

(For immediate release)

22 March 2018

PRESS RELEASE

The 12th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

1. The 12th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was held on 20 to 22 March 2018 in Singapore, hosted by the Singapore Government. The Council reviewed the activities of ReCAAP ISC in FY2017 and deliberated on its activities for FY2018 and beyond. On 22 March 2018, the Open Session was held with External Participants comprising representatives from two countries and 12 organisations.
2. The Council commended ReCAAP ISC on producing positive results in respect to its activities in FY2017 under the three pillars of its mission, i.e., information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangement.
3. A highlight of the meeting was a review of the progress that ReCAAP ISC has made towards its goal of becoming a Centre of Excellence for information sharing by 2020. This goal, conceptualised by the Council at the 10th anniversary of ReCAAP ISC in 2016, was followed by the formation of a Working Group headed by ReCAAP ISC Executive Director and comprising representatives from ReCAAP ISC's Focal Points. The Strategy Paper and the Roadmap with Action Plan on the Future of ReCAAP ISC were subsequently developed, and it was endorsed by the Governing Council at its 11th Meeting in March 2017.
4. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting, the Council has decided to announce that ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea.
5. The Council encouraged ReCAAP ISC to continue its mission and mandate stipulated in the ReCAAP Agreement and to continue its activities based on the roadmap, by working together with the ReCAAP Contracting Parties, Focal Points, and the maritime community and other stakeholders. The Council also reaffirmed its commitment to conduct periodic reviews of the Roadmap to ensure its relevance, with the first review to be conducted in 2020.
6. Based on the Roadmap, the Council reviewed and endorsed the Workplan and the Budget for FY2018 proposed by the Secretariat. A key focus of the Workplan for FY2018 is to further enhance the performance and competence of ReCAAP ISC and ReCAAP Focal Points including in the area of timely and accurate reporting and deep analysis of incidents, through the use of technology as well as through capacity building programmes. The Council also encouraged ReCAAP ISC to continue to engage regional and international organisations, governmental agencies shipping industry and research institutes under the pillar of Cooperative Arrangements. Finally, the Council endorsed the Blueprint of profiling and branding of ReCAAP ISC and encouraged its effective implementation.

7. The conferences to be organised by ReCAAP ISC in FY2018 are the ReCAAP ISC-RSIS (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies) Maritime Roundtable on 25 April 2018 in Singapore, the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference on 12 June 2018 in Hong Kong, China, and the 10th Nautical Forum in January 2019 in Singapore. The Capacity Building activities and bilateral visits are planned to be organised in Japan, Bangladesh, Brunei, Myanmar and Republic of Korea.

8. The Council emphasised the importance of regional and international cooperation combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. In connection with this, the Council recognised the importance of participation of all countries listed in Article 18(1) of the ReCAAP Agreement, and encouraged those who have yet to sign and ratify the Agreement to do so in order to collectively address these maritime challenges. The Council welcomed other countries considering membership of the ReCAAP.

9. The Council noted the presentation made by ReCAAP ISC on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2017. There were 101 incidents in 2017 which was an increase of 16% compared to 2016, although only six were severe as compared to 13 in 2016. The Council noted that while the number of incidents in 2017 continued to be among the lowest in the past decade, the increase in 2017 is a reminder that there is no room for complacency in the fight against piracy and armed robbery against ships, and underscored the need for enhanced vigilance among all stakeholders.

10. The Council recognised the efforts of the Philippine authorities and the neighbouring countries in addressing the situation of abduction of crew from ships transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas. The number of incidents (actual and attempted) has decreased from 18 in 2016 to 7 in 2017. However, the Council urged continued vigilance in the area and instructed ReCAAP ISC to monitor the situation closely, issue timely warning and alerts when necessary, and to share the analysis of the situation.

11. The Council welcomed the voluntary contributions pledged/paid by ReCAAP Contracting Parties towards the work of the ReCAAP ISC for FY 2018 (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019) as follows:

Australia	AUD 100,000
People's Republic of China	USD 80,000
Republic of India	USD 75,000
Japan	SGD 662,227 (tbc)
Republic of Korea	KRW 150 million
Kingdom of the Netherlands	EUR 20,000
Kingdom of Norway	USD 100,000
Republic of Singapore	SGD 1.85 million

12. The financial contribution is in addition to the secondment of staff from China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand, at ReCAAP ISC.

13. Thailand, current Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council and Sri Lanka, current Vice Chairperson, will end their terms on 31 March 2018. The Council

has elected the Philippines as next Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council and the People's Republic of China as next Vice Chairperson. The new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will serve a three-year term commencing 1 April 2018.

14. The Council took note of the process of nomination of the 5th Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC, starting on 1 April 2018, with the closing date on 30 June 2018.

15. The Council thanked the current Chairperson, Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana from Thailand for his longstanding contributions, having served on the Governing Council since 2009 in his capacities as Chairperson and Governor from Thailand. The Council conveyed its appreciation to Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana for encouraging ReCAAP ISC to constantly strive for excellence, remain steadfast and relevant to its various stakeholders, and for steering the Centre through its stages of growth over the years.

16. The 12th Governing Council Meeting concluded with a Presentation on Maritime Cyber Security, which addressed the potential implications of cyber risks to the maritime community with the perspectives of a regulatory and enforcement agency, and a risk consulting company.

17. The 13th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC is scheduled to be held in the week of 18 to 22 March 2019 in Singapore.



The ReCAAP ISC Governing Council

22 March 2018

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CONTRACTING PARTIES TO ReCAAP

1. Australia
2. People's Republic of Bangladesh
3. Brunei Darussalam
4. Kingdom of Cambodia
5. People's Republic of China
6. Kingdom of Denmark
7. Republic of India
8. Japan
9. Republic of Korea
10. Lao People's Democratic Republic
11. Republic of the Union of Myanmar
12. Kingdom of the Netherlands
13. Kingdom of Norway
14. Republic of the Philippines
15. Republic of Singapore
16. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
17. Kingdom of Thailand
18. United Kingdom
19. United States of America
20. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTED AT THE 12th GOVERNING
COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ReCAAP INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE**

States

1. France
2. Germany

Organisations

1. European Union Delegation to Singapore
2. Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA)
3. Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)
4. The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
5. The International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)
6. Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)
7. International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
8. Information Fusion Centre (IFC)
9. International Maritime Bureau (IMB)
10. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
11. Centre for International Law (CIL)
12. General Insurance Association of Singapore (GIA)