

PRESS STATEMENT

ReCAAP FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS MEETING 2/09 ORGANISED BY THE ReCAAP ISC

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) organised the Second ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers Meeting on 7-9 July 2009 in Singapore. Building upon the successful conduct of the inaugural meeting held last year, the theme for the meeting this year is *“Enhancing Focal Point and Industry Partnership in Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships”*.
2. Meetings for senior officers are part of the ReCAAP ISC’s role in providing a platform for ReCAAP Focal Points to better understand, deliberate and coordinate measures in preventing and suppressing incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships. More importantly, the face-to-face meeting aimed to establish better personal working relationship and understanding. To this end, the aim of this meeting was to share best practices and the experiences of ReCAAP Focal Points on piracy and armed robbery countermeasures, to establish rapport and facilitate networking among senior officers from ReCAAP Focal Points and the ReCAAP ISC; and to foster a good working relationship between ReCAAP Focal Points and the maritime industry. While recognising that the government and maritime industry collaboration is crucial for successful anti-piracy measures, three speakers from the Singapore Shipping Association, The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and the US Coast Guard were invited to share their insights and experiences at this meeting.
3. The participants discussed engagement with the maritime industry, inter-governmental linkages, sharing of experience and best practices, and the way ahead for the ReCAAP ISC. The meeting also noted the inclusion of the ReCAAP ISC and the ReCAAP Focal Points in the information sharing processes outlined in the IMO anti-piracy circulars¹, recently reviewed and endorsed at the IMO 86th Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) in June 2009. This further endorsed the role of the ReCAAP ISC in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships by the international maritime community. The meeting also shared the concern over the piracy situation in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, and appreciated the efforts made by the international community in addressing the problem.
4. The meeting concluded with a visit to Information Fusion Centre (IFC) at Changi Naval Base.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
9 July 2009

For more media enquiries, please contact the ReCAAP Secretariat at (65) 6376 3091.

¹ MSC Circ. 622 on “Recommendations to Governments for Preventing and Suppressing Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships”
MSC Circ. 623 on “Guidance to Ship Owners, Companies, Ship Operators, Ship Masters and Crew on Preventing and Suppressing Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships”