

# the sea

## EAST ASIA REGION



Caring for seafarers  
around the world

February 2020



### Coronavirus costing container lines \$350m per week

By Gary Dixon  
Copyright: NHST Global Publications AS

The Chinese coronavirus outbreak is costing container lines \$350m per week due to lost volumes.

This is according to Danish analyst Sea-Intelligence, which said 350,000 teu has been cut from the export and import market every seven days since the disease broke out.

The company said 21 Pacific voyages have been cancelled due to the virus, which equals 198,500 teu, while the number of cancellations between Europe and Asia is estimated at 10, corresponding to 151,500 teu.

Alphaliner has estimated that the extended Chinese New Year holidays, aimed at curbing the disease's spread, will reduce box volumes at Chinese ports, including Hong Kong, by more than 6m teu in the first quarter.

*"This volume contraction is expected to reduce global container throughput growth by at least 0.7% for the full year,"* the consultancy said.

Alphaliner added that the full impact will not be fully measurable until ports announce their throughput numbers for the first quarter.

But data collected on weekly container vessel calls at key Chinese ports already show a reduction of over 20% since 20 January.

On top of service reductions announced earlier, carriers reacted to the situation with additional void sailings in February, thus accounting for reduced cargo volumes, it said.

Since these extended void sailing programmes on long-haul services are slated to continue until mid-March, Alphaliner added that any

cargo volume recovery could be negatively affected, even after the end of the holidays.

#### Normal apart from Wuhan

Port operations are normal at all terminals except for the origin of the epidemic, Wuhan, which handled 1.7m teu of container cargo in 2019, accounting for 0.6% of total Chinese port throughput.

Alphaliner said industrial production has been affected, with negative consequences for exports, which trigger sailing cancellations and charterers issuing notices of redeliveries at the earliest contractual date.

*"Other problems range from large-scale flight cancellations that impede crew changes, to severe staff shortages at many of China's most active shipyards,"* Alphaliner said. ■

### Oscars 2020: South Korea's Parasite makes history.

Courtesy of BBC NEWS

South Korean film Parasite has been named best picture at this year's Oscars, becoming the first non-English language film to take the top prize.

Renee Zellweger won best actress for playing Judy Garland in Judy. Joaquin Phoenix was named best actor for Joker. Brad Pitt and Laura Dern scooped the supporting acting awards for their roles in Once Upon A Time in Hollywood and Marriage Story respectively.

Parasite won four awards in total, while Sir Sam Mendes's 1917 took three.

The World War One epic had been the favourite to win best picture, but its awards all came in the technical categories.



Parasite's Bong Joon-ho beat Sir Sam to the prize for best director, and also took the best original screenplay award.

The film is a vicious social satire about two families from different classes in Seoul - one who live in poverty in a semi-basement, and another rich family residing in a large home.

It has now managed what no other subtitled film has done in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards and won best picture.

*"I feel like I'll wake up to find it's all a dream. It all feels very surreal,"* Bong said. ■

**Seafarers များအတွက်**  
အရေးကြီး ဆက်သွယ်ရေး အဖွဲ့အစည်း  
အခြေခံ သင်တန်းများ  
၃၆  
**Onboard Job Knowledge Sharing**

၀၁-၉၁၉၀၆၂၄, ၀၉-၇၉၂၈၂၇၀၄၀  
The Mission to Seafarers Yangon  
အမှတ် (၄၄/အ)၊ သင်္ဘောကုန်းလမ်း၊ ယုန်ကုန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ယင်း

### Pope Francis prays for those affected by the coronavirus

*"I wish to be close to and pray for the people who are sick because of the virus that has spread through China,"* Pope Francis said after praying the Sunday Angelus in St. Peter's Square.

*"May the Lord welcome the dead into his peace, comfort families and sustain the great commitment by the Chinese community that has already been put in place to combat the epidemic,"* he said.



### MISSION TO SEAFARERS EAST ASIA REGION

The Chaplains of the East Asia Region are all EARS and would love to hear from seafarers in the region. Why not drop us a line? See Page 4 for details



To find a seafarers' centre near you and for more information about the Mission's services, visit [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)

## 宅船的日子

自从武汉冠状病毒爆发以来，中国大陆、香港、澳门、台湾以及全球各国皆采取严密措施，防范疫情蔓延，坚决打赢这场病毒战。海运业无可避免地被冲击。海员工作与生活也受某种程度影响。

这几天，香港货柜码头和锚地船舶稀落，给人一片萧条的感觉。在这非常时期，海员之家继续发挥关怀海员的精神，仍然登船关怀，派送阅读刊物、球赛光盘和一些小礼品。

船舶上皆采取防范措施，海员们都戴上口罩，一些船只要求登船人员必须戴口罩，甚至量体温。为了大家的安全和安心，避免潜在的交叉感染，我们改变以往进入船舱探望的行动，只把阅读刊物和其他东西留在舷梯口。

几乎每条船都取消下地准许，很多船员吐槽说貌似坐监，软禁在船上的感觉。我们邀请你们分享一下宅船的日子。我们会节录你们的分享

刊登在下期的 The Sea。

祝愿大家平安健康！希望疫情早日解决，恢复过往色彩的海员生活。



### Mini Crossword - 06

1		2		3		4
	■		■			
5						
	■					
6						
	■					
7						

#### Across

1. Long-standing and recurrent
5. Panacea
6. Pear-shaped tropical fruit
7. Beam

#### Down

1. Mythical half man, half horse
2. React
3. Paradise
4. Write music

## The world at our fingertips



The internet influences our lives in so many ways. It has made communication and interaction universal. It helps us achieve tasks efficiently with information and virtual guides just a click away. Let's stop and consider to what extent we are aware of the internet and its purposes.

With the creation of computers, the world wide web and the innovation of technology, social media sites are one of the most utilized platforms in communications and networking in the digital age.

The modern smartphone took a long 26-year journey to reach what is available here in the present, and it has changed a lot during that time. The evolution of the smartphone is important to understand, because it gives us a glimpse of where we have come from, and of what is coming.



Back in 1992 IBM revealed the revolutionary Simon Personal Communicator. You could say it was ahead of its time, and most consumers didn't jump on board. But by 1999 Google.com is registered and Blackberry brings the internet and entertainment to mobile phones. Facebook was launched in 2004 as a website for Harvard University students, it grew to become a worldwide hit in just two years.

Youtube and Twitter soon followed and by 2007 the first iPhone appeared. One of the

most advanced consumer smartphones the market had ever seen. By 2015, 84% of Americans said they couldn't go a day without their phone.

### Social Media Revolution

Social networking is the most popular reason for apps as they connect people from different parts of the world - bridging the gap between people who are separated by distance. Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn.

Microblogging sites allow us to create, post and share content online therefore engaging other people who share the interest with them to connect. All the other Blogging sites enable us to publish stories and articles, record and share opinions, promote creative writing.

Media sharing allows us to express ourselves through sharing photos and videos that entice our followers and allow more room for creativity, fun and entertainment.

Consumer review networks such as Zomato, TripAdvisor, Yelp are used to review products or services. This allows us to learn more about a product or service through the feedback of others who have already experienced the product or service.

Sharing economy networks such as Grab and Airbnb help advertise, find, share, buy, sell and trade products and services between peers.

Educational and interest-based networks facilitate the exchange of ideas and learning even after school hours.

“ By 2015, 84% of Americans said they couldn't go a day without their phone.

With hundreds of available social media platforms to use, each has its own key features and efficacy of use. Most of all, each has a particular

purpose to serve. As we use social media applications, how much do we really know about their capacity to bring efficiency to our lives and our activities?

### Consider this?

Monitor your time spent for social media activity. Each of us vary in the amount of time we spend on our social media accounts depending on our purpose.

The use of smartphones contribute to delayed sleepiness and poor quality of sleep as the light it emits is said to suppress the body's production of melatonin, a sleep-promoting hormone.

(Scutti, 2017; Changet.al., 2015)

Observe the content of your postings online as these reflect your character and disposition. Your emotions influence what you post and how you post it. ■



Our WeCare programmes have been developed to help seafarers and their families navigate some of the challenges they may experience.

They include:

- social communication – training in responsible use of social media, texting and emails
- financial literacy – training in how to manage finances including budgeting, loans, savings and pensions

These two programmes are sponsored by the UK P&I Club and is available free of charge to its members during 2020 as part of its 150th Anniversary. For all other companies there will be a modest charge.

For more information about the WeCare courses available speak to one of our chaplains or contact the Mission direct.

<http://missiontoseafarers.org>

or through our  
Philippines Family Network  
Facebook @mtspfhf



## Violent stowaways discovered on Maersk Tankers

By Gary Dixon

Copyright: NHST Global Publications AS

**Master diverts vessel into Vigo, Spain, where negotiations continued with African men**

A Maersk Tankers ship has diverted into a Spanish port after three violent stowaways were found on board.

The 38,000-dwt Harald Maersk (built 2009) was heading from Gibraltar across the Atlantic when the discovery was made on Saturday.

Spanish media reported that the men maintained an aggressive attitude and did not enter into dialogue with the crew, so the decision was made to head into Vigo and alert authorities there.

A spokeswoman for Maersk Tankers told TradeWinds: "We can confirm that we are having three stowaways on board the vessel Harald Maersk. The vessel was on passage from Gibraltar and is now berthed at Vigo, Spain. We are collaborating with the relevant authorities and follow their instructions to get the persons safely disembarked."

Spanish police and border guards boarded the tanker,



accompanied by translators, to establish a dialogue with the stowaways.

The vessel left Las Palmas on 22 January, but had stopped in Conakry in Guinea and Lagos in Nigeria before that.

The men are thought to have stowed away in Guinea.

### Violent stowaways jailed in UK

Incidents involving potentially violent stowaways are not as common as those involving attacks by pirates, but are not unknown.

In January, four men who terrorised a Grimaldi conro in December 2018 were each jailed in the UK.

The alleged ringleader Joberto McGee, 21, was sentenced to 32 months and Toheeb

Popoola, 27, to 31 months. Samuel Jolumi, 27, and Ishola Sunday, 28, will each serve a 16-month sentence.

The west African quartet were accused of attacking the crew of the 78,000-gt Grande Tema (built 2014) in the Thames Estuary en route to Tilbury, waving metal pipes and throwing human waste at crew members.

The seafarers barricaded themselves in the bridge and were rescued by British special forces.

Each of the four were convicted of affray, while Popoola was convicted of making threats to kill and McGee of two similar charges. ■

## Where can I get help?

Are you one of the 1.5 million people around the world working at sea, or a loved one of someone who is? The dangers of being a seafarer can be huge, and include shipwreck, abandonment and being separated from those you care about.

We work in over 200 ports in 50 countries and are available 365 days a year. We can provide help and support, no matter your nationality, gender or religion. Our network of chaplains, staff and volunteers can help with any problem – whether it's emotional, practical or spiritual help that you need.

Our support includes:

- ✓ Visiting ships to check crew members are well
- ✓ Providing SIM cards to connect you with loved ones and transport when you're on land
- ✓ Help connecting you to other organisations, or speaking to them on your behalf
- ✓ Emergency support & Advocacy, if needed.
- ✓ Seafarers' centres, where you can relax, connect to wifi, and have something to eat and drink.

Our mission is to care for the shipping industry's most important asset: its people.

If you need spiritual support, we can connect you to a chaplain. Just tell us what's happened and how we can help through our Contacts on Page 4.

If you need help and support on a welfare or justice issue, please get in touch with us on:

[crewhelp@mtsmail.org](mailto:crewhelp@mtsmail.org)

## Latest Seafarers Happiness Index shows decrease in positivity and satisfaction among those working at sea



The latest Seafarers Happiness Index report, published today by The Mission to Seafarers, has revealed that seafarer happiness continues to fluctuate – with improvements in connectivity at sea, but also continuing concerns regarding workload among the issues raised by seafarers.

The index, undertaken in association with leading P&I insurer the Shipowners' Club, is a tool for measuring the

experiences of seafarers across the global maritime industry. In the latest report, overall seafarer happiness dropped to 6.13/10 from 6.59 the previous quarter. The data comes from over 2000 respondents, with surveys completed in the final quarter of 2019. In 2020, maritime solutions company, Wallem Group, will be partnering with MTS alongside the Shipowners' Club to support this initiative.

Across all vessel types, three key issues emerged from the survey responses over the three-month period: workload stress caused by changes in regulations; a drop

in satisfaction with access to welfare facilities ashore; and an increase in racism experienced while at sea.

Responses regarding shore leave show that seafarers are not being able to reap the benefits of welfare facilities ashore, which in turn hugely impacts their wellbeing. There needs to be an industry-wide drive to ensure correct visas are acquired so that seafarers are able to enjoy the benefits of shore-based welfare facilities whilst in ports and terminals.

On the positive side, seafarers' happiness with their ability to keep in contact with loved ones when at sea rose this quarter. The data demonstrates that crews who have good quality, low-cost access to the internet

and good communication with their families are far happier than those who do not. This is an encouraging indication of the benefits to seafarers from widespread improvements to connectivity at sea.

Overall, while this report shows a drop in satisfaction towards the end of 2019, it must be recognised that the festive period is a difficult time for most seafarers who are away from family and this could have contributed to the decrease in happiness. ■

The Mission to Seafarers would like to offer its thanks to all the seafarers who contributed to the latest survey. To read the full report online, visit here:

[https://www.happyatsea.org/wp-content/uploads/SHI\\_Q4\\_2019.pdf](https://www.happyatsea.org/wp-content/uploads/SHI_Q4_2019.pdf)

# Kobe Bryant: Philippine fans mourn basketball hero

By Howard Johnson. BBC News, Manila, Philippines



Just hours before Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash on Sunday, a new basketball hall had opened in the Philippines, named in his honour.

"I can't understand it. Just 12 hours' gap from ribbon cutting and hearing the news," said Congressman Eric Martinez, the man behind The House of Kobe in Valenzuela City. "Everyone has been fighting back tears today. This is a basketball-loving nation."

Kobe Bryant has always been hugely popular in the Philippines, where basketball is the national sport and obsession. He visited the country seven times over the years, winning him the affection of Philippine basketball fans.

Congressman Martinez told the BBC the city began building the LA Lakers-themed local community and sports centre last year.

But the decision to name it after the NBA star was only made last week inspired largely by Bryant's mantra of upward social mobility.

The wall of the new basketball centre has now become a tribute to the former LA Lakers player.

"Rest in paradise my hero," said one message. "Always be a legend," said another. "Incredible family man."

"It's just sad. It feels like I lost a brother that I look up to," said one fan, Marti Dadia, 33 from Laguna. "I named my son Kobe not just because of his on-court skills but more on how he inspires people to have the drive to be the best version of themselves in whatever field they are in."

Dadia's comments reflect what Kobe himself called the Mamba Mentality, a belief that to succeed in life a person must give their all and not be afraid of failure.

## 'Filipinos loved him back'

Basketball is the most popular sport in the Philippines, a legacy of America's occupation of the country which ended in 1946.

The Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), which was founded in 1975, was the first professional basketball league in Asia and is closely modelled on the NBA.

Philippine television channels screen up to 10 games a week and many in the country dream of becoming professional players. For many in the Philippines, Kobe's life represented the ideals of Filipino values and sensibilities.

He was a humble, hardworking family man who remained loyal to his team, serving the Los Angeles Lakers for his entire 20-year career.

News channels were rolling on the story of Kobe's death, carrying tributes from various Philippines sports stars and celebrities. One headline, on ABC CBN, read: "Kobe Bryant showed Philippines love, and Filipinos loved him back".

Others ran photo galleries showing him playing ball with former President Joseph Estrada, or greeting emotional fans.



Philippine senator and boxer Manny Pacquiao, who also owns and plays for a local basketball team, posted this tribute to Bryant on Instagram: "The world lost a legend today but the impact and legacy he leaves behind will last forever!"

PBA Commissioner Willie Marcial told GMA News that his organisation had lost a "dear friend" in Kobe Bryant. "Kobe was an exceptional basketball player," said Mr Marcial. "But beyond his athletic skills, he was known for his caring heart and love of family. His life was an inspiration and a lesson to everyone that with hard work, dedication and self-sacrifice, nothing is impossible." ■



### Hong Kong SAR, CHINA

Seafarer's Centres, ship visits & transport

1. Tsim Sha Tsui Drop-in: M-F 0900-1800
2. Kwai Chung Club: 0900-2100 everyday



+852 9154 3878

website - themarinersclubhk.org

### Manila, PHILIPPINES

Family Network for advice & support

Open daily 0900-1700 :: 1381 San Marcelino St.



+63 2240 5982

fb: mission-to-seafarers-philippines

### Yangon, MYANMAR

Family Network for advice & support

Open M-F 0900-1700



+95 1 9190624

website - yangonmts.org

### Bangkok, THAILAND

Ship visits and on-call support



+66 9 2257 5305

email - mtsthaidave@gmail.com

### SINGAPORE

Seafarer's Centre, ship visits & transport

M-F: 1000-2200 Sat: 1600-2200 Sun: closed



+65 6737 2880

website - mtss.org.sg

### Tomakomai, JAPAN

Seafarer's Centre, ship visits & transport

Please call for times of operation



+81 90-1305-1692

### Yokohama, JAPAN

Ship visits & transport during the week.



+81 80-4929-2763

website: mtsyokohama.org

### Kobe, JAPAN

Seafarer's Centre, ship visits & transport

M-F: 1400-2200 Sun: 1800-2200 Sat: closed



+81 78-331-1696

website - flyingangelkobe.org

### Busan, SOUTH KOREA

Seafarer's Centre, ship visits & transport

Tue - Sun: 1200-2000 Mon: closed



+82 51-627-9188

facebook.com/fabusan

### Working in 200 ports & 50 countries

For information about our services around the world



+44 20 7428-5202

website - missiontoseafarers.org

@themissiontoseafarers