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SITE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL SHIP REPAIR FACILITY OF COCHIN SHIPYARD LTD, KOCHI

Inspected the site with Cochin Shipyard Ltd Authorities, Divisional Forest Officer, Malayattoor and Assistant Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry, Ernakulam on 19.01.2017. The project site is located at the southern end of Wellington Island bearing an extent of 17.00 ha on land and 850 meters of water frontage. It is presently held on lease by Cochin Shipyard Ltd, for a period of 30 years from Cochin Port Trust.

The Cochin Port Trust was already operating a Ship Repairing Facility in the said area with the following facility namely

- (i) Dry dock
- (ii) Two cranes
- (iii) Repair birth
- (iv) Main repair building
- (v) Administrative and technical staff buildings
- (vi) Canteen

The existing facility is capable of accommodating Ships of maximum size of length 64.0 meters, breadth 12.5 meters and drought 4.0 meters. The project is proposed to be built on land owned by the Cochin Port Trust, which is presently held on lease by the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The site is purely of an industrial nature bearing

administrative and technical infrastructure. It has sparse tree growth but for the presence of few mangrove species on the water front.

The Kerala State Pollution Control Board has alredy granted its concern to establish the project vide its permission dated 6th April 2016 (File No. PCP/HO/AE2/EKM/ICE/12/2016) which is valid up to 24.05.2018.

As per the minutes of the 11th meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee (Infra -2) for projects relating to Ship Repairs held on 29th April 2016, the project was recommended for clearance subject to Stage – I forest clearance, wildlife clearance and compensatory mangrove planting on 2.00 ha at Munroe Thuruthu, located at the confluence of Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada river in Kollam District of Kerala. The project proponent has already submitted the proposal for compensatory Afforestation of Mangroves in collaboration with Social Forestry Division, Kollam and the Munroe Thuruthu Panchayat.

The site being one that is presently in use for industrial purpose already, it is felt that the proposed expansion of it to a facility for International Ship Repair would not cause damage to the ecology in any substantial manner. The proposed project would also not cause any threat to the Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary which is about 4.3 Km away from the site. The site is in the thick of industrial operations and is not on the migratory path of wild animals. I am therefore of the view that the project may be accorded permission to operate.

Rajesh Ravindran, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests Central Circle, Thrissur