

Press Release
Australia joins the ReCAAP

On 3 August 2013, Australia became the nineteenth Contracting Party to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

The ReCAAP ISC welcomes Australia's joining to the ReCAAP. Australia supports fully the ReCAAP aims of enhancing multilateral cooperation among its members. Australia's accession to ReCAAP signifies the growing strength of the ReCAAP network and demonstrates the importance of international cooperation to effectively address the challenges in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

Rear Admiral David Johnston, Commander Border Protection Command said "Australia proudly welcomes the accession as the 19th member to the ReCAAP."

"Australia is committed to combating the crime of piracy and is equally committed to comprehensive engagement in the Asia Pacific region through cooperation, capacity building and active participation in regional organisations such as the ReCAAP."

"Participation in the ReCAAP will provide Australia with greater visibility and awareness to monitor emerging regional threats from piracy and armed robbery at sea," Rear Admiral Johnston said.

"The Australia Government looks forward to joining the ReCAAP discussion and drawing upon the vast experience and expertise of our regional partners on piracy.

"Australia, together with the ReCAAP ISC, recognises the importance of strengthening regional capacity in order to advance the protection of trade, security and sea lanes and, ultimately, ensure the safety of seafarers on the high seas," Rear Admiral Johnston said.

Commander Border Protection Command reinforced that international cooperation is the most effective way to tackle piracy, as demonstrated by the successes in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia, and is confident that the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) will continue to demonstrate its effectiveness in improving security at sea in Asia.

The Commander of Border Protection Command has been appointed as the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) Governor for Australia. Border Protection Command's Australian Maritime Security Operations Centre has been designated to be the focal point of Australia.

A ReCAAP ISC Team led by its Deputy Director, LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, visited the ReCAAP ISC Governor and the key officials of the Focal Point of Australia. In addition to operationalise the Information Network System (IFN), the team gained an insight on Australia civil maritime security arrangements in Australia.

Issued by:
Border Protection Command, Australia
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
3 August 2013



(from left) DD-ISC, LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, and Governor (Australia), RADM David Johnston

For media queries, please contact:

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ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

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ReCAAP Factsheet

Background Information

About the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia. It was finalised on 11 November 2004 and entered into force on 4 September 2006. To date, 19 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The nineteen Contracting Parties to ReCAAP are Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Kingdom and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

“ReCAAP is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.”

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

ReCAAP ISC Factsheet

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) was established under the Agreement, and was officially launched in Singapore on 29 November 2006. It was formally recognised as an international organisation on 30 January 2007.

The roles of the ReCAAP ISC are to:

- **Information Sharing**

Serve as a platform for information exchange with the ReCAAP Focal Points via the Information Network System (IFN); facilitate communications and information exchange among participating governments to improve incident response by member countries; analyse and provide accurate statistics of the piracy and armed robbery incidents to foster better understanding of the situation in Asia;

- **Capacity Building**

Facilitate capacity building efforts that help improve the capability of member countries in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region; and

- **Cooperative Arrangements**

Cooperate with organisations and like-minded parties on joint exercises, information sharing, capacity building programme, or other forms of cooperation, as appropriate, and agreed upon among the Contracting Parties.

The ReCAAP ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network System (IFN). Through this network, the ReCAAP Focal Points are linked to each other as well as the ReCAAP ISC on a 24/7 basis, and are able to facilitate appropriate responses to incident. The agency receiving the incident report will manage the incident in accordance to its national policies and response procedures, and provide assistance to the victim ship where possible. The agency will in turn, inform their ReCAAP Focal Point which will submit an incident report to the ReCAAP ISC and its neighbouring Focal Points.

For more information about the ReCAAP and ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>

“The ReCAAP ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network System (IFN).”

Focal Points and Contact Point

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