



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre and Indian Coast Guard co-hosted Capacity Building Programme to Strengthen Regional Cooperation to Combat Piracy and Sea Robbery

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), in cooperation with India Focal Point, the Indian Coast Guard, concluded a five-day Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting (CBSOM) in Gandhinagar, India from 11 to 15 December 2023.

The meeting provided a platform for ReCAAP Focal Points and regional authorities to exchange best practices and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation to deter and suppress piracy and sea robbery incidents in Asia.

The meeting was attended by senior naval and coast guard officers from 14 ReCAAP Focal Points (Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, South Korea, Thailand, UK, Vietnam), as well as representatives from the Indian Navy, National Maritime Security Council, National Maritime Foundation, Ports and the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR).

During the meeting, participants were updated on the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. ReCAAP Focal Point officers shared how their countries are strengthening maritime security measures in their ports, anchorages and territorial waters to prevent and combat maritime crimes. There were also deliberations on ways which maritime authorities can work together with ship masters and shipping companies to improve the timeliness of incident reporting, and how cooperation can be enhanced between land and maritime agencies to prevent piracy and sea robbery incidents.

Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC, said "I am appreciative to the Indian Coast Guard for their assistance in co-organising this CBSOM. The meeting allowed ReCAAP Focal Points to keep abreast of the latest piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia, as well as the evolving modus operandi of perpetrators. ReCAAP ISC will continue to build on the collective knowledge and capabilities of our Focal Points to improve our information sharing and response mechanisms to better serve the shipping community and protect ships against sea robbery and other maritime crimes."

Director General Rakesh Pal, Indian Coast Guard and ReCAAP Governor for India, said, "We appreciate the efforts of all Focal Points for their efforts towards anti-piracy measures, whole-hearted participation in the capacity building activities, and sharing of best practices in their respective areas of responsibility. Collaboration is key to fight the menace of maritime threats in the region. The Indian Focal Point and maritime forces play a constructive role in ensuring safer and secure seas for the maritime community.

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Media Contact

ReCAAP ISC

Gareth Yeo

Email: gareth_yeo@recaap.org

Tel: (+65) 9658 2473

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