



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senior Maritime Law Enforcement and Regulatory Officers from 16 Countries Gather in Seoul, South Korea to Discuss Measures to Strengthen Fight against Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia

Senior officers of maritime law enforcement and regulatory agencies from 16 ReCAAP Member States gathered today in Seoul, South Korea for a two-day meeting to take stock of the evolving maritime safety situation, and strengthen their collective efforts in the shared mission to combat piracy and sea robbery in Asia.

Hosted by ReCAAP's Korean Focal Point, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and co-organised with ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), the Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (FPSOM) will provide an update on the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia and share best practices from participating agencies. There will also be discussions of common issues such as "timely and accurate information sharing" and "anti-piracy legislation." A representative of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will share its expertise on anti-piracy legislation. As part of the programme, participants will also have a dialogue with the South Korean shipping industry.

"From January to October 2018, there were a total of 70 incidents of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, representing 5% of decrease compared to the same period in 2017. However, there was a recurrence of an incident of abduction of crew in September in the waters off eastern Sabah, after more than a year of absence. The risk to the safety of maritime transport and well-being of seafarers in the region remains, and the maritime community must be vigilant. ReCAAP ISC will continue to work closely with Focal Points and regional authorities to provide stakeholders with timely and accurate information and strengthen capability of Focal Points through capacity building activities such as FPSOM." said Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

The ReCAAP Member Countries represented at FPSOM 2018 are Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Vietnam.



Mr. Oh Woon-yul, ReCAAP ISC Governor from the Republic of Korea and Director General of the Maritime Safety Policy Bureau, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries delivers his Welcome Address



“The risk to the safety of maritime transport and well-being of seafarers in the region remains, and the maritime community must be vigilant,” said Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC delivers his Opening Remarks



The participants of the ReCAAP ISC Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting come from 16 ReCAAP Member States

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About ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP 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 against ships in Asia. The Agreement entered into force on September 4, 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties, and the Information Sharing Centre was established on November 29, 2006. To date, 20 States (14 Asian countries, 4 European countries, Australia, the USA) have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. To fulfil its vision as the Information Hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, ReCAAP ISC enhances regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP ISC has met the criteria to be a “**Centre of Excellence**” for information sharing in combating

piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea. For more information about ReCAAP
ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>