

MARINE NEWS



"Failure is a lesson learned; success is a lesson applied."

Blue Economy-Wave 43

(Series on "Blue Economy" By Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar)



Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar, Blue Economy Social Activist & Multi Modal Logistics Expert

The sea and the coasts are drivers of the economy. Because of their outward-looking geography, ports and coastal communities have traditionally been centres for new ideas and innovation. In addition to this traditional propensity for innovation, three new factors have now come into play. –



- First, there has been rapid technological progress in working offshore in everdeeper waters. Robotics, video-surveillance and submersible technology are now routinely packaged into machinery for operations that were not feasible ten years ago.

- Second, we are increasingly aware that land and freshwater are finite resources. Further clearing of forests or draining of wetland will deprive future generations of the benefits they provide. We need to look how the 71% of the planet that is ocean can deliver human necessities such as food and energy in a way that is more sustainable. Meeting environmental targets can also be a source of innovation and growth.

- Third, the need to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions has not only driven the deployment of offshore renewable energy installations, but has also provided a further impetus for energy saving and an additional reason to favour seaborne transport over land transport due to its lower emissions per tonne-kilometre. There is significant potential to reduce these emissions which account for about 3% of the total greenhouse gas emissions by further improving the energy efficiency of ships.

Another allied but emerging sector in the blue economy with an enormous scope is the 'marine biotechnology'. Specific marine species, including sponges, are used for the development of the drugs that cure infections, malaria, Alzheimer, Schizophrenia, cardiovascular diseases, inflammations, and even cancer. This needs to be explored in India the relevance of which was even stated in the FICCI's "Blue Economy- Vision 2025" report.

Marine life has adapted to thrive in the extreme ambient conditions found in the sea. Blue biotechnology is concerned with the exploration and exploitation of the resulting diverse marine organisms in order to develop new products.

Exploration of the sea biodiversity could enable us to develop new pharmaceuticals or industrial enzymes that can withstand extreme conditions, and which consequently have high economic value. In the long term, it is expected

that the sector will offer high-skilled employment and significant downstream opportunities.

We now have the underwater technology to explore the sea and undertake DNA sequencing to analyse its life. Concerted action from the EU at this early stage joins up the efforts of EU countries in order to provide critical mass and hence stimulate growth and facilitate access to competitive niche markets whilst avoiding risks to the marine environment.

Marine Sources and Research Areas

Science and technology continue to move forward in making different technological tools to develop new products from the marine source. Important marine sources in the research are microorganisms, algae, and sponges. Various biotechnological products have been commercialized, ranging from novel drugs, chemicals, and enzymes to bioenergy.

Marine biotechnology plays an important role in the development of various biomaterials, biosensors, seafood safety, aquaculture, bioremediation, and biofouling. Several drugs are obtained from natural sources, and researchers are still searching for potential organisms from marine sources.

(To be continued...)

CONTAINER TERMINAL NEWS

Rotterdam dredge set to strengthen port accessibility

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News Service

Dredging work due to start later this month at the Port of Rotterdam will deepen a 500m stretch of the Amazonehaven port basin at Maasvlakte from 16.65m to 17.45m. The dredging project, which has been commissioned by the Port of Rotterdam Authority in partnership with Hutchison Ports ECT Rotterdam (ECT), is expected to be completed by the second half of November 2020.

The Dutch port for the ECT Delta Terminal being ready to receive the next-generation container ships

The Dutch port aims to secure the readiness of the ECT Delta Terminal to receive the next-generation container ships. "We continuously invest in the ECT Delta Terminal – both to remain future-proof and so we can keep offering our clients an optimal range of services,"



The Dutch port aims to secure the readiness of the ECT Delta Terminal to receive the next-generation container ships

commented Leo Ruijs, CEO of ECT.

The project will start with preparatory

work in week 40, around 28 September.

After this, the contractor will dredge

three berths along the southern quay wall. Parties expect to round off deepening activities in week 47 in mid-late November.

Rotterdam to maintain its status as Europe's most attractive port of call

"The Port of Rotterdam Authority is happy to facilitate this trend on behalf of shipping companies and deep sea terminals, to ensure that Rotterdam maintains its status as Europe's most attractive port of call," said Emile Hoogsteden, vice president commercial at the Port of Rotterdam Authority.

Another move that enhances Rotterdam's connections and accessibility is the official opening of the Ceneri Base Tunnel in Switzerland. The new Swiss tunnel is expected to improve North-South rail connection for freight transport between the Italian port city of Genoa and the Dutch port.

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