

Marine renewable energy key to ecological sustainability

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A cargo ship is pictured at a port. -REUTERS PIC

The shipping sector is often referred to as the lifeblood of the global economy and a determinant of economic growth.

It is estimated that shipping accounts for over eight per cent of global trade, which is handled by ports all over the world. However, the shipping sector is also seen as a major contributor to air pollution.

The fossil fuels used have a significant carbon dioxide (CO₂) content, which contributes to global warming and climate change.

The International Renewable Energy Agency (Irena) has published a report on the impact of shipping activities on CO₂ emissions. The shipping sector contributes four to five per cent of all CO₂ emissions caused.

Furthermore, the sector is responsible for three per cent of world greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and 90 per cent of global emissions attributable to transportation. This is alarming since the figure is expected to rise in tandem with the development of global trade activity.