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#### LA-LONG BEACH ENJOY SOLID MAY AS VOLUMES REVIVE HOPES FOR 2023

THE Port of Los Angeles volume came to 779,140 TEU in May while the adjacent Port of Long Beach posted 758,225 TEU, its best month in 2023. While LA suffered a 19 per cent year-on-year drop, it represents a 60 per cent gain since February. Said LA port executive director Gene Seroka: "Even with improving volume, our terminals are a long way from working at full capacity. But we're starting to see more vessels headed across the Pacific to Los Angeles, an encouraging sign for the second half." LA's May laden imports reached 409,150 TEU, down 18 per cent year on year. Laden exports came in at 101,741 TEU, a decline of 19 per cent year on year. Empties came in at 268,249 TEU, a 22 per cent decline. Said Long Beach port CEO Mario Cordero: "At mid-year we're starting to see signs that cargo volume is on the upswing, with our busiest month since August of last year."

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### ONE TO INSTALL TELEMATIC DEVICES ON REEFER FLEET

SINGAPORE-BASED and Japanese-owned Ocean Network Express (ONE) has announced plans to install telematic devices on its reefer box fleet, marking a significant milestone in its digitalization strategy, reports AJOT. In a statement, the company says it recognizes the growing significance of technology and the pivotal role it will play in the refrigerated commodity market. As refrigerated commodities are sensitive, the shipping liner aims to deliver to customers a comprehensive visibility of their cargo and optimized operational decision-making using telematic devices. Such insights will enhance ONE's existing suite of reefer solutions and ensure cargo arrives in optimal condition. Senior vice president, strategic yield management, ONE, Kenichi Michida, said: "The installation of telematic devices on our reefer box fleet is a testament to our unwavering dedication to enhancing customer experience while driving digital transformation in the containerized reefer trade. We believe technology-enabled containers are the future of shipping, and we are excited to embark on this next step in our digital transformation journey using cutting-edge solutions to benefit our customers and industry."

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### RISE IN BOX RATES TO GULF AND S AMERICA, ASIA-EUROPE/US PRICES STALL

CONTAINER freight rates from China to 'emerging countries' in the Middle East and South America have been rising, while those on the Asia-Europe and transpacific tradelanes weaken. According to Container Change's latest report, as economies in the US and Europe come under pressure these regions have been importing fewer consumer goods from China, causing the PRC to look for emerging markets and countries along the Belt and Road as alternative outlets. In April, exporters at the country's largest trade event, the Canton Fair, said global economic uncertainties had resulted in a drastic fall in demand for their products from US and European retailers. As the demand for Chinese exports moves to new regions, prices for container shipping to these regions have gone up too, according to London's Loadstar.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### CHINA PORTS' CONTAINER VOLUME UP 4.8PC JANUARY TO APRIL

DURING the first four months of 2023, China's ports experienced a notable increase in trade, leading to a 4.8 per cent year-on-year growth in container throughput, reports Xinhua. The Ministry of Transport stated that the country's ports handled 95.43 million TEU of containers in this period. Total cargo throughput at China's ports reached 5.28 billion tonnes during the same period, marking a 7.6 per cent increase compared to the corresponding period in 2022. Cargo throughput related to foreign trade witnessed an 8.1 per cent year-on-year growth. The data revealed that in April alone, cargo throughput at China's ports surged 11.8 per cent compared to the previous year, with container throughput increasing 8.6 per cent.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

CHINA CONTAINERIZED FREIGHT INDEX

ROUTE	LAST PERIOD	THIS PERIOD
	2023/6/16	2023/6/21
CCFI	926.63	919.63
(JAPAN SERVICE)	854.96	858.59
(EUROPE SERVICE)	1124.82	1119.38
(W/C AMERICA SERVICE)	717.57	714.67
(E/C AMERICA SERVICE)	868.11	857.98
(KOREA SERVICE)	525.81	500.38
(SOUTHEAST ASIA SERVICE)	607.5	598.58
(MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE)	1649.82	1628.44
(AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SERVICE)	590.85	595.95
(SOUTH AFRICA SERVICE)	766.59	731.72
(SOUTH AMERICA SERVICE)	735.46	712.96
(WEST EAST AFRICA SERVICE)	603.48	583.26
(PERSIAN GULF/RED SEA SERVICE)	1134.39	1153.39

#### SMOKE CLOSES CONTAINER TERMINALS AT US EAST COAST'S BUSIEST PORT

DUE to the heavy smoke caused by wildfires in Canada, container terminals at the Port of New York and New Jersey were forced to close, reports Ventura, California's Captain. In a Tweet, the busiest port on the US east coast stated that operations at APMT, MAHER, PNCT, GCT Bayonne, and Columbia would cease, and gates were closed due to poor air quality. Air quality alerts have been issued throughout the northeast region, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) took measures to slow down air traffic to and from airports in the New York City area due to reduced visibility caused by the smoke from wildfires. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) air quality monitor registered "hazardous" levels, the highest warning level, across much of the Tri-State area.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### PANAMA CANAL DROUGHT PROMPTS TRICKY TRANSPACIFIC LOAD REDUCTION

THE Asia-US transpacific spot rates are expected to surge due to two factors: labour strikes at US west coast ports and draught restrictions in the Panama Canal, reports London's Loadstar. As a result of prolonged labour unrest at the ports, cargo is being redirected to gateways on the US east coast and Gulf Coast, accelerating the shift in coastal cargo flow. However, the largest vessels operating on the Asia-US east coast Panama routes are now facing new draught limitations at the neopanamax locks. This means these ships must pass through the canal with significantly reduced loads. To address these challenges, several carriers have implemented surcharges since June 1, and there are rumours of specific General Rate Increases (GRIs) being announced for transpacific Panama Canal routes. Maersk mentioned that the drought season in Panama is leading to drought issues, reducing the capacity of the Panama route.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### COSCO SHIPPING PORTS TAKES SMALLER SHARE IN HAMBURG PORT IN HHLA DEAL

HAMBURGER Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) and Cosco Shipping Ports have finalized the minority shareholding in Container Terminal Tollerort. The agreement provides Cosco Shipping Ports CSPL with an interest of 24.99 per cent in HHLA's Container Terminal Tollerort (CTT) in Hamburg, Germany. The stake is lower than the 35 per cent originally planned, the level of which ran into political opposition in Germany, reports UK's Seatrade Maritime News. "CTT will now be developed into a preferred handling location for HHLA's long-term customer Cosco, where freight flows between Asia and Europe are to be concentrated. The collaboration between the partners thus strengthens the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg's position as a logistics hub in the North Sea and Baltic region as well as Germany's position as an industrial nation," commented HHLA.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### US, CHINA AGREE TO STABILIZE RELATIONS AFTER BEIJING MEETINGS

TRANSATLANTIC US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said that the United States and China had made "progress" toward steering relations back on track as both sides agreed on the need to "stabilize" the bilateral relationship between the two superpowers, reports CNN. After two days of meetings in Beijing with top officials including President Xi Jinping, Mr Blinken said that there are key issues between the nations that remain unresolved, but noted that his "hope and expectation is we will have better communications, better engagement going forward." Mr Blinken is the first US secretary of state to visit Beijing in five years, and his talks with senior Chinese officials were seen as a key litmus test for whether the two governments could stop relations from continuing to plummet at a time of lingering distrust. "It was clear coming in that the relationship was at a point of instability," Mr Blinken said at a news conference in the Chinese capital Monday.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)

#### JOBS AT STAKE AS CALIFORNIA PORT TERMINALS AT LA AND LB GO GREEN

FIRST UNIONS are optimistic that a US\$30 million grant for electrifying tractors at a Long Beach port terminal will not only propel it to become the world's first zero-emissions facility but also safeguard jobs amidst the energy transition and increasing automation, reports Reuters. The grant, provided by US President Joe Biden's administration, will enable Long Beach Container Terminal to acquire 60 electric yard tractors responsible for transporting shipping containers from stacks to trains. However, a condition of the funding is that the new equipment must be operated by human workers.

(Source: Shipping Gazette)