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50th OTC kicks off with cautious enthusiasm



Inside C2

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Make Today Different

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Central American migrants from Mexico 'caravan' camp out on U.S. border

TIJUANA, Mexico (Reuters) - About 150 Central Americans from a "caravan" of migrants in Mexico were camped out early on Monday at the U.S. border, some trapped inside a port of entry between the two countries, as officials barred them from stepping foot on U.S. soil. Members of a caravan of migrants from Central America sleep near the San Ysidro checkpoint after a small group of fellow migrants entered the United States border and customs facility, where they are expected to apply for asylum, in Tijuana, Mexico April 30, 2018. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

Denied passage on Sunday into a pedestrian crossing between Tijuana and San Diego at the San Ysidro port of entry, many of those who had fled El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras hoping for U.S. asylum slept in a square at the Mexican entrance.

Mexican officials late on Sunday allowed a first group into the walkway, about 50 women, children and transgender people, among the "most vulnerable" of the caravan, organizers said.

But they were stopped between the Mexican and U.S. gates, where U.S. Customs and Border agents would need to ask if they feared going back to their homelands, initiating a lengthy and fraught legal process that could end in deportation or asylum.

Organizers invited women and children in the group to return to migrant shelters, but few took up the offer, partly to show their determination and partly because they did not want to forfeit their best chance yet at reaching the United States.

"I think I'm next on the list to go," said Johanna Magaly, 37, from a patch of the square she had staked out with bags and clothes. The Guatemalan cook said she had fled a violent partner who attacked their eight-month-old son. "Especially for him," she said, shuddering as she glanced at the infant in her arms and tightened a thick blanket around him to ward off the cold.

The standoff between U.S. officials and the bedraggled and exhausted migrants who had trekked 2,000 miles (3,200 km) together across Mexico was the culmination of weeks of uncertainty after U.S. President Donald Trump began lashing out at them in early April.

"We have to have borders. If we don't have borders, we won't have a country," Trump said in a joint news conference on Monday with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari when asked about the caravan.

Organizers said that the San Ysidro port of entry, among the largest in southern California, could hold more than 300 detained migrants. But the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has said that it was already at capacity.

In early April, the caravan comprised 1,500 migrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. Trump complained about the caravan, ordering immigration officials to be zealous in enforcing rules to stop unlawful entry by its members.

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen said last week the caravan migrants should seek asylum in Mexico.

U.S. border authorities say some people associated with the caravan had already been caught trying to slip through the border fence and encouraged the rest to report to authorities.



Members of a caravan of migrants from Central America walk towards the United States border and customs facility in Tijuana



Members of a caravan of migrants from Central America wait to enter the United States border and customs facility in Tijuana



A man climbs up the border fence between Mexico and the U.S. as a part of a demonstration, as members of a caravan of migrants from Central America gather prior to preparations for an asylum request in the U.S., in Tijuana

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50th OTC kicks off with cautious enthusiasm

Jordan Blum,

The 50th showing of the massive Offshore Technology Conference kicked off Monday with rising oil prices and cautious enthusiasm for the energy sector as a projected 70,000 people began streaming into Houston's NRG Park from around the world.

The offshore sector is again showing signs of life, but it hasn't rebounded yet from the 2014 oil bust.

Most oil and gas companies remain focused on the U.S. shale boom, especially West Texas' surging Permian Basin. OTC may be titled Offshore, but there's still lot of onshore talk at the conference.

Still, at OTC's opening ceremony Monday, French-based Total Chief Executive Patrick Pouyanne touted his long-term faith in the deep-water industry as evidenced by Total's \$5 billion acquisition in Denmark's Maersk Oil in March. Shale drilling can only solve so much of the world's thirst for oil and gas.

Attorney General Xavier Becerra listed two simple reasons why California banned Offshore Oil Drilling. One, we don't need it, and two, we know what happens when something goes wrong.

"The last few years we have dealt with forces that were unexpected and unanticipated," Pouyanne said. "What makes me very confident for the future of offshore and the deep-water industry is its capacity to innovate."

Oil prices are key, but the booms and busts are really driven by technological advancements, he said. "That makes me an optimist."

Ryan Lance, chief executive of ConocoPhillips of Houston, said his company is focusing much more on onshore shale in North America, having stopped deep-water exploration in recent years. ConocoPhillips still operates offshore projects, however.

"We have not abandoned offshore," he emphasized. "Far from it."

But he said oil prices, while healthier, are still subject to sudden swings, and there's concern about investing in multi-billion-dollar deep-water projects that take several years to develop.

"The industry needs to drive down break-even costs so the offshore projects can compete for capital," Lance said.

He supports driving down costs by using the same designs and engineering for multiple projects. "Design once and

build many," he said.

Lance said the growing emphasis on down-hole data analytics using sensors in wells creates more precision and efficiencies, and the growth of machine learning and automation moves us closer to unmanned rigs each day.

Houston's National Oilwell Varco equipment manufacturer and services firm has diversified with much more of an onshore focus in recent years. NOV Chief Executive Clay Williams said

he's confident offshore will thrive again. He played off of Lance's mentions of technology advancements. He said the progress already is dazzling.

"I see an industry with much progress remaining," Williams said. "Imagine the progress as rigs begin to learn."

In 1947, the first rig that would fit the modern idea of offshore drilling, the Kermac No. 16 rig, was located about 10 about 10 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico.

Fast forward nearly 70 years to 2016, Royal Dutch Shell's Stones project started producing 200 miles offshore in the Gulf at depths of 9,500 feet - the deepest ultra-deepwater project in the world.

Next month, Shell will launch its next major deep-water platform in the Gulf - the Appomattox - and Shell last week signed off on yet another Gulf platform, called Vito. But Vito was approved only after Shell cut 70 percent from the original price tag before the oil bust.

"The future is about being more scrupulous," said Harry Brekelmans, Shell's projects and technology leader. "We will need much more innovation and collaboration."



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Editor's Choice Pictures



Members of a migrant caravan from Central America and their supporters sit on the top of the U.S.-Mexico border wall at Border Field State Park before making an asylum request, in San Diego



Members of a caravan of migrants from Central America walk towards the United States border and customs facility in Tijuana



Members of a migrant caravan from Central America and their supporters sit on the top of the U.S.-Mexico border wall at Border Field State Park before making an asylum request, in San Diego



People in Mexico climb the border wall fence as a caravan of migrants and supporters reached the United States-Mexico border near San Diego



U.S. Border Patrol Agents watch protesters on the U.S. side of the U.S.-Mexico border wall at Border Field State Park as members of a migrant caravan from Central America stand on the other side, in San Diego



U.S. Border Patrol Agents watch protesters on the U.S. side of the U.S.-Mexico border wall at Border Field State Park as members of a migrant caravan from Central America stand on the other side, in San Diego



Members of a migrant caravan from Central America and their supporters look through the U.S.-Mexico border wall at Border Field State Park before making an asylum request, in San Diego



Members of a caravan of migrants from Central America and supporters gather on both sides of the border fence between Mexico and the U.S. as part of a demonstration, prior to preparations for an asylum request in the U.S., in Tijuana



Members of a caravan of migrants from Central America sit on the border fence between Mexico and the U.S., as part of a demonstration prior to preparations for an asylum request in the U.S., in Tijuana

SCORE/SBA Small Business Awards Event To Honor The Best Entrepreneurs In Houston

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



U.S. Small Business Administration SCORE and the U.S. Small Business Administration will honor the best small business owners and champions in Houston at an awards event to be held Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at the Westin Galleria 5060 West Alabama in Houston. The event will include a workshop titled, "Insights into Entrepreneurial Success", a small business expo and celebratory luncheon with a keynote address. The keynote speaker for the event will be Johnny Carrabba III.



Keynote Speaker

Proudly born and raised in the East End of Houston, Texas, Johnny Carrabba III was raised in his parent's family-owned grocery store, Carrabba's Friendly Grocery, and attended St. Thomas High School. In 1986, Johnny opened The Original Carrabba's on Kirby Drive. The second location on South Voss Road opened its doors in 1988. In 1993, Outback Steakhouse created a joint venture partnership consequently opening over 250 Carrabba's Italian Grill Restaurants nationwide. Johnny and his family continue to own and operate the two original Carrabba's locations. Johnny and his wife, Randi, are philanthropists at heart and give back to the community through many venues and charities.



Master of Ceremonies

Master of Ceremonies for the event will be Bob Charlet. Bob Charlet became the publisher of the Houston Business Journal in 2005 where he joined a veteran team of professionals who have distinguished the HBJ as one of the leading business journals in the country.

Charlet joined the Pacific Business News, a sister publication, in 2009 as advertising director and was promoted to publisher three years later. Prior to PBN, he was North American group sales manager at Canon Communications, overseeing sales and marketing for a group of B2B media properties. He is a graduate of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana.

Event Workshop (9 AM - 11 AM) "Insights into Entrepreneurial Success" Workshop

Attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the resources available to the entrepreneur in Houston. Meet the distinguished panelists and learn about their programs to promote small, minority, and women-owned businesses. Learn about SBA's 3 C's, Capital, Contracting and Counseling plus programs to spur innovation and exports. Meet SBA's resource partners, UHSBDC and SCORE, who provide education and mentoring to help you succeed. Listen and learn from other successful entrepreneurs during a panel

discussion.



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David Lurie, SCORE

The Small Business Administration (SBA) is a United States government agency that provides support to entrepreneurs and small businesses. The mission of the Small Business Administration is

"to maintain and strengthen the nation's economy by enabling the establishment and viability of small businesses and by assisting in the economic recovery of communities after disasters". The agency's activities are summarized as the "3 Cs" of capital, contracts and counseling. SBA loans are made through banks, credit unions and other lenders who partner with the SBA. The SBA provides a government-backed guarantee on part of the loan. Under the Recovery Act and the Small Business Jobs Act, SBA loans were enhanced to provide up to a 90 percent guarantee in order to strengthen access to capital for small businesses after credit froze in 2008. The agency had record lending volumes in late 2010. (Source: Wikipedia)

SCORE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides free business mentoring services to prospective and established small business owners in the United States. More than 10,000 volunteers provide these services, with all volunteers being active and retired business executives and entrepreneurs. In addition to mentoring, SCORE also offers free and low-cost educational workshops each year, both online and in-person. SCORE is a resource partner with the U.S. Small Business Administration. It operates out of 300 chapters across the U.S., with national headquarters in Herndon, Virginia. (Source: Wikipedia)

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No Formal Requests Received To Host Trump-Kim Meeting In Singapore: PM Lee

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Singapore's skyline.

Speaking at a press conference at the close of the 32nd ASEAN Summit last Saturday (Apr 28), Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said: "We've also read the same reports as you in the newspapers about the possible places where the US-North Korea meeting can take place. We've had no formal invitations, requests from any of the parties."

"It has to be something agreed by both North Korea as well as the United States. I doubt very much they have come to any landing yet," Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said.

A South Korean daily had earlier reported that Singapore and Mongolia have been shortlisted to host a summit between Mr Trump and Mr Kim. Thailand has volunteered itself as a venue as well.

Mr Kim met South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday. Both promised to bring "lasting peace" between the two Koreas, and to work towards complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.



Speaking at a press conference at the close of the 32nd ASEAN Summit on Saturday (Apr 28), Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong took questions about the next steps after the inter-Korean Summit and for the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

"It's good that the North and South Koreans met, it's good that President Donald Trump is about to meet Mr Kim Jong Un," said Mr Lee, adding: "The question is how things move forward."

SITUATION IN KOREA POSITIVE, DESPITE "MANY DIFFICULT ISSUES"

Mr. Lee added that ASEAN's assessment of the situation in the Korean peninsula is a positive one. But he also pointed out that there are "many difficult issues to deal with".

"This is an issue with a very long history ... and a cycle of tensions and mistrust has built up over a long period of time," he said. "There is a very deep concern on each side that the other side does not mean it well, therefore to overcome that, you do

have to take the first step. But the first step is the first of many, and the subsequent steps will not be easy."

He added that beyond trust, decisions also have to be made and commitments have to be undertaken, and they involve "many parties whose interests are not completely aligned".

"Everybody says they want complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearisation," he said. "But what does it mean ... what are the conditions, how do we verify it, enforce it ... what happens if it's breached?"

yond that, ASEAN's leverage is limited. "I think the first thing we need to understand is that's the reality," he said.

ASEAN foreign ministers earlier issued a statement to say that it welcomed the inter-Korean Summit.

"The ministers are encouraged by these positive developments and urge all concerned parties to work towards reducing tensions, and the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula which will contribute to the peace and stability of the region," it said.

Related

Why Kim Jong-un may not want to meet Donald Trump in Singapore



While the Lion City may be Washington's preferred choice for the groundbreaking meeting, the North Korean leader is believed to want to stay closer to home

Kim Jong-un may be reluctant to travel to Singapore for his proposed summit meeting with Donald Trump, analysts said, citing a range of factors including North Korea's distant relations with the city state and Kim's reluctance to travel by air.

Following Friday's historic sessions between North and South Korea, the focus will shift to the proposed landmark summit, the first time a sitting US president

will have met the Communist state's leader.

It is widely believed that back-channel talks have been under way in preparation for the meetings, which the White House has indicated will happen in May or June. Citing government sources, South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo reported on Wednesday that Singapore and Mongolia had made the shortlist of possible locations, adding that neutral European countries like Sweden and Switzerland were unlikely to be selected given the distance and security concerns.

Wang Sheng, a professor of Korean affairs at Jilin University in northeastern China, said that the agenda and location of the Trump-Kim meeting may have been among the topics discussed at Friday's inter-Korea summit.



Kim's preferred mode of transportation is by train, observers have said.

"The US could find Singapore a good location for the meeting because it perceives that it has been siding more with them on North Korean issues," Wang added.

"The perception of Singapore's place in the international community would also make it suitable."

Lim Tai Wei, an adjunct research fellow at East Asia Institute of the National University of Singapore, said that the city state, where both Pyongyang and Washington have embassies, had many advantages.

"Singapore is a neutral venue. It has hosted other important talks that required neutral and objective venues as well," Lim said.

He was referring to the first summit between two non-governmental organisations from Beijing and Taipei in 1993, as well as the 2015 summit between Xi Jinping and Ma Ying-jeou, then Taiwan's president, the first meeting between leaders from both sides of the Taiwan Strait since the end of China's civil war.

As an air-travel hub, Singapore would "certainly give good treatment to Air Force One and North Korea's Soviet-era private jets," Lim added.

If Trump meets Kim it would be the first time a sitting US President has met a Northern leader. Photo: AFP

But Wang said that Mongolia may be closer to Pyongyang's expectations, since the Kim family has always preferred to travel by train and the North Korean leader could reach the country more easily by rail.

"Going to Mongolia would match the expectations of the North Korea government more closely because Mongolia has experience in dealing with issues relating to North Korea," Wang said.

It is believed that the Kim family's preference for rail is security-related - although Kim Il-sung, the current leader's grandfather, is known to have flown to Eastern Europe.



If Trump meets Kim it would be the first time a sitting US President has met a Northern leader. Photo: AFP

His son, Kim Jong-il, only used rail for foreign visits - seven to China and two to Russia - and for his first overseas visit as leader, his grandson also took the train last month to Beijing.

When the inter-Korean summit went off script and tensions surfaced

Lu Chao, a Korean affairs expert at Liaoning Academy of Social Sciences in northeastern China, said: "Singapore is unlikely [to be the venue] because its relations with Pyongyang are not even close."

"Singapore is definitely somewhere the US wants, but I don't think North Korea will support the idea."

Chinese cities such as Beijing, Shanghai or even somewhere close to the border would also be "a convenient choice" for Kim, Lu said, given the location and his recent rapprochement with Beijing.

Lu said that while flying may not be a problem for Kim, "why bother to fly if another place is appropriate?"

In an interview on Thursday, Trump told Fox News that three or four possible dates and five locations were being considered, without giving any details.

(http://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy-defence/article-NewsChinaDiplomacy&Defence)

Advertisement for Southern Television 15.3 channel, featuring various TV shows like '大瓷商', '人到四十', '男人要说话?', '女人要流泪?', '海峡两岸', and '明星加油站'.

Table with 7 columns (MON-SUN) and 24 rows of TV program listings for Southern Television 15.3, including show titles and times.