

03. Global Watch

Tracking the tides of global trade.

Explore how VLCC vessels are making headlines, BYD is reshaping car shipping, and Shanghai is pushing decarbonization boundaries.

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04. Regional News

India on the move.

From PMI highs and strategic port awards to new FTAs and shipyard expansion in Tuticorin, India's logistics and maritime momentum is gaining speed.

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05. Project Cargo

Heavy moves, big wins.

Discover how Hareket transported the world's only double-boom STS cranes and how a turbine lift in Iraq powered progress in the gas sector.

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06. Maritime History Snap

Sailing back in time.

Meet Landsort — and the ship with the world's biggest rudder (at the time). A true icon of innovation.

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07. Global Maritime Events

Ports, people & progress.

Mark your calendar with the biggest upcoming events from ASEAN Ports Expo to The Tall Ships Races — all shaping the future of maritime.

19

08. Chart of the Month

Data that speaks.

See how global container volumes and shipping reliability performed this month, with trends and visuals that decode the state of global logistics.

20

09. Maritime Explorers Club

Young minds at sea.

Our special column for future maritime professionals breaks down the role of bunker fuel in shipping — written in fun, kid-friendly language.

21

10. Economic Outlook

Malaysia 2025 in focus.

A comprehensive look at Malaysia's growing economy, logistics ambitions, and port strategy — charting its future as a regional trade powerhouse.

22



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SMART MARINE

NEWS UPDATE

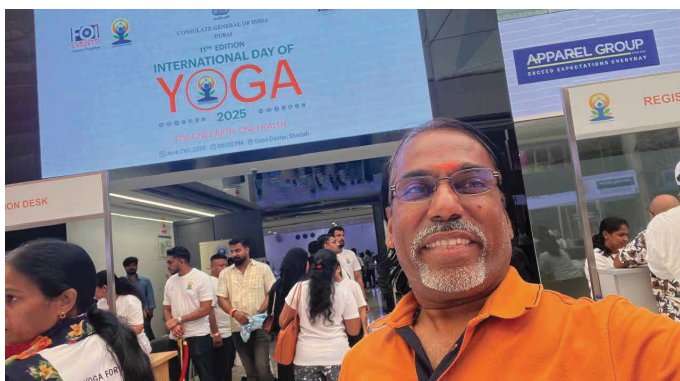
Crew Chronicles - The Heartbeat of Smart Marine.



Celebrating Unity and Wellness Through Yoga in the UAE

On the occasion of the **11th International Day of Yoga**, Smart Marine Group was proud to be part of a momentous celebration hosted by the **Indian Consulate General in Dubai** at the **Expo Centre Sharjah**. The event attracted **over 6,000 participants**, making it one of the largest gatherings in the region to honour yoga's global impact.

Organized in partnership with **Friends of India**, **Ekatha**, and the **Arab Yoga Instructors Council**, the event saw participation from schoolchildren, blue-collar workers, families, and individuals from diverse communities—truly embodying the spirit of inclusion and well-being.



Our Vice President, **Mr. Gunaseelan**, represented Smart Marine Group at the event and shared his heartfelt reflections:

It was a thrilling and uplifting experience to witness how yoga unites people beyond boundaries.

The energy, the harmony, and the shared positivity truly showcased the power of wellness and community.

At Smart Marine, we believe in holistic growth—not just in business but in well-being. Events like these remind us of the importance of **mental clarity, physical balance, and global camaraderie**, all values that align with our mission.

We thank the Indian Consulate and all collaborators for creating such a meaningful and impactful celebration. We're honoured to have been a part of it.



Smart Agro Farms Celebrates Milestone in Sustainable Agriculture

Stepping into its 4th year, Smart Agro Foundation proudly celebrates the successful completion of **3 years** of driving sustainable change in the field of agriculture. Since its inception on **May 3, 2022**, the foundation has been at the forefront of promoting **sustainable agriculture** and **organic farming practices** that prioritize both environmental health and economic viability.

In just a short span, Smart Agro has carved a niche in creating a **new era of food production**—one that values soil health, ecological balance, and farmer empowerment. From promoting chemical-free farming to advocating for circular farming models, the foundation continues to push boundaries in building a more resilient agricultural future.

As we mark this milestone, we extend our gratitude to our dedicated team, supportive partners, and the farming communities who have been central to our journey. We remain committed to growing green, growing smart.

Smart Marine Lanka Empowers SMEs with Smart Export Solutions

Colombo, Sri Lanka – June 26, 2025

In a high-impact session hosted by the **National Chamber of Exporters, Raj Rasiah**, Managing Director of **Smart Marine Lanka**, delivered powerful insights to help **SMEs optimize their export logistics**.

The session focused on how small and medium enterprises can simplify complex logistics processes, reduce costs, and scale internationally. From understanding when to choose **air or sea freight**, mastering **freight forwarding and NVOCC services**, to breaking down Incoterms like **CIF, FOB, and DAP**, the session offered actionable advice.

Other highlights included smart **packaging tips**, **digital supply chain tools**, and how SMEs can leverage **trade agreements such as GSP+ and EU FTAs** to maximize profitability.



26 June

Presentation on **CHALLENGES FACED**

And **SML Solutions** for Effective Logistics for SMEs.



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Voice of the Exporters

RAJ RASIAH
Managing Director,
SMART MARINE LANKA (PVT) LTD

“dives deep into the practical solutions SMEs need to overcome shipping and logistics hurdles”



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Star Performers

OF THE MONTH



Mr. Nallasivam Saravanan
MAY 2025

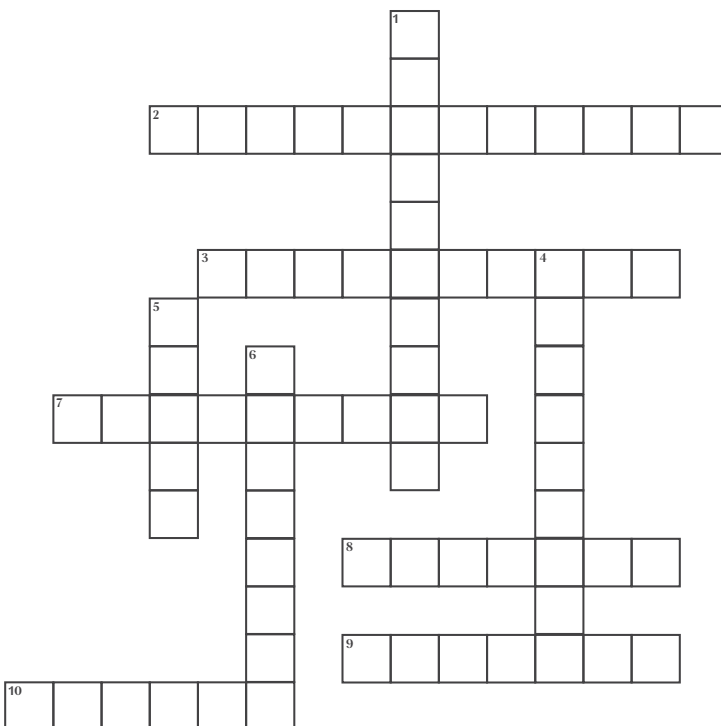


Mr. Arivazhagan.K
JUNE 2025

Smart Marine Group is proud to recognize our Star Performers for the months of May to June 2025!

Your dedication, hard work, and commitment have set a shining example for everyone. We celebrate your achievement and wish you continued success in the journey ahead. Keep up the great work and continue to inspire-shine on, Team!

Smart Mind Game



Quick Hints for the Keen Finder

Across

2. A direction across the width of a ship. [12]
3. Transport using ships, trains, and trucks together [10]
7. A professional cargo loader and unloader. [9]
8. A term for stowing cargo in a container. [7]
9. Free space above a liquid contained in a tank, drum or tank-container. [6]
10. The journey of cargo consignment from its origin to final destination. [6]

Down

1. Agents arranging cargo transport for shippers. [10]
4. Unloading of truck, trailer container or rail car by forklift, slip-sheet lift or by hand. [9]
5. The bearing of an object 90 degrees from ahead. [6]
6. Fee charged for docking at a port. [8]

Answers - Pg 26

The Social Snapshot Wall

Your Monthly Dose of Scroll-Stoppers & Show-Stealers

Social media isn't just about likes — it's about stories that resonate.

This curated page brings you the best of our digital storytelling: the most viewed, the most loved, and the most memorable posts across our group companies.

Scroll-Stopper of the Month

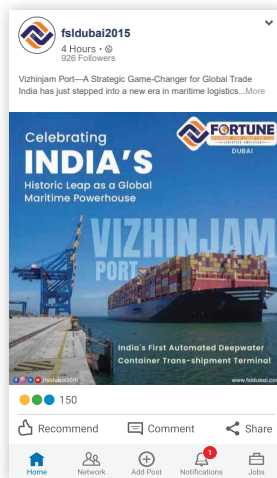


A post that truly sailed across our feed - with the highest views and comments.

Why it worked?

- Strong anniversary sentiment
- Relatable to every professional navigating change
- Visual storytelling with a maritime metaphor

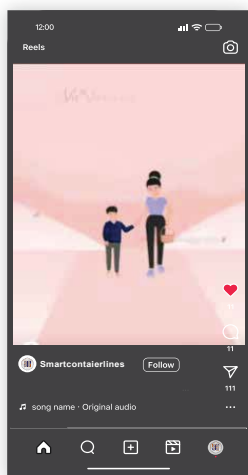
This Month, We Tried...



We spotlighted Vizhinjam DeepwaterPort - and LinkedIn loved it.

Maybe it was the fact that India can now berth mega ships like MSC Irina... or maybe it was the way we told the story. Either way, the numbers don't lie - it anchored a lot of views and meaningful conversations.

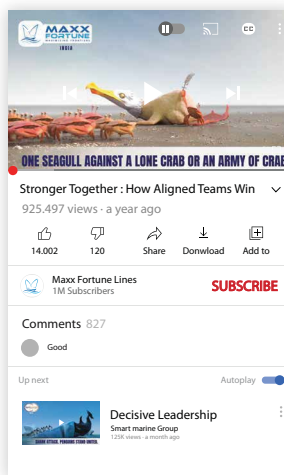
Creative that Caught Eyes



The best-designed visual or animated social post.

This Mother's Day tribute didn't just rack up views — it touched souls. A heartfelt story of a son supporting his aging mother, wearing the SMG tee with pride, reminded us that real strength often lies in simple, silent acts of care. One frame. One bond. Thousands moved.

The Content Room: Where Ideas Go Viral



What do crabs, seagulls, and leadership have in common? Turns out - a LOT.

Our most-viewed video of the month hit home with a simple yet powerful message: Aligned teams defend, deliver, and dominate. Whether you're managing freight or a boardroom, this one's a must-watch.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Alter Ego Sells Again as VLCC Market Booms

The 19-year-old VLCC **Alter Ego**, originally named **Yale**, has been sold for the **ninth time**, this time by **Cavalli Marine** to **Chinese buyers** for **\$42 million**. Built in 2005, the vessel once fetched a record **\$170 million in 2008** and has seen action in **Iran and Venezuela**. The deal reflects **surging demand in the VLCC segment**, fueled by **tight tonnage and geopolitical instability**, with vintage tonnage once again proving valuable in a red-hot market.

China's Ship Exports Continue Upward

China exported **590 ships in May 2025**, marking a **6.7% year-on-year increase**, according to the General Administration of Customs. The export value for the month reached **RMB 30 billion (approx. USD 4.2 billion)**—a **significant 18.9% increase** from the same period last year.

Cumulative Growth from January to May 2025

- **Total Ships Exported:** 2,934 vessels
- **Year-on-Year Growth:** 26.6%
- **Export Value:** RMB 143.8 billion
- **Value Growth:** 18.9%



Norway Leads with World's Largest Battery-Powered Ships

Norway's Eitzen Group is set to revolutionize the maritime industry by planning the **world's largest battery-powered container ships**. The ambitious project, led by its Eitzen Avanti division, has received a major boost with **\$20 million in funding from Enova**, the Norwegian government's decarbonisation agency.

Enova's latest grant round supports **innovative zero-emission technologies**, and Eitzen Avanti's electric vessel project stood out as a transformative solution for reducing emissions in the **short-sea and regional container trade**. The battery-powered ships are expected to **drastically cut CO₂ emissions**, operating without fossil fuels in some of Europe's busiest maritime corridors.

Sokhna Port Hits Record with LNG, Iron Ore & Cruise Traffic

DP World Egypt welcomed three high-profile vessels at **Ain Sokhna Port** in June 2025: the **Energos Eskimo FSRU** for LNG upgrades, the **Berge Kuju** with **180,008 tonnes of iron ore** (a national record), and the **Aroya cruise ship** with **2,300 passengers**. These developments demonstrate Sokhna's **versatility in supporting Egypt's energy grid, industrial supply chain, and regional tourism growth**, while advancing infrastructure through the ongoing **\$80 million Sokhna Logistics Park project**.



Shanghai Port Achieves First-Ever LCO₂ Ship-to-Ship Transfer

In a global first, Shanghai's **Yangshan Deepwater Port** has completed the **ship-to-ship transfer of liquid carbon dioxide** captured from onboard emissions. The **EVER TOP**, the world's first container vessel with a **carbon capture system**, transferred the LCO₂ to the barge **Dejin** on June 19, 2025. This milestone builds on the ship's earlier ship-to-shore LCO₂ transfer in 2023 and marks a critical step forward in scalable **maritime decarbonization efforts**.



BYD's Auto Carrier Marks New Era

The **Port of Lázaro Cárdenas** received **BYD CHANGZHOU**, the first vessel from BYD's shipping line, unloading **3,503 electric vehicles** at the **SSA Mexico-operated terminal**. With a capacity of **22,000 net tonnes**, the **200-meter car carrier** is part of BYD's efforts to decarbonize supply chains. The event aligns with regional developments like **CEVA's expanded car carrier services** and **Latin America's first electric tugboat**, reflecting a broader shift toward **sustainable maritime logistics** in the Americas.

Regional News

India's PMI Surges to 14-Month High

India's economy is showing strong signs of momentum as the **HSBC Flash India Composite PMI** rose to **61.0 in June**, a **14-month high**, according to data released by **S&P Global**. This jump from May's 59.3 significantly outpaced analyst expectations and underscores nearly **four consecutive years of private sector expansion**.

This PMI surge reflects India's **resilient domestic economy and expanding export base**, even as global markets face uncertainty. The softening inflation also offers the **RBI more flexibility** to support growth, possibly through **interest rate cuts**.

APSEZ Fuels India's Trade Ambitions

Adani Ports handled a record 450 MMT of cargo this year and aims to reach 1 billion tonnes by FY30. Positioned as India's logistics backbone, APSEZ is expanding beyond ports to offer integrated transport solutions, aligned with the Gati Shakti Mission, and focused on supporting MSMEs and reducing costs.

National Recognition for VOC Port

The **VOC Port Authority** has been honored with **First Place in Cost Management Excellence** for 2024 by the Institute of Cost Accountants of India. Awarded in the **Transportation and Logistics** category, this recognition highlights the port's success in **reducing operational costs and improving efficiency**. The award was received at **Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**, by senior financial officials, affirming VOC Port's commitment to **sustainable and strategic financial practices** in port operations.



India's FTAs with Australia, UAE Drive Export Growth

India's trade ties with Australia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are reaping significant benefits from **Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**, particularly through the increased utilization of **Certificates of Origin (CoO)**, which grant **Indian exporters access to reduced or zero import duties** in these partner countries.

**Thinking
ahead
and moving
forward, yet
grounded in
values that
matter.**

Key sectors benefitting from this growth:

- Textiles & Apparel
- Leather goods
- Gems and Jewellery
- Engineering products

Key Takeaway

The FTAs with **Australia and UAE** are **strengthening India's export ecosystem**, increasing market access for key sectors, improving cost competitiveness, and fostering **deeper trade ties**. With **streamlined processes and proactive monitoring**, India is **leveraging FTAs as a powerful tool for export-led growth**.

Tuticorin to Host Major Shipbuilding Hub

The Indian government has chosen Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, as a site for a 10,000 crore shipbuilding and repair hub, under its mission to become a global shipbuilding leader by 2047. Similar centers are planned in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. Under the Make in India initiative, HD Hyundai and Cochin Shipyard are in advanced talks to jointly manufacture large ships, aiming to boost India's shipbuilding capabilities and reduce reliance on global suppliers.

India-Norway Pact - 1st Polar Research Vessel

In a major step for India's maritime science and shipbuilding, **GRSE and Kongsberg (Norway)** have signed an MoU to co-develop **India's first indigenous Polar Research Vessel (PRV)**. Presided over by **Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** in Oslo, the initiative supports India's **Make in India vision** and will enable cutting-edge research in the **Arctic and Antarctic**. NCOPR will use the vessel, while India also seeks expanded cooperation and investments in its **green and digital maritime ecosystem**.

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Project Cargo

Hareket Transports World's First Double Boom STS Cranes

Hareket, Turkey's heavy lift and transport specialist, has moved three 2,150-ton Ship-to-Shore cranes - the only double-boom STS cranes in the world - from Haydarpaşa Port to Marmara Port. Navigating the Bosphorus Strait, the complex operation involved precise engineering, heavy transport, and sea logistics. The cranes, towering at 90 meters and spanning 150 meters, were assembled using two massive crawler cranes. The project highlights Hareket's capacity to manage ultra-heavy, complex logistics challenges.

Precision Turbine Lift in Iraq's Gas Sector



In a complex 21-day operation, a critical 78-tonne modular turbine lift at the Basrah Gas Company's North Rumaila NGL plant in Iraq, using a 600-tonne LR1600 crawler crane. The complex operation - executed between May 22 and June 11, 2025 - improved gas efficiency and emissions control, supporting Iraq's cleaner energy goals. The project improves gas flow efficiency and reduces flaring, supporting Iraq's clean energy transition.

Hybrid-Electric Aircraft Shipped Across Atlantic

In a notable display of sustainable logistics, Heart Aerospace's hybrid - electric aircraft prototype was successfully shipped from Sweden to the U.S. aboard a Wallenius Wilhelmsen RoRo vessel, managed by logistics provider GEODIS. The aircraft represents a new era in regional, low-emission aviation, while the shipment highlights the capability of RoRo logistics to support innovation. This milestone aids Heart Aerospace in its prototype validation and certification process and reflects how carriers are adapting to future green industries.



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MARITIME HISTORY SNAP

FASCINATING HISTORICAL FACT IN THE GLOBAL MARITIME HISTORY

Landsort – Sweden’s Pioneering Double-Hulled Oil Tanker

Imagine standing next to a ship as long as three football fields, wider than a 12-lane highway, and powerful enough to push through ocean waves with the strength of 19,200 horses! Meet the **Landsort**, a **Swedish oil tanker** launched in 1991. But this isn’t just a giant ship—it’s a symbol of change and responsibility on the high seas.

The Ship That Changed the Rules

Before Landsort came into the picture, something terrible happened in 1989. A massive oil tanker called the Exxon Valdez hit a reef off the coast of Alaska and spilled millions of gallons of crude oil into the ocean. It was one of the worst environmental disasters in history. Birds, sea otters, and fish died in huge numbers. It was heartbreaking.

To stop anything like that from happening again, the International Maritime Organization (IMO)—which sets safety rules for ships around the world—demanded better ship designs. Landsort was the first large tanker built with these new safety features.

A Double Hull = Double Safety

One of the coolest things about Landsort? She had a **double hull**. That means she had two layers of steel at the bottom and sides—like wearing two raincoats instead of one. If the outer one got damaged, the inner one could still protect the oil inside from leaking out.

And between those two hulls were **wing tanks** filled with water ballast. This helped the ship stay balanced and stable—especially in rough seas.

High-Tech Cargo System

Inside Landsort, the oil tanks were divided into **nine separate compartments**, each with its own powerful pump that could move up to **1,500 cubic meters of oil per hour**! That’s like draining **600,000 milk jugs** in just one hour!

Why separate tanks? Simple: If something went wrong in one, the others would stay safe—like having nine treasure chests instead of one big box.



Biggest Rudder in the World (At That Time!)

Here’s a fun fact you’ll love: Landsort had the **largest rudder in the world** when she started sailing! At **58 square meters (624 square feet)**, it was almost the size of a **two-bedroom apartment**. That huge rudder helped the giant ship turn smoothly—even though she weighed as much as **24,000 elephants**!

Global MaritimeEvents

ASEAN Ports & Logistics 2025

JW Marriott Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia | July 1–3, 2025

Hosted by **PELINDO** and supported by **The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Indonesia (CILT-ID)**, this premier exhibition and conference gathers Southeast Asia's port, shipping, and logistics professionals at one of Jakarta's most luxurious venues. With a legacy of over 200 international maritime events across 80+ countries, this forum is where high-level networking meets real-world solutions for emerging markets.

Inamarine 2025

Jakarta, Indonesia | July 29 - 31, 2025

INAMARINE 2025 is the largest maritime event in Asia, taking place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from July 29–31. The exhibition will feature over 500 global exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies and innovations in the maritime, shipbuilding, and offshore industries.

Key areas of focus include shipbuilding, seaport infrastructure, maritime logistics, safety and security, and environmental protection. The event is designed to support Indonesia's Maritime Highway Projects and foster business opportunities within the industry. Attendees will gain valuable insights into the future of maritime transport and infrastructure development.

European Hyperloop Week at the EHC

Groningen–Veendam, Netherlands | July 14–20, 2025

The 5th Edition of the European Hyperloop Week will take place in the European Hyperloop Center (Veendam, the Netherlands) from the 14th to the 20th of July 2025.



Container Shipping & Port Technology Webinar Week

July 8 - 9, 2025 09:00 - 10:00 BST - ONLINE

Overcoming alternative fuel bunkering challenges. Reducing container losses at sea. On 8–9 July 2025, in two webinars focused on the container ship sector, we will examine the issues of alternative fuel bunkering and how to boost safety and reduce container losses. Our webinars are designed to strike the right balance between the transmission of key information and interaction with the expert panel assembled.

#INTERESTING FACTS DID YOU KNOW?

- 📢 The Landsort ship was built in South Korea by Daewoo Shipbuilding, even though she was Swedish.
- 📢 Her full load could hold over 5.8 million cubic feet of oil—enough to fill more than 70 Olympic swimming pools!
- 📢 She cruised at 14 knots—about 26 kilometers per hour. Not fast, but when you're carrying precious cargo, slow and steady wins the race.

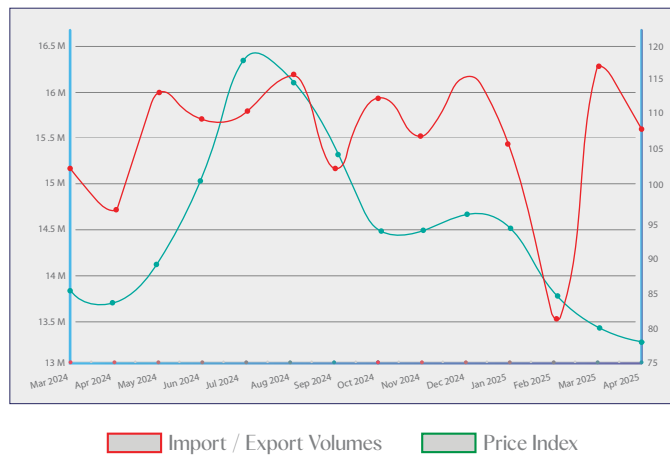


Chart of the Month

Breaking Down a Trend Visually

Global container volumes continued their upward trend in April 2025

Global Container Volumes—Trends & Forecasts



Global container volumes reached 15.6 million TEU, a 5.8% increase from April 2024. According to Container Trades Statistics (CTS), March 2025 was the busiest month on record at 16.3 million TEU.

Initial forecasts had predicted flat growth for the year, but actual figures are proving otherwise, especially driven by strong performance in Asia-Europe and emerging market trade lanes.

North America, however, showed clear signs of decline, with imports dropping 4.7% year-on-year and 11.5% from March. US-China trade continues to weaken, with Chinese imports from the US falling by 25% YoY.

It was noted that while all export regions experienced some softening, Southeast Asia remained resilient, with year-to-date growth at 7.8%.

Asia-Europe trade rose 8.4% in April, maintaining the momentum seen in Q1, and now sits 9% higher year-to-date.

Other major gains from Asia in April included:

Indian Subcontinent & Middle East: +23%

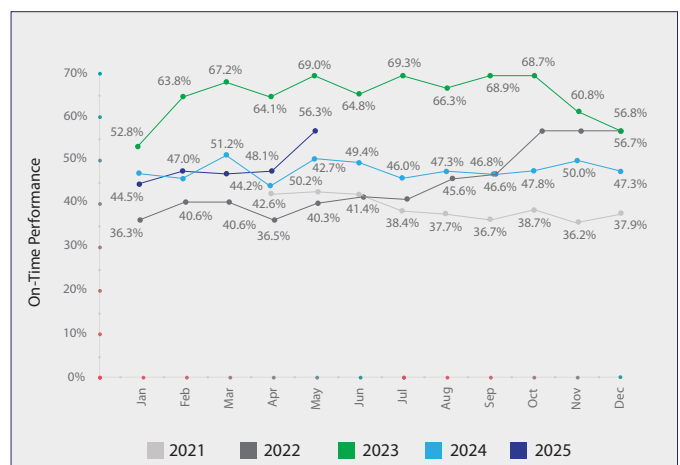
South & Central America: +24%

Sub-Saharan Africa: +29%

Year-to-date, those same regions posted 15–17% growth, highlighting a shift in global shipping dynamics amid ongoing US tariff uncertainty.

Global Container Shipping Schedule Reliability Improves to 56.3% in May

On-Time Performance – Global Container Shipping



May 2025 marked a strong improvement in global shipping reliability, with schedule reliability climbing to 56.3%, according to latest data—an 8.2 percentage point rise from April and 6.1 points higher than May 2024.

Average vessel arrival delays also improved: late vessels now average 4.2 days late, while the overall fleet saw delays drop to just 1.6 days.

All major trades showed positive trends. The most reliable routes in May were **Mediterranean/Black Sea → South America** and **North America → South America**. Ten out of eleven major trades posted year-on-year improvements, with overall reliability ranging between 50.1% and 74.1%.

However, blank sailings continue. In weeks 19–22:

- Asia to North Europe saw 6 blank sailings, or 7.0% of its capacity.
- Asia to North America recorded 48 blanks (23.6% of capacity), 17 heading to the East Coast and 31 to the West Coast.
- The Transatlantic westbound route saw 3 blank sailings to the US East Coast and 2 to the West Coast.

This performance marks the **best global on-time performance since March 2024**, signaling a potentially stabilizing trend in container shipping.

The Fuel That Powers the Ships

By Maritime Explorers Club | Shipping & Logistics Young Readers Column

Have you ever looked at a giant cargo ship and wondered what makes it move across oceans? It's not magic—it's **bunker fuel**, and it's a big deal in the world of shipping!

Let's dive into how ships get their fuel, why fuel prices change, and what all this means for the people who run the ships—and maybe, for you one day too!

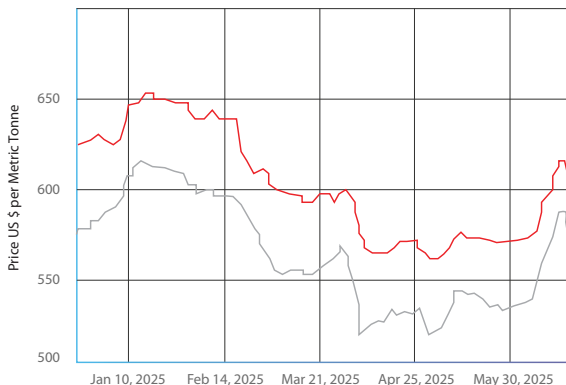
Bunker Fuel: The Ship's Food

Just like you need food to grow and play, ships need bunker fuel to travel. This special kind of oil powers the engines of massive ships carrying everything from video games and toys to cars and bananas.

There are two main types of bunker fuel:

- ◆ **VLSFO (Very Low Sulfur Fuel Oil)** – Clean, expensive, and required by most ships today.
- ◆ **HSFO (High Sulfur Fuel Oil)** – Dirty, cheaper, but only legal if the ship has a special cleaning system called a scrubber.

Fuel Price Range - VLSFO



Dec 25, '24 - Jun 24, '25	High	Low	Average	Spread
Global Average Bunker Price - VLSFO	\$658.00	\$558.50	\$603.50	\$99.50
Global 20 Ports Average - VLSFO	\$620.00	\$513.50	\$562.50	\$107.00

Fuel Prices Go Up and Down Like Waves

From January to June 2025, fuel prices changed a lot. VLSFO went as high as \$658 per tonne and dropped as low as \$558.50. These ups and downs happen because of:

- ◆ World events (like wars or natural disasters)
- ◆ Oil production changes
- ◆ Port supply issues

Smart shipping companies plan ahead, track prices, and sometimes even buy fuel in advance to lock in cheaper rates—just like how you might buy ice cream coupons before prices go up!

What's a Scrubber? And Why Does It Matter?

A **scrubber** is like a giant filter for ships. It cleans the dirty gases that come out of the engine when the ship burns cheaper fuel (HSFO).

Ships that have scrubbers can use the **cheaper HSFO** and still follow pollution rules. Ships without scrubbers must use the **more expensive VLSFO**.

But here's where it gets interesting...



The Scrubber Spread

A Shipping Secret Weapon

Imagine fueling a car at a gas station. You can go for regular unleaded gasoline (typically 87 octane) or premium gasoline (typically 91-93 octane). Though both are great for your vehicle, there is a difference in performance and efficiency apart from the price. That price difference is what we call a **spread**.

In shipping, the **scrubber spread** is the difference in price between VLSFO and HSFO. When the spread is big, ships with scrubbers **save a lot of money**. That's like getting a big discount every day.

In June 2025, the spread was around **\$123 per tonne of fuel**. Big cargo ships can burn up to **50 tonnes of fuel a day**, so that's a **saving of over \$6,000 every day!** Over a year, that's more than enough to buy a small airplane!

Fun Fact Corner!

The port of **Singapore** is one of the busiest bunkering spots on Earth—it's like a giant gas station for ships.

Ships burn so much fuel that choosing the **right port to refuel** can save **millions of dollars** every year.

Malaysia 2025

Navigating Transformation, Trade & Tomorrow

As the world sails into 2025 with economic uncertainty, shifting global alliances, and technological disruption, Malaysia is quietly charting its course with steady hands and bold vision. The nation stands at a strategic inflection point—powered by resilient domestic growth, revitalized maritime trade, and robust logistics and manufacturing backbones.

In this article, we explore how Malaysia is not just weathering economic headwinds, but preparing to lead regional transformation across sectors—from shipping to semiconductors, from ports to planes.

Steady Economic Winds: Growth Amid Global Uncertainty

Malaysia's economy is expected to grow at a healthy **4.7% in 2025**, riding on the strength of domestic consumption, export activity, and private investments. The fiscal and monetary outlook remains steady, with the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR)

forecasted to hold at 3%, while medium-term bond yields remain stable.

While 2024 closed with a slightly lower-than-expected Q4 GDP growth at 4.8%, the full-year performance of 5.1%—up from 3.6% in 2023—signals resilience in the face of global trade tensions, especially from the US and China.

Three regional powerhouses—**Johor, Sarawak, and Penang**, dubbed Malaysia's "Three Sisters"—continue to drive economic momentum, offering thematic investment opportunities across construction, ports, and digital infrastructure.

The Construction Catalyst: Building the Future

Construction is emerging as one of Malaysia's strongest growth sectors heading into 2025. A robust pipeline of infrastructure projects is expected to translate into order book expansions and rising earnings. These include:

- Penang LRT Phase 1
- Johor LRT/ART projects
- Penang Airport expansion
- MRT3 re-tendering possibilities

The government's USD 20.43 billion infrastructure budget and more than 7,600 development projects are fueling this growth, making Construction one of the top sectors to watch in 2025.

The Ringgit's Resilience: A Currency Poised for Comeback

Size of upcoming public infrastructure projects in Malaysia



Source: JPMorgan, MRT Corp, iFAST compilations. Data as of 31 Dec 2024

After a rollercoaster year in 2024, the **Malaysian ringgit (MYR)** ended the year at 4.4 to the USD. But the outlook is bullish. With the **US Federal Reserve softening its stance** and Malaysia showing domestic strength, the MYR is expected to appreciate to 4.1–4.2 by the end of 2025.

Export-heavy industries that were hurt by forex volatility in 2024 may find smoother waters ahead. Sectors like **consumer goods** and **construction**, which rely on imported materials, are poised to benefit from this currency strength.

Empowering Communities, Transforming Lives



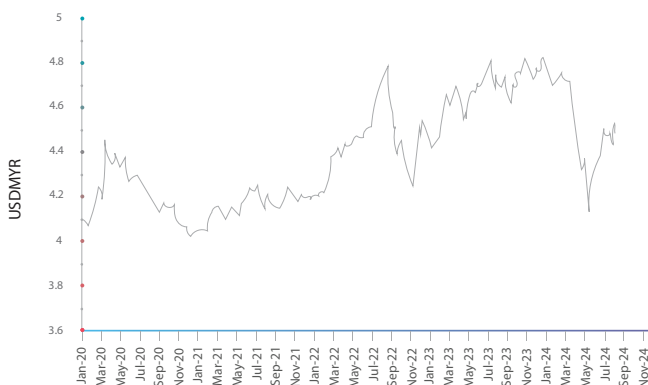
Smart Cares
Charitable Trust

Only *ONE* CONTAINER SHIPPED DOLLAR DONATED

Our shipping containers serve not only as a mode of cargo transport but also as a channel through which we contribute to building futures for those in need.



USDMYR trend



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., iFAST compilations. Data as of 31 Dec 2024

Ports, Trade & Progress: The Logistics Revolution

Malaysia's freight and logistics market is undergoing a tectonic transformation.

- Expected to grow from **USD 29.7 billion in 2025 to USD 38.28 billion by 2030** at a CAGR of 5.20%.
- Propelled by **e-commerce, international trade, and high-tech manufacturing.**
- Supported by policies like the National Transport Policy (2019–2030) and investments like the USD 225 million from the Islamic Development Bank.

Port Klang—the nation's maritime titan—handled **14.06 million TEUs in 2023**, and aimed to triple capacity by 2060. Meanwhile, Malaysia's port expansion plans, including **Tanjung Pelepas** and **Carey Island**, signal the country's ambition to rival regional giants like Singapore.

Malaysia is also climbing global rankings, jumping **15 spots to rank 26th** in the **World Bank Logistics Performance Index (2023)**.



The Bunkering Boom and Shipbuilding Surge

Malaysia's maritime strategy is entering a high-tide moment. The **Malaysia Shipping Master Plan**, along with the expansion of ports and digital logistics zones, is laying the foundation for the nation to become a major trade gateway.

Key highlights:

- **USD 6.34 billion plan to expand Port Klang**
- Malaysia ranks **5th in global shipping connectivity** (UNCTAD)
- Bunkering services growing rapidly; Malaysia is poised to rival **Singapore**, the global hub
- LNG bunkering growth aligned with **IMO's low-sulfur fuel** regulations

Specialized ports for oil, gas, palm oil, and timber industries—like **Kuala Linggi International Port** and **POIC Lahad Datu**—further strengthen the ecosystem.

Sector Spotlight

Manufacturing and Aviation

The **manufacturing sector**, contributing 39% of logistics demand in 2024, continues to dominate. Malaysia is doubling down on semiconductors and electronics:

- **USD 5.3 billion National Semiconductor Strategy**
- **60,000 engineers** to be trained
- Exports of electrical and electronic components are expected to hit **USD 112.22 billion by 2025**

Meanwhile, **Malaysia Airlines** is expanding its fleet with **42 new wide-body jets**, reflecting a strong rebound in global travel and positioning Malaysia as a regional aviation hub.

Malaysia's Import Pulse: Sectoral Snapshot

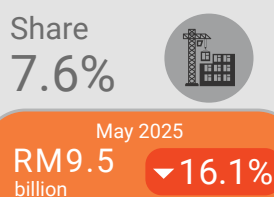
Malaysia's import activity reflects internal growth drivers, with the **manufacturing sector** taking the lion's share at **84.4% in May 2025**.

Imports by sectors, may 2025

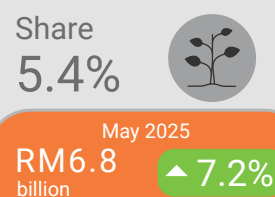
Manufacturing



Mining



Agriculture



Doing Business in Malaysia: A Nation on the Rise

Malaysia's transformation over recent years has been nothing short of remarkable. Once an agriculture-heavy economy, it has emerged as one of the **top-performing economies in ASEAN**, led by **electronics manufacturing, services, and strategic industrial growth**.

As of 2024, Malaysia's **poverty rate stands at just 1.4%**, a major social milestone driven by rising private consumption and disciplined inflation control. With consistent GDP growth and visionary national programs, Malaysia is now on track to achieve **World Bank "high-income nation" status between 2028 and 2030**.

Gateway to Global Markets

Beyond ASEAN, Malaysia holds a strategic advantage through its membership in major international trade alliances, including:

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
- The Commonwealth

These agreements **lower trade barriers** and enhance **Malaysia's connectivity to over 3 billion consumers worldwide**.

Smart Cities and Sustainable Innovation

Malaysia is also advancing its Smart City Framework, a national initiative that emphasizes:

- Sustainable urban planning
- Digital infrastructure
- Clean mobility and transportation
- Integration of smart technologies

These developments align with **global urbanization trends**, positioning Malaysia as a lucrative destination for **tech firms, green mobility startups, and infrastructure innovators**.

Malaysia’s growth was largely supported by resilient **domestic demand**, aided by:

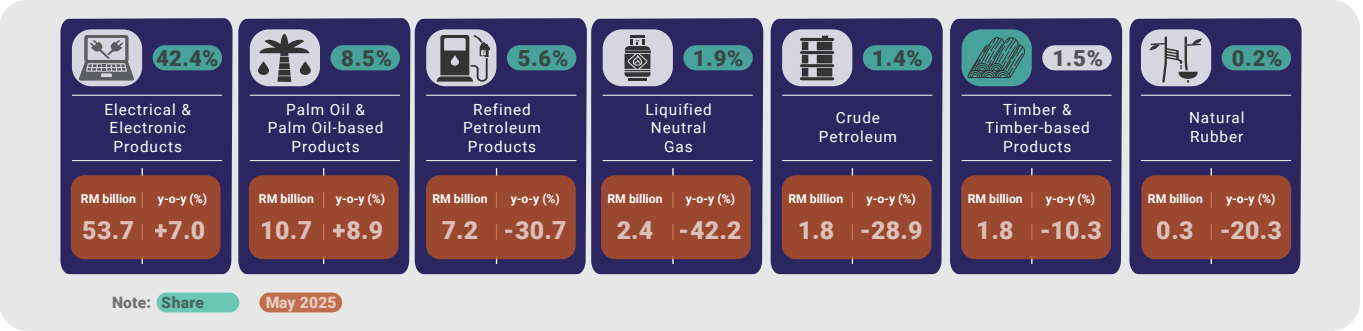
- **Strong household spending**, backed by a positive labour market and income-enhancing policies like minimum wage hikes and revised civil servant salaries.
- **Ongoing investment activity**, driven by both new and ongoing projects.
- **Moderate but solid import growth**, especially for capital goods—signaling continued momentum in industrial expansion and infrastructure build-outs.

From the **supply side**, growth was led by **services & manufacturing sectors**, although performance was moderated by:

- A **normalization of motor vehicle production and sales**, after several years of high growth.
- A **contraction in the mining sector**, due to reduced oil and gas output.

What Malaysia Sells to the World: Export Highlights

Malaysia’s export landscape in May 2025 saw **electrical & electronic (E&E) products** dominate, accounting for **42.4%** of total exports. The export performance offers a clear picture of industry resilience and global demand patterns:



E&E Products remain the bedrock of Malaysian exports, supported by the semiconductor boom and growing global demand for electronics.

Palm oil products continue to perform strongly, with consistent year-on-year growth.

Energy-based exports like **refined petroleum** and **LNG** saw significant declines, suggesting either lower prices, demand saturation, or supply adjustments.

Natural rubber and timber-based products showed notable contractions, underlining shifting global sourcing trends and environmental regulations.





What Lies Ahead: From Vision to Velocity

Malaysia's forward-looking strategies—from New Industrial Master Plan 2030 to its Digital Free Trade Zones, from building bridges with ASEAN partners to reimagining transport connectivity—are not just policy papers. They're engines of real growth.

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As we like to say in editorial circles - **this is not the peak of Malaysia's story, it's just the first chapter of its next great leap.**



BUDGET 2025 *ONE GLANCE*



Economic Performance

2025 GDP forecast

0.3% TO 5.5% (2024: 4.8% to 5.3%)

Unemployment

3.2% (as of August 2024)

Inflation

1.9% (as of August 2024)

Budget Performance

Total expenditure budget 2025

RM 421 BILLION

(up 6.9% compared to RM 393.8 bil in 2024)

Development Expenditure:

RM 86 BILLION

(down -4.4% compared to RM 90 bil in 2024) representing 20.4 % of overall budget

Operating Expenditure

RM 335 BILLION

(up 10.3% compared to RM 303.8 bil in 2024) representing 79.6 % of overall budget

Fiscal Deficit 2025: **-3.8%** (from -4.3% in 2024)

Editor's Note:

As Malaysia transforms from a regional player to a global logistics and trade powerhouse, the convergence of smart policy, robust infrastructure, and strategic global positioning will define its future. For investors, operators, and young professionals—Malaysia is a nation not just to watch, but to engage with, invest in, and grow alongside.

Smart Mind Game
ANSWER

1. Forwarders 2. Athwartships 3. Intermodal 4. DeVanning
5. Abcam 6. Berthage 7. Stevedore 8. Vanning 9. Ullage 10. Voyage

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