

WEEK 49

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# APERTURE & FOCUS

*A Global Network Advisory Series by Kintetsu World Express, Inc.*

## GLOBAL APERTURE

It's time to move on from the farce of a "[market collapse](#)" toward a new horizon, and that usually comes with a [comprehensive year-end review](#).

After nearly three years of disruptions, industry leaders are moving on a new slogan: out with the old; in with [the new](#).

Global shipping lines [start pruning](#) near-obsolete vessels for scrap and [ordering boxships powered](#) by alternative fuels to comply with decarbonization initiatives. [New proof of insurance measures in Turkey](#) choke about 20 million barrels of crude oil traveling through the Bosphorus Strait while EU sanctions and a G7-enforced price cap hold down Russian exports.

China stacks [over 1 trillion yuan in domestic incentives for chipmakers](#) and files a complaint to the World Trade Organization [on US semiconductor export controls levied](#) in October, with [Japan and Netherlands rumored to follow suit](#) in the coming weeks.

## REGIONAL FOCUS - AMERICAS

The railroad unions [didn't strike on December 9 as some feared](#). West Coast ports [may never hear the end of it](#) from port analysts while East Coast leader [Savannah opts to convert its breakbulk terminal](#) for containerized operations and New Orleans sets up a [joint partnership to construct a new \\$1.8 billion container terminal](#). Construction of new [battery plant](#) in South Carolina may start by early 2023, adding to the [formation of a 'battery belt' across](#) the US Southeast—part incentivized by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#).

US and Mexico officials may consider [diverting cargo traffic away from the](#) El Paso border to accommodate the latest influx of immigrants.

## REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

[China relaxes lockdown measures](#) for seafarers and port workers; [Hong Kong lifts traveler restrictions](#) and [cross-border detours](#), and [domestic travel is back](#). A [lone carrier restricts feeder service](#) to several ports in Southern China, but [air connections to](#) Japan, Bangladesh, [Vietnam](#), and Malaysia have resumed—a new [Hong Kong charter to Sydney](#) underscores 50 years of [diplomacy and trade](#) with Australia.

Korea's cargo trucker strike finally ends by [vote on December 9](#); though unable to extend its Safe Trucking Freight Rates System per initial demands, government officials will work with union leaders to improve working conditions.

In India, [construction of a new port in Vizhingham, Kerala](#) is expedited following the end of a four-month protest by local residents.

## REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

[More cargo vessels in Europe-Asia trade lanes](#) are taking detours through the Cape of Good Hope to avoid Suez Canal fees, increasing transit distances by around 3,500 nautical miles. [New service connections are introduced to connect](#) Saudi Arabia's Dammam Port with Dubai and India, and [Estonia prepares to ban the transport of](#) Russian and Belarusian cargo by January 1, 2023 via state-owned rail company Operail.

Felixstowe Port avoids [another work stoppage with](#) a new pay deal that increases dockworker wages by 8.5% in 2023. But much of [the UK is still at risk](#) of strike action, with [nurses](#) and [Border Force workers](#) scheduled for late-December walkouts. [Spain](#) and [France](#) will also have to wade through similar disruptions into 2023.