



WEEK 19

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# APERTURE & FOCUS

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

## GLOBAL APERTURE

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development released its 2023 Trade and Environment Review on May 8, highlighting in particular the need for a global Blue Deal to protect the world's oceans as critical to the livelihoods people around the world by investing in sustainable sectors and limiting the effects of climate change. In a step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, ship speeds have been reduced by 4% during 2023 and many ships have installed Engine Power Limitations to comply with standards set by the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index.

## REGIONAL FOCUS - AMERICAS

**USA:** The US Environmental Protection Agency [launched a \\$4 billion initiative to cut carbon emissions](#) with two newly announced programs: the Clean Ports Program that aims to electrify US ports and the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicle Program that aims to cut emissions from the use of commercial vehicles. Since the passing of the 2022 Ocean Shipping Reform Act gave shippers and forwarders a simplified process for disputing carrier charges, [more than \\$1 million in](#)

[unnecessary fees have been waived or refunded](#), according to the Federal Maritime Commission.

**Mexico:** Commercial truck drivers crossing the border from Mexico to the US at the Texas borders in Brownsville and Los Indios [were waiting as long as eight hours to cross between May 2 and May 4](#) due to increased inspections from the Texas Department of Public Safety. Following complaints from Mexican officials and increasing backlogs, [the measures were eased](#) and traffic began flowing smoothly as soon as May 5.

## REGIONAL FOCUS – ASIA-PACIFIC

**China:** While exports continued to rise in China [with an 8.5% year-over-year increase](#) as unfulfilled factory orders from last year are being caught up on, [imports fell by 7.9%](#)— a decline made more significant when compared to the 0.2% drop that had been predicted by China's customs administration.

**India:** More enhancements come for India-Bangladesh trade integration in the form of Maitri Dwar, [a second cargo gate at the integrated Check Post in Petrapole](#) that is expected to bring a boost to bilateral trade and resolve the congestion that the post faces with as many as 700 cargo vehicles crossing daily.

**Australia:** Authorities reported significant port congestion during the first quarter of this [year thanks to Australia's strict biosecurity protocols to keep the country clear of invasive species](#)— in particular, Asia's brown marmorated stink bug, which has already invaded much of North America and Europe.

## REGIONAL FOCUS – EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

**EU:** In response to increased attempts to avoid the G7 price cap and ban on Russian crude oil, [the EU is proposing a ban on vessels that attempt to evade sanctions from entering Europe's ports](#). This measure is part of broader sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, aiming to close loopholes and enforce restrictions more effectively.

**Ukraine:** Adding to these tensions amid a global food crisis, [all incoming ships have been prevented from being registered in Ukrainian ports](#), effectively halting the Black Sea Grain Initiative less than two weeks ahead of its renewal date on May 18.

**Netherlands:** After reports [linked maritime risks to ports and terminals](#) earlier this year, the port of Antwerp-Bruges [launched a new autonomous drone program](#) to improve security by detecting debris and providing a live feed of the port 24 hours per day.