

From the editorial

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As always, do feel free to write to us newsletter@recaap.org

Be connected!

ReCAAP ISC Newsletter

Issue 10/12

Newsletter Date: Jul-Sep 2012

ReCAAP Cluster Meeting 3/12

ReCAAP ISC organised its third Cluster Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on 23-25 Jul 12. This was the new initiative undertaken by the Centre in 2011 with the main objective to assist Focal Point to enhance their effort in combating piracy and armed robbery with other governmental agencies and shipping industry.

The **2-day** programme which involved the Thai Focal Points, Thai governmental agencies (Office of the National Security Council, Marine Police, Marine Department, Fishery Department and Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and the shipping industry, was a good platform to engage the various stakeholders to enhance inter-agencies cooperation.

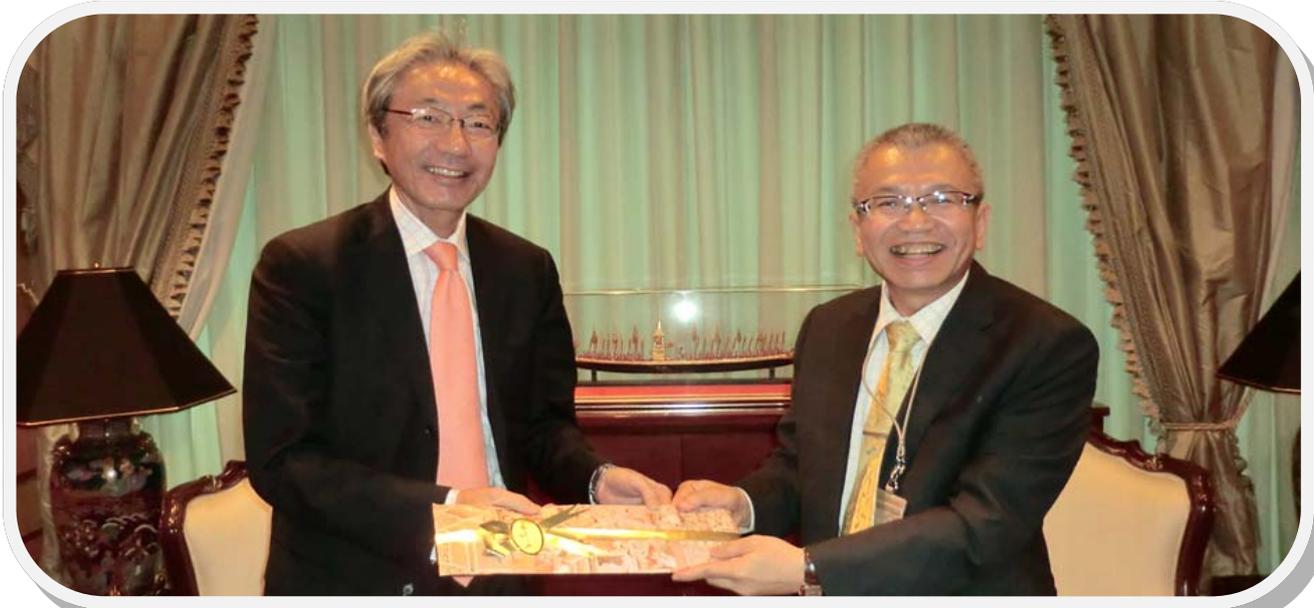


ReCAAP Cluster Meeting 3/12, 23-25 July 2012, Bangkok, Thailand

The Meeting included briefings, situation updates, discussions and visits that emphasised the importance of keeping the channels for communications open and maintaining the various linkages, in order to establish the "comfort zone" for continuous information exchanges and enhancing confidence building.

cont..... ReCAAP Cluster Meeting 3/12

In the introductory remarks by ED-ISC and key note address by the Thai Ambassador to Oman, HE Dr Pornchai Danvivathana (Governor for Thailand, ReCAAP ISC Governing Council), both highlighted that the Cluster Meeting was an excellent opportunity to engage the various stakeholders and to share their perspectives, challenges and ideas in enhancing cooperation.



(From left) ReCAAP ISC Executive Director, Mr Yoshihisa Endo and Governor (Thailand), HE Dr Pornchai Danvivathana



Sharing their sentiments, the Thai Shipowners Association representative Capt. Suchat Nutcharoen reiterated the need for close coordination and cooperation between the marine department, law enforcement agencies and shipping industry.

Collectively, the Meeting addressed mechanisms to improve communications and identified areas for mutual support. The ReCAAP ISC team also visited the Thai Focal Point where a presentation on the new Maritime Information Sharing Centre (MISC) was given; followed by a tour of the facilities and layout of the Centre.

13th Asia Pacific Conference Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA)

APHoMSA was created as an informal entity on 1 May 1996 with the participation of maritime organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. The purpose of the Forum is to promote safe, secure shipping and a clean maritime environment within the Asia-Pacific region by bringing together senior maritime officials to exchange ideas and identify areas of cooperation.

For **this year**, the APHoMSA Forum was hosted by the Vietnam Maritime Administration (VAM), held at the Vinpearl Resort and Spa located in Nha Trang, Vietnam on 9-12 July 12. 79 participants from 19 countries and three International Organisations, including the ReCAAP ISC were gathered for this event.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Deputy Minister of Transport Nguyen Van Cong highly commended the cooperation between regional countries and economic sectors of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in implementing the Forum's agreement. This year's conference discussed issues related to implementing the Maritime Labor convention and a range of governments' maritime service assistance. Delegates at the meeting also seek initiatives for promoting maritime development and safety in line with international standards and protecting the environment. Technical cooperation between APHoMSA and International Maritime Organisations in the future was also discussed.



Perth Counter-Piracy Conference

Australia hosted an international Counter-Piracy Conference in Perth on 15-17 Jul 12. The Conference focused on how multinational and multi-agency cooperation can help address the piracy challenges and examined how efforts to deal with piracy

in South-east Asia can be used in the broader region, including how these experiences might be applied off the coast of Somalia and the emerging challenge of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

Over 65 countries attended the Perth Conference, with representatives from governments, international organisations, peak industry bodies, and academic think tanks to attend. ReCAAP ISC was invited to give the keynote on Asian's anti-piracy model with Malaysia and Indonesia in the panel.



Change of Governors

We have **two** new Governors who came onboard of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council in this quarter.



Governor (Republic of Korea)
Mr Jang Hwang-Ho
Director General for Maritime
Safety Policy
Ministry of Land, Transport and
Maritime Affairs
With effect from 25 June 2012



Governor (Sri Lanka)
Captain (ASW) PS Mahawithana,
RSP, USP, psn,
Deputy Director Naval Operations
of Operations Directorate
Sri Lanka Navy
with effect from 17 July 2012



Welcome on board!

Upcoming events... up to October 2012

... Capacity Building Seminar 2012

As endorsed at the Sixth Governing Council Meeting in March 2012 with a view to synergise limited resources, the ReCAAP ISC would organise a Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting and Capacity Building Workshop back to back with participation of one senior officer and one junior officer each from all ReCAAP Focal Points. This new event is titled as Capacity Building Seminar 2012 and is to be held on 23-25 Oct 12 in Singapore. The aim of this Seminar is to share best practices and the experiences of ReCAAP Focal Points on piracy and armed robbery countermeasures, and to establish rapport and facilitate networking among the ReCAAP Focal Point staff and the industry. The other key component of this Seminar is the training on the new Information Network System (IFN) which is due to be operational on 29 October 2012.

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Mission

To enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Vision

To be the information hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

Values

Reliability
excellence
Cohesiveness
Alertness
Adaptability
Professionalism

Integrity
Sustainability
Commitment