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ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2018 Addresses Proactive Response among Stakeholders to Counter Piracy in Asia

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre organises jointly with BIMCO and INTERTANKO for the first time its annual conference in Hong Kong, China

The annual ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2018 was held today for the first time in Hong Kong, China, to reach out to the shipping community in China and beyond.

ReCAAP ISC and co-organisers BIMCO and INTERTANKO, with the support of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, developed this year's conference, themed "*Counter Piracy: Proactive Response*" to underscore the importance of staying vigilant and not taking for granted the success that Asia had achieved in reducing the number of piracy and sea robbery incidents over the past decade.

Taking stock of the current situation in Asia and sharing the situation of piracy and sea robbery in other parts of the world including the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Guinea, the Conference features speakers from the Philippine Coast Guard, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, Indonesia's BAKAMLA, EU NAVFOR (Horn of Africa), MDAT-GoG (Gulf of Guinea), ReCAAP ISC, and the shipping industry. Together, these speakers addressed the issues and situations across Asia, the Horn of Africa, and the Gulf of Guinea.

"This year's ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference addresses developing situations in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, as well as pertinent topics such as oil cargo theft and the situation of armed robbery against ships in Indonesia. In bringing the Conference to Hong Kong, we hope to engage the shipping community in China and foster a dialogue between the shipping industry and regional authorities, for the welfare of seafarers and the safety of sea lanes," said Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

"Piracy and armed robbery at sea remains a major concern to our seafarers and therefore the shipping industry. In order to keep up with the ever-developing threat, we need to continuously improve our cooperation, processes and procedures. The key to our success includes that anti-piracy lessons learnt from across the globe are shared. By doing this, measures which have proven successful in reducing piracy and armed robbery at sea in one region can be recognised, developed and adapted to other regions. This conference is exactly the right platform to share knowledge and

work together to reduce piracy and armed robbery at sea," said Jakob Paaske Larsen, Head of Security for BIMCO.

"Piracy and armed robbery around the globe takes many forms and is proving very hard to eradicate. By looking at what works we can see that the Asian model of a coordinated response, backed by proper intelligence, provides a good template for how to deal with this scourge. Those hard won lessons are now being applied to the new threats that the shipping industry is facing off Yemen," said Dr. Phillip Belcher, INTERTANKO's Marine Director.



Mr. Masafumi Kuroki declares open the ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2018 in Hong Kong, China



Speakers and co-organisers BIMCO and INTERTANKO join a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Jane Chan from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore



Group picture with the organisers and panellists of the ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2018 and Mr. Jack Hsu, Chairman of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association

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

About BIMCO

BIMCO is the world's largest international shipping association, with around 2,000 members in more than 120 countries, representing 56% of the world's tonnage. Our global membership includes shipowners, operators, managers, brokers and agents. BIMCO is a non-profit organisation.

About INTERTANKO

INTERTANKO is the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners, a forum where the industry meets, policies are discussed and best practices developed. INTERTANKO has been the voice of independent tanker owners since 1970, ensuring that the liquid energy that keeps the world turning is shipped safely, responsibly and competitively. As of January 2018, the organisation had 204 members, whose combined fleet comprises some 3,976 tankers totalling over 353 million dwt. INTERTANKO's associate membership stands at some 242 companies and organisations related to the tanker industry.