

# Three Chinese warships to dock in Penang on May 12

**GEORGE TOWN:** For the first time ever, three Chinese warships will call on a Malaysia port.

The three warships — destroyer *CNS Changchun Type 052C*, frigate *CNS Jingzhou Type 054A* and replenishment ship *CNS Chaohu Type 903* — are expected to arrive at Penang Port on May 12.

The visit was decided during a high-level Chinese delegation visit to Perlis and Kedah last year.

China consul-general to Penang Wu Jun, in expressing elation that the Malaysian government had allowed the warships to call on the port here, said

the frigates' stop was historic.

"This is a proud moment for both countries as it goes to show close cooperation between our naval forces. This will certainly improve bilateral and military relations between both countries," he said at a press conference with Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng here yesterday.

Wu said the public was welcome to visit the ships as they go on a mission to promote peace and harmony among its allies.

The frigates have more than 600 crew members and are on a 20-nation Asian tour. They visited Davao, the Philippines,

where President Rodrigo Duterte was on board the missile destroyer, *Changchun*.

Wu said the frigate would stop in Cambodia and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, before sailing to Penang.

The public are welcomed to visit the three warships at the North Butterworth Container Terminal on May 14.

The warships will dock here at 10am on May 12 and depart at 10am on May 15.

Penang Port Commission (PPC)



Wu Jun

chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said they would ensure the frigates' four-day three-nights docking here would be smooth.

"After deliberations between PPC and Wu, we will cooperate to make this docking smooth and let Penang folk witness

the historical moment of China's warships docking in Penang."

*Changchun*, launched on Nov 27, 2010, came into service on Jan 31, 2013. It features a four array

AESA multi-function phased array radar for 360° coverage.

The radar is used in conjunction with vertically launched HHQ-9 long-range air defence missiles. It is the first Chinese warship to have true long-range fleet air defence capability.

*Jingzhou* is a Chinese multi-role frigate. It carries medium-range air defence missiles and anti submarine rockets and provides area air defence from all engagement angles.

*Chaohu* entered into service on May 7, 2012. It can undertake expeditionary and blue water control missions.