

## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2019 Updates International Maritime Community on Current Situation in Asia and Africa**

*Former IMO Secretary General Koji Sekimizu delivered a keynote address at the conference held in conjunction with the 2019 edition of the Singapore Maritime Week and Sea Asia*

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) today held its annual Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference to an audience of international maritime stakeholders including shipping and marine insurance companies, regulators and law enforcement agencies, as well as the diplomatic community based in Singapore.

In his keynote address, Mr. Koji Sekimizu, former Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) reviewed the history of activities of IMO in dealing with maritime security and anti-piracy actions covering the establishment of ReCAAP, Somali Piracy, the Contact Group in conjunction with UN Security Council decisions, Djibouti Code of Conduct, Best Management Practices, and discussed a number of issues from his wide experience dealing with these matters as UN officer working at IMO and in the wider context of Maritime Governance by UN and IMO.

The conference addressed topics that are currently high on the agenda of the international maritime community including:

- Piracy and Sea Robbery Situation in Asia (ReCAAP ISC)
- Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Easter Sabah (Philippine Coast Guard)
- Update on the Indian Ocean High Risk Area (INTERTANKO)
- Maritime Cybersecurity (BIMCO)
- Effects and Implications of Piracy (Panel discussion moderated by World Maritime University)

“In 2018, there were 76 incidents of piracy and armed robbery reported in Asia. This was a 25% decrease in the total number of incidents and a 31% decrease in actual incidents compared to 2017. Nonetheless, it is important that we continue to reinforce the ownership of the Coastal States in addressing maritime crime, the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the industry, and the timely reporting by ships, all of which have led to the decrease of incidents in Asia. The topics and speakers of

this year's conference have been designed to reflect the vitality of that shared responsibility," remarked Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

"Over the past couple of years, piracy and terrorism in the Sulu and Celebes Seas has been a point of concern for the shipping industry. The valuable counter-piracy lessons learned here, and off Somalia, are worth exploring, and may well be applied in the current piracy hotspot number one: The Gulf of Guinea. The annual ReCAAP ISC conference will surely help us do just that," said Jakob P. Larsen, Head of Maritime Security at BIMCO.

"The threat from piracy remains, in Asia and also in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA) continues to serve an important reference in ensuring ships and seafarers are prepared for pirate attacks," said Tim Wilkins, Environment Director and Regional Manager, Asia-Pacific of INTERTANKO. "A serious threat remains despite the reduction to the area's geographic boundaries and so correct reporting, vigilance and adherence to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP5) remains crucial. Shipowners must remain alert and law enforcement agencies must continue to provide protection to shipping."

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of RSIS, highlighted the relevance of the conference, "This annual conference is an important knowledge-sharing platform on risks and threats facing the international maritime community. We discussed piracy and sea robbery as well as relevant emerging technologies, and shared ideas on solving problems affecting ship owners and seafarers. The most useful part of this exchange is on how to work together effectively."



Mr. Koji Sekimizu, former Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) reviewed the history of activities of IMO in dealing with maritime security and anti-piracy actions



Ms. Lee Yin Mui, Assistant Director (Research) at ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre Provided an update of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia



Professor Maximo Mejia from the World Maritime University moderated a panel discussion comprising maritime law enforcement agencies in Asia and representatives from the shipping community



Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre closed the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2019 with a timely reminder on the role of the Coastal States, the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the industry, and the timely reporting by ships in collectively stemming maritime crimes in Asia

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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 2019, the organisation has close to 200 members, whose combined fleet comprises some 3,931 tankers totalling nearly 346 million dwt. INTERTANKO's associate membership stands at some 244 companies and organisations related to the tanker industry. Visit [www.intertanko.com](http://www.intertanko.com) for more details.

### **About RSIS**

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is an autonomous institution in the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. The mission of RSIS is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia-Pacific. Defence and strategic studies including maritime security are key areas of research in RSIS. For more details, visit [www.rsis.edu.sg](http://www.rsis.edu.sg) or follow us at [www.facebook.com/RSIS.NTU](https://www.facebook.com/RSIS.NTU) or connect with us at [www.linkedin.com/school/rsis-ntu](https://www.linkedin.com/school/rsis-ntu).