

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
**REPORT 2018**

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CENTRE OF  
**EXCELLENCE**

for information sharing in combating piracy  
and armed robbery against ships at sea

# VISION

To be the information hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

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# MISSION

To enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

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# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PREFACE



**At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in March 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (“the Centre”) has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea.**

While the Centre is grateful for the recognition of the progress it has made over the past 12 years, the Centre has continued to implement its Roadmap with Action Plan that was endorsed at the 11th Governing Council Meeting in 2017, in order to consolidate and upgrade its core mission of combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia through our three pillars of information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements.

This Report presents the activities of the Centre in 2018.

### **Addressing Effectively the Evolving Situation**

In 2018, the overall situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia has significantly improved. Total incidents of 76 and actual incidents of 62 are the lowest number since 2007 when the Centre started to collect information.

The severity level of incidents was also the lowest in 12 years’ period. The improvement is due to the combined efforts of shipping industry and maritime agencies, particularly immediate reporting of incident from ships and quick response from enforcement agencies. We highly commend the efforts of stakeholders which have produced positive results. The Centre has played its part to cooperate closely with stakeholders by sharing timely and accurate information and providing advisories and analysis.

The Centre has made efforts to watch closely the development of incidents in terms of location, frequency

and severity, and responded to changes of situation in certain locations by providing information and advisories in order to avoid an increase of similar incidents. In 2018, we saw improvement at some ports and anchorages and successful arrest of perpetrators and masterminds in several countries. The perpetrators who were suspected for an attempt of oil cargo theft were also arrested and there was no oil cargo theft in 2018.

Since 2016, the most serious threat in Asia in has been the abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah which were mostly claimed by the Abu Sayyaf Group. In close cooperation and frequent exchange of information with the Philippines Focal Point (Philippine Coast Guard), the Centre has also issued two Warnings and two Alerts to the shipping industry in a timely manner, based on the information validated by PCG. The Centre has engaged the countries concerned with Sulu-Celebes Seas, namely the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia by organising a Cluster Meeting in the Philippines and participating in a meeting organised by UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime). The number of abduction of crew for ransom in this particular location has decreased from 7 incidents (3 actual and 4 attempted cases) in 2017 to 3 incidents (2 actual and 1 attempted cases) in 2018. Despite this improvement and efforts of the countries concerned, the abduction of crew remains a serious threat as demonstrated by the latest incident in December 2018.

The Centre has also closely monitored the development of the situation at some locations such as the Singapore Strait, Manila and Batangas anchorages in the Philippines and Chittagong anchorage in Bangladesh and intensified communication with Focal Points to address the situation.

### Adding Value to Information Sharing with Data Analytics

In 2017, the Centre has developed Data Analytics tools to conduct analysis, based on data of past incidents and identify the patterns of incidents and correlations among key factors in Asia and by locations. The knowledge base was established from the data of 1,560 incidents the Centre has stored over the past 12 years.

In 2018, the Centre has started to incorporate findings and analysis derived from Data Analytics into our periodic reports.

Some of the findings for Asia as a whole are as follow:

- The majority of incidents involved 4 to 6 perpetrators (34%) or 1 to 3 perpetrators (24%).
- The most commonly used weapons were knives/machetes.
- In more than 81 % of the incidents, there was no

injury of crew or no information on the condition of crew.

- In 31 % of incidents, nothing was stolen.
- The most common stolen items were ship stores (ropes, paints, etc.)
- 63 % were on board tankers and bulk carriers
- Most occurred during hours of darkness (80 % from 7 pm to 6 am)

Similar analysis is made on a country basis. This analysis provides patterns and trend of incidents in Asia and in certain locations and it helps to learn from the past and enhance situation awareness.

### Building Capacity in Addressing Traditional as well as Emerging Challenges

ReCAAP Focal Points (FPs) play a critical role in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. Recognising that FPs come from diverse agencies and are at different stages of development, continued capacity building of FPs strengthens our collective efforts.

In this regard, one of the key focuses in 2018 has been enhancing the capability of individual FPs to strengthen their capability in timeliness and accuracy of information sharing, foster their cooperation with other regulatory/enforcement agencies (inter-agency coordination), and deepen engagement with the shipping community. The Centre engaged individual FPs by organising FP visit to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as well as Cluster Meeting in the Philippines in order to address country specific challenges.

The Centre has continued annually organised collective meetings for FPs of 20 Contracting Parties such as Capacity Building Workshop (in Myanmar), Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (in Korea) and Capacity Building Executive Programme (in Japan).

In the capacity building programmes, we shared information on the latest situation and areas of concern, exchanged good practices and experiences of FPs, deepened knowledge on maritime laws and regulations such as UNCLOS (United Nations Law of the Sea) and ISPS Code and comparison of anti-piracy legislations.

To meet emerging threats to maritime safety and security, besides addressing traditional risks, the Centre is also incorporating topics such as maritime cyber security. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in March 2018, the Centre organised a panel on maritime cyber security. Maritime cyber security was also one of featured topics

at the CBEP in 2017 and the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017.

### **Strengthening Cooperative Arrangements with the International Maritime Community**

While ReCAAP is Asia-focused, shipping is global. Recognising this fact, the Centre in 2018 continued to strengthen its international linkage by organising and participating in conferences and meetings relevant for the Centre.

The shipping industry is an important partner of the Centre. The Centre has continued to provide shipping companies with the latest information of incidents, analysis of situation and advisories on the areas of concern to help them to make appropriate risk assessment and take preventive measures. The Centre has used opportunity to engage with the shipping industry to encourage them to make immediate reporting of incidents to the Coastal States. One of the most important occasions of engagement is the annual ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference ("Piracy Conference").

In 2018, the Centre co-organised the Piracy Conference with BIMCO and INTERTANKO in Hong Kong, China, for the first time outside of Singapore, in order to reach out to the shipping community in China and beyond. To address concerns of shipping industry in different regions, the Piracy Conference 2018 covered the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships across Asia, the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, with the presentations by Asian maritime agencies as well as EU NAVFOR for East Africa and MDAT-GoG for West Africa.

Another inaugural event was the ReCAAP ISC-RSIS Maritime Roundtable, which took place during the Singapore Maritime Week in April 2018. Co-organised with leading think tank, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, the Round table addressed the topic of, "Is a Single Reporting Centre the Answer to Timely Reporting, and Prompt Response against Piracy and Sea Robbery?" It enabled free and frank discussions by participants from international and regional shipping associations, Asian maritime regulatory and enforcement agencies, IMO, and information centres such as IMB, IFC and ReCAAP ISC. The Roundtable underscored the necessity of further dialogue among stakeholders to advance further mutual cooperation.

As part of cooperative arrangement, the Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Maritime University in July 2018 in a view to further develop the existing cooperation. Both sides agreed to explore new areas of cooperation by

leveraging each other's knowledge. This is the 8th arrangement of cooperation the Centre has signed with maritime organisations.

### **Profiling ReCAAP ISC as a Centre of Excellence**

In accordance with the Centre's Profiling and Branding Blueprint presented to the Governing Council in March 2018, the Centre has intensified its profiling efforts through traditional and digital media in a timely manner. Information issued by the Centre has been covered broadly and the number of visitors to our Website, Mobile App and social media is rapidly increasing. In 2018, the Centre earned 1,621 traditional media hits (23% increase over 2017), 3,444 social media hits (96% increase over 2017) and 1,300 unique visitors monthly to our Website. In media publications, ED-ISC's interviews and periodic reports of the Centre were broadly covered. The Centre has also reinforced the ReCAAP ISC's brand of a "Centre of Excellence" across various channels of communication.

### **The Way Forward**

During 12 years since its inception, the activities of the Centre have diversified and deepened. It has established a solid base of information sharing network with Focal Points of 20 Contracting Parties and useful situation analysis by the statistics, classification of incidents and deeper analysis by using Data Analytics. It has also become more and more recognised as a useful and relevant organisation by the maritime community in Asia and beyond. Nevertheless, the Centre is still a young organisation of 12 years old.

We need to build on the past achievements to move forward by improving on-going activities and undertaking new actions. The Centre needs to be keen on the evolving situation of maritime safety concerns and emerging threats for our Contracting Parties and shipping industry. With an objective to reduce as much as possible the incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships and improve further maritime safety and security in Asia, the Centre will continue to work closely with its stakeholders to remain relevant to the international maritime community.

# 12<sup>TH</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ReCAAP ISC

## 1. OVERVIEW

The 12th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC (“the Centre”) was held on 20 to 22 March 2018 in Singapore, hosted by the Singapore Government.

The Council reviewed the activities of the Centre in FY2017 and deliberated on its activities for FY2018 and beyond. The Council commended the Centre on producing positive results with its activities in FY2017 under the three pillars of its mission, i.e., information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangement.

A highlight of the meeting was a review of the progress that the Centre has made in implementing the Roadmap with Action Plan endorsed by the 11th GC Meeting in the progress towards its goal of becoming a Centre of Excellence for information sharing by 2020.

At the 12th GC Meeting, the Council has decided to announce that ReCAAP ISC has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea. The Council encouraged the Centre to continue its activities based on the Roadmap, by working together with the ReCAAP Contracting Parties, Focal Points, and the maritime community. The Roadmap focuses the activities, among others, on improving the timeliness and accuracy of information sharing, conducting deeper analysis, enhancing capability of Focal Points, strengthening engagement with maritime community and raising the Centre’s profile with partner organisations and media



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

The Council has elected the Philippines as next Chairperson and the People’s Republic of China as next Vice Chairperson. The new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson serve a three-year term commencing 1 April 2018. The Council thanked the outgoing Chairperson, Dr. Pornchai Danvivathana from Thailand, for his longstanding contributions, since 2009 in his capacities as Chairperson and Governor from Thailand.

On 22 March 2018, the Open Session was held with External Participants comprising representatives from two countries and 12 organisations. The session included an agenda of presentation and panel discussion on Maritime Cyber Security, which addressed the implications of cyber risks to the maritime community from the perspectives of a regulatory and enforcement agency, and a risk consulting company.

## 2. VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Member Countries	Singapore Dollars	Foreign Currency
Singapore	\$ 1,858,934	NA
Japan	\$ 662,227	NA
Republic of Korea	\$ 182,947	KRW 150 million
Kingdom of Norway	\$ 131,340	USD 100,000
China	\$ 104,184	USD 80,000
India	\$ 98,158.50	USD 75,000
United States of America	\$ 69,000	USD 50,000
Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$ 32,178	EUR 20,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,138,968.50</b>	

The Council also expressed its appreciation to the Governments of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand for seconding their officials to the Centre.

## INFORMATION SHARING

### 1. OVERVIEW

As a Centre of Excellence for information sharing, the Centre is the subject-matter expert on piracy and sea robbery in Asia, the “go-to” centre for the regional and international maritime community, and a model of regional cooperation in information sharing for other organisations.

A key attribute of a “Centre of Excellence” is to ensure timely and accurate information sharing.

### 2. SITUATION OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA IN 2018

#### Overall situation

A total of 76 incidents (comprising 62 actual incidents and 14 attempted incidents) were reported in Asia compared to 102 incidents (comprising 90 actual incidents and 12 attempted incidents) in 2017. This accounts for a 25% decrease in total number and 31 % decrease in actual incidents in 2018 compared to 2017. Both the total number of incidents and number of actual incidents in 2018 are the lowest among the 12-year period of 2007-2018. (Chart 1 shows the number of incidents reported during 2007-2018.) The Centre commends the efforts

of law enforcement agencies and the vigilance of ship masters and crew for their efforts in addressing the situation in 2018.

#### Piracy vs Armed Robbery against Ships

Of the 76 incidents reported in 2018, four were incidents of piracy (5%) and 72 were armed robbery against ships (95%). Over the 12-year period, the number of piracy incidents fluctuates each year, with an average of 12% for piracy against 88% for armed robbery against ships. Majority of the incidents of piracy in Asia occurred in the South China Sea (Refer to Chart 2).

#### Significance Level of incidents

Of the 62 incidents reported in 2018, two were CAT 1, eight were CAT 2, 14 were CAT 3 and 38 were CAT 4. The two CAT 1 incidents reported in 2018 were incidents of abduction of crew for ransom. Both the total number of CAT 1 incidents and CAT 2 incidents in 2018 are the lowest among the 12-year period of 2007-2018. The number of CAT 3 and CAT 4 incidents in 2018 decreased by 50% and 20% respectively compared to 2017 (Refer to Chart 3).

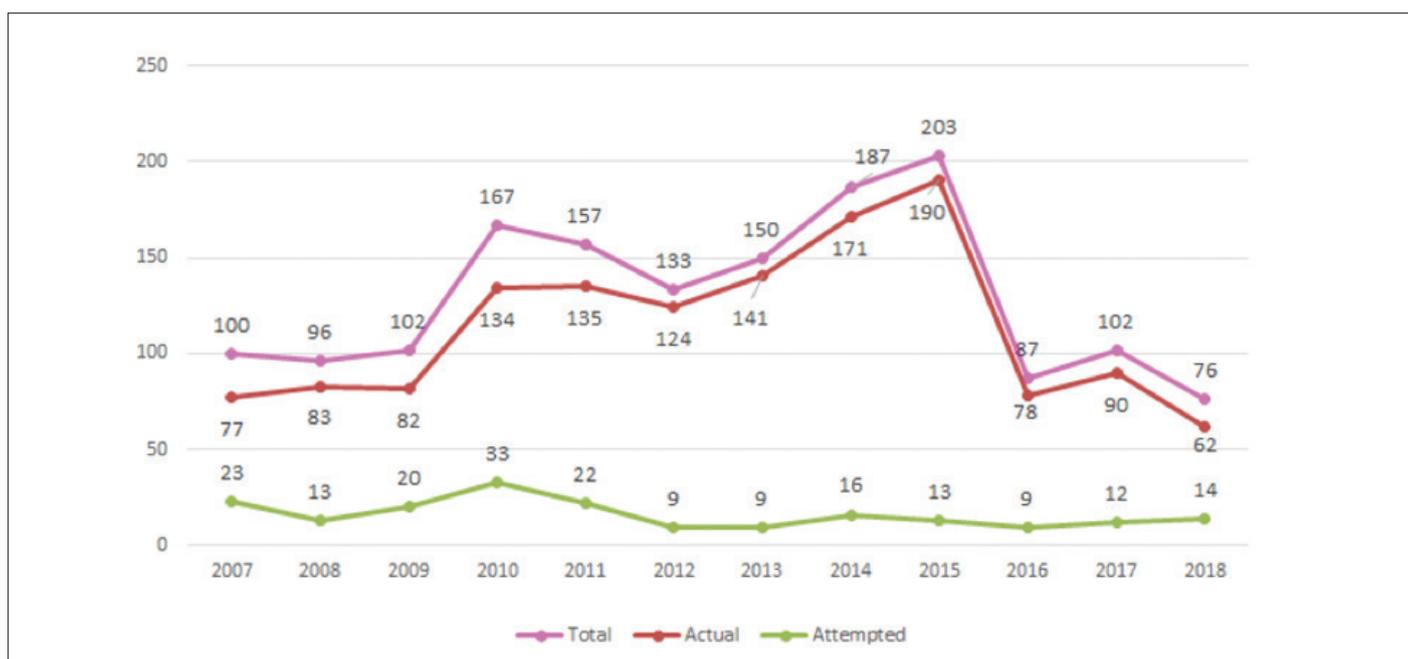


Chart 1: The number of incidents reported during 2007-2018

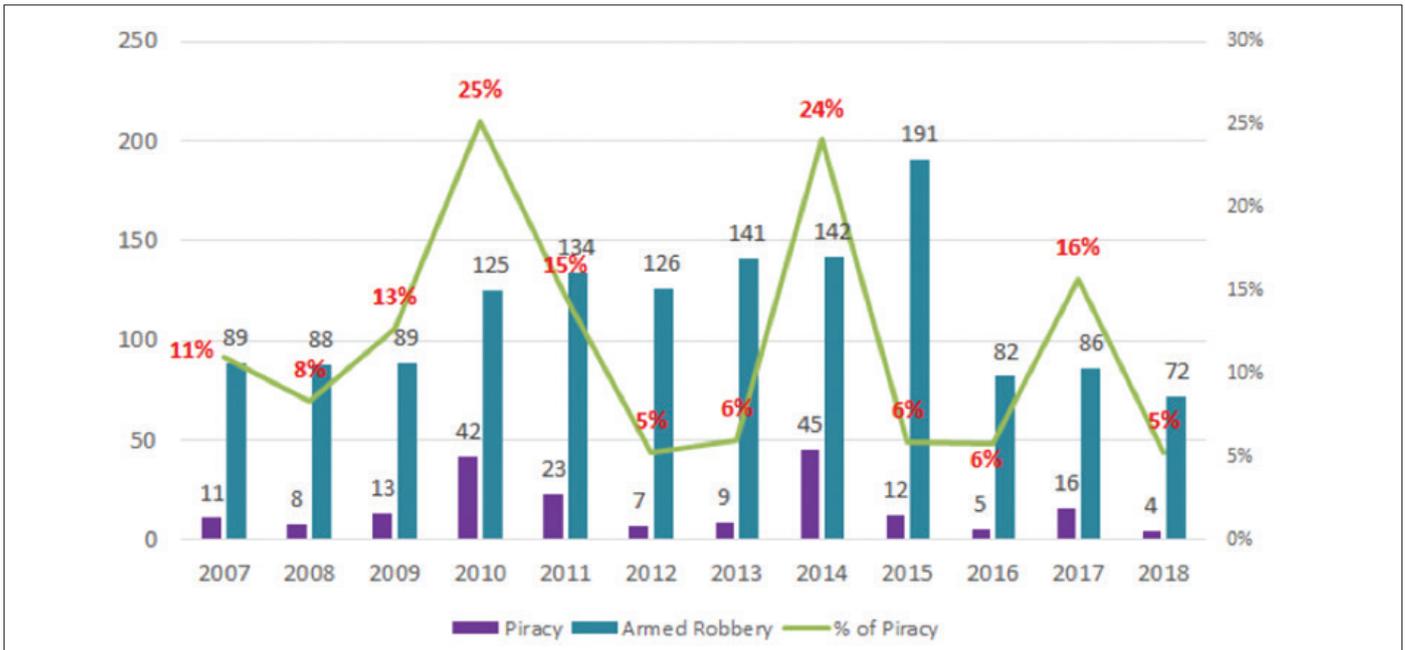


Chart 2: Piracy vs Armed Robbery Against Ships (2007-2018)

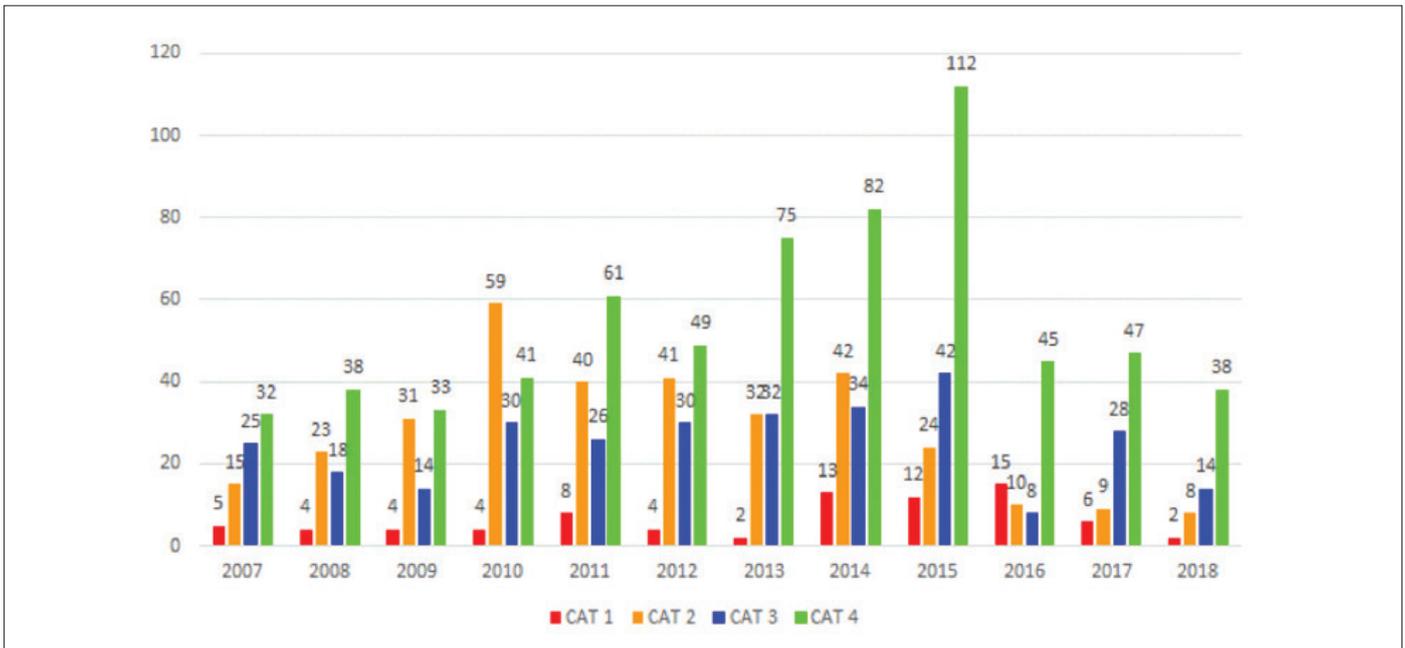


Chart 3: Significance level of incidents (2007-2018)

**At ports/anchorages**

Of the 76 incidents reported in 2018, 75% (57 incidents) occurred on board ships at ports/anchorages. Most of these incidents occurred during hours of darkness, particularly between 2000 hrs and 0600 hrs. In 2018, among the incidents reported at ports and anchorages are: Chittagong, Bangladesh (11), Samarinda, Indonesia (15), Batangas, Philippines (6), Malaysia (6) and Cam Pha and Gordau, Vietnam (4).

**Ships while underway**

In 2018, 25% (19 incidents) occurred on board ships while underway. Majority of the incidents took place during hours of darkness between 0000 hrs and 0600 hrs. In 2018, most of these incidents were reported in the Strait of Malacca and Singapore, and the Sulu-Celebes Seas.

Location of abduction incidents (2016-2018)



2016  
18 incidents 12 actual 6 attempted



2017  
7 incidents 3 actual 4 attempted



2018  
3 incidents 2 actual 1 attempted

**Situation of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Western Sabah**

There was a decrease in the number of incidents of abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah in 2018 compared to 2017 and 2016. Three incidents of abduction of crew (comprising two actual and one attempted incidents) were reported in 2018, compared to seven incidents (comprising three actual and four attempted incidents) in 2017, and 18 incidents (comprising 12 actual and six attempted incidents) in 2016. The maps above show the location of the incidents reported in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Despite the decrease of incidents in 2018, the abduction of crew for ransom remains a serious threat in the area. The Centre maintains its advisory issued via its Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to re-route from the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, where possible. Otherwise ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the area, maintain communication and report all incidents to the operation centres of Philippines and Malaysia. The updated contact details are as follows:

- 1 **Philippine Coast Guard Distric Southwestern Mindanao**  
Tel: + 63 998 585 7972  
+63 917 842 8446  
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "Neptune"  
Email : hcgdsw@gmail.com
- 2 **Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**  
Tel: + 63 998 585 7941  
+63 917 842 8402  
VHF : Channel 16  
Email : cgd\_tawi2@yahoo.com

- 3 **Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**  
Tel: + 63 955 714 0153  
VHF : Channel 16  
Email : jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 4 **Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**  
Tel: +60 898 63 181 / 016  
+60 898 63 182  
VHF : Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"  
Email : bilikgerakan\_esscom@jpm.gov.my



Contact details of operation centres in the Philippines and Malaysia

**Theft of oil cargo**

There was no successful incident of hijacking of ships for theft of oil cargo in 2018. Two incidents of suspicious intention to steal oil cargo were reported in 2018. In both incidents which occurred on board tanker Lee Bo on 1 Jun 18 and an oil tanker on 4 Aug 18, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) successfully arrested the masterminds and perpetrators.

### 3. DATA ANALYTICS PROJECT

Leveraging on technology, the Centre embarked on a data analytics project in 2017 to provide data visualisation of past incidents. There are two phases in the data analytics project.

Phase 1 of the project was to build the knowledge base to automate the data retrieval process from the Information Network System (IFN) database (which contains information on 1,560 incidents reported to the Centre from 2007 to 2018) to provide data visualisation of past incidents to show trends and correlations among key factors of incidents. Data visualisation is a key interface to monitor overall situation, past trends, spot anomalies, and perform analysis.

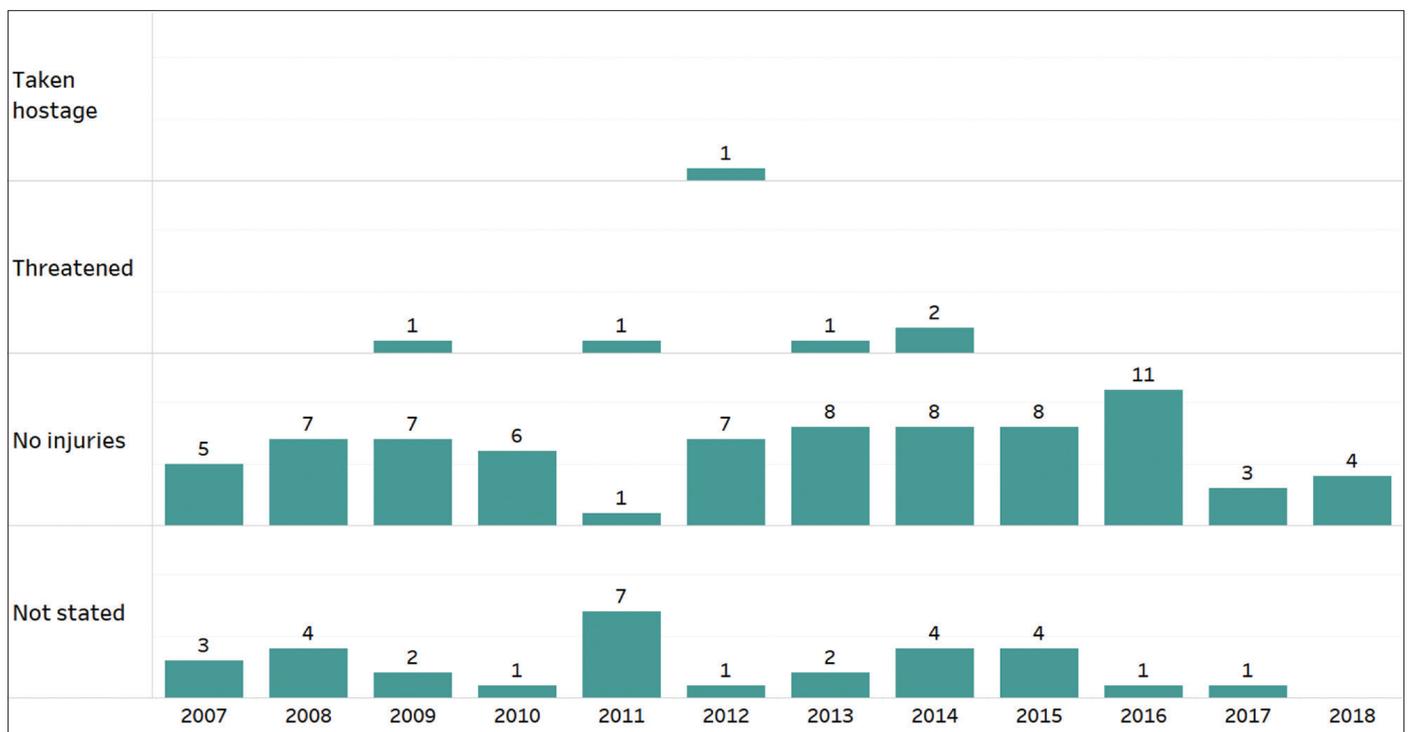
In 2018, the Centre explored the Phase 1 of the project to provide insights on the modus operandi of perpetrators operating in various locations in Asia, focusing on the 'number of perpetrators', 'type of weapons carried by perpetrators', 'treatment of crew' by perpetrators, 'items stolen from ships', 'type of ships boarded' and 'time of incident'.

Examples of dashboards developed for these factors are as follows.



Sample of 'Type of ships' boarded by perpetrators

Based on the dashboards of various factors, the overall analysis of the past incidents in Asia can be summarised as follows; majority of the 12-year incidents reported in Asia involved 4-6 perpetrators; and involved perpetrators armed with knives/machetes/others (such as rods and wooden poles). Knives/machetes/others were commonly used to cut ropes and remove on board ships than to harm the crew. More than 81% of the incidents reported that the crew did not suffer any injuries or there was no information on the condition of the crew. In 32% of the incidents, nothing was stolen by perpetrators who escaped empty-handed when sighted by the crew.



Sample of 'Treatment of Crew' by perpetrators

above show the location of the incidents reported in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Despite the decrease of incidents in 2018, the abduction of crew for ransom remains a serious threat in the area. The Centre maintains its advisory issued via its Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to re-route from the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, where possible. Otherwise ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the area, maintain communication and report all incidents to the operation centres of Philippines and Malaysia. The updated contact details are as follows:

For incidents reported with losses, ship stores were mostly stolen. In the past 12 years, 63% of incidents occurred on board either tankers or bulk carriers. Most of the incidents occurred during hours of darkness with 60% of incidents occurred between 0000-0559 hrs and 20% between 1900-2359 hrs.

The visual display enables to establish correlation between factors of incidents. For example, the image below shows the correlation between “types of ships vs. location of incident” at Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. The map shows the types of ships that were more commonly boarded at each anchorage area in Bangladesh.

In 2019, ReCAAP ISC will continue to build internal capability to use the Phase 1 of Data Analytics project to further explore correlation among factors of incidents in order to prepare the Phase 2 in 2020. The Phase 2 will use

multiple data from both internal and external sources to conduct predictive analysis.

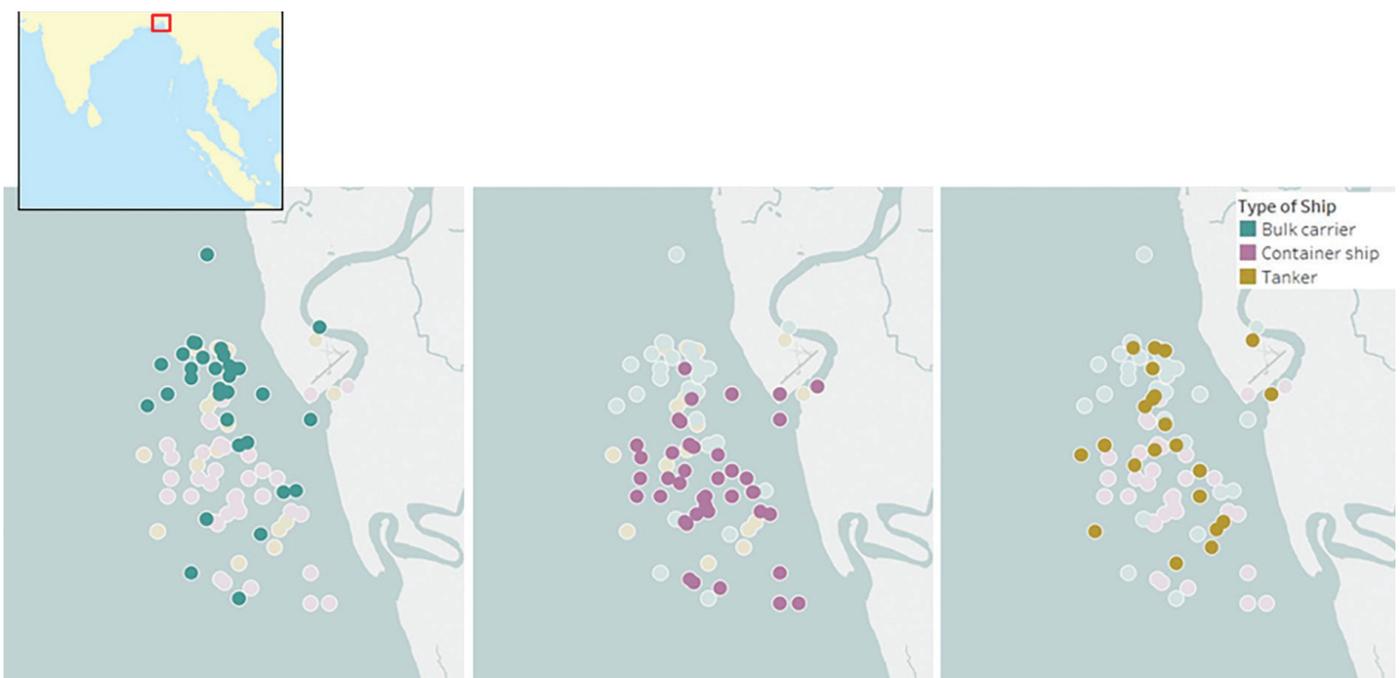
#### 4. IMPROVING TIMELINESS AND ACCURACY OF INFORMATION SHARING

##### Sources of Reporting

The primary source of information for ReCAAP information network system (IFN) is the 20 ReCAAP Focal Points. The Focal Points (FPs) are required to report to ReCAAP ISC via the IFN all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships occurred within and outside their territorial waters based on reports submitted by the local shipping companies, internal governmental agencies, law enforcement agencies, etc.

The sources of the statistics of ReCAAP ISC are from FPs and others, such as IMO and regional authorities. Chart 4 shows the number of reports submitted by FPs and others sources during the period from 2007-2018. The percentage of the reports submitted by FPs vis-à-vis other sources has been increasing, rising from 78% in 2007 to 89% in 2018. This indicates that there has been improvement in the competency and effectiveness of FPs in collating information, verification of incidents and reporting of incidents to the IFN.

Likewise, the increases in the sources of information of FPs, demonstrates the confidence between the sources of information (such as shipping industry, shipping companies, governmental agencies, etc.) in sharing information with FPs.



Correlation between type of ships vs location of incident (Bangladesh)

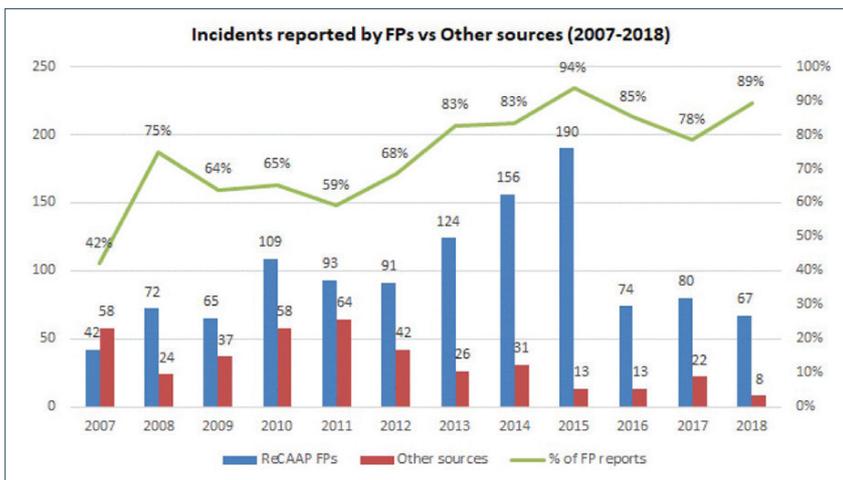


Chart 4 – Incidents reported by ReCAAP Focal Points vs Other Sources (2007-2018)

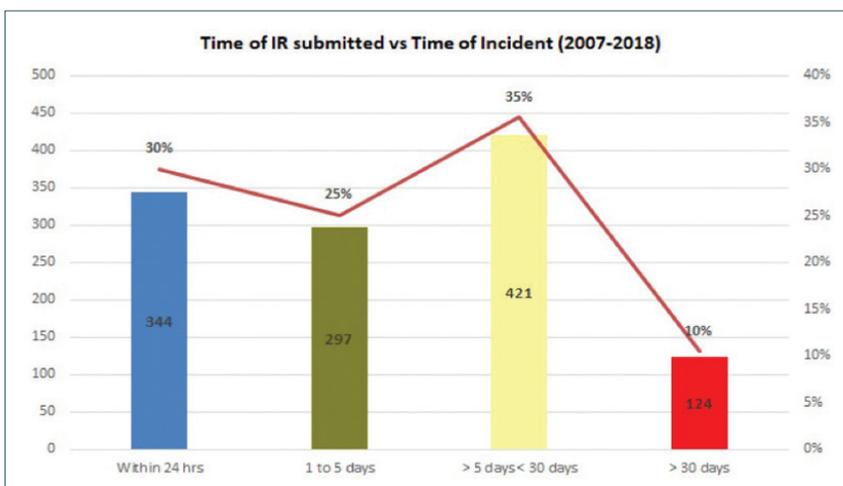


Chart 5 – Timeliness of incidents reports submitted by ReCAAP Focal Points (2007-2018)

**Timeliness of Reporting**

Chart 5 shows the number of incidents of Incident Reports (IRs) submitted by FPs to the Centre during 2007-2018. The timeliness of reporting by FPs can be measured by the duration between the time of the incident and the time of the IR submitted by FPs. Of a total of 1186 reports submitted by FPs, 30% of the reports were submitted within 24 hours, 25% submitted between 1 to 5 days, 45% took more than 5 days and beyond. Although there has been an improvement in the timeliness of information reported by FPs in 2018 compared to past 12 years, there is room for further improvement.

**5. PRODUCTS OF ReCAAP ISC**

The key deliverables of the Centre are composed of two; one on an ad hoc basis and the other on a periodic basis. When the situation warrants, the Centre issues Warnings, Incident Alerts and Special Reports, in particular for

serious incidents. The Centre produces periodic reports with statistics and analysis on a weekly and monthly basis. All the reports are distributed by e-mail to the relevant stakeholders, and put on the Centre’s digital platforms including its website, Mobile App, and social media channels.

Since 2017, the Centre is posting hardcopies of the Annual Report and Half-Yearly Report to maritime universities, training academies and research institutes for their reading and retention in libraries.

**Warning**

When warranted, the Centre issues a Warning to the maritime community to provide timely information and advice so that they can take appropriate precautionary measures. As timeliness is a key, a Warning is issued while pending the formal Incident Report of Focal Point but with validated information of FP.

Incident Alert



**Incident Alert** : 02/2018

**Name and Type of Ship** : Name and type of boat not known

**Date/Time of Incident** : 5 Dec 18 at about 0001 hrs (Local Time)

**Location of Last Known Position** : 5° 38.37' N 118° 57.44' E

**Area Description** : Vicinity waters of Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah

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**Detail of Incident**

The ReCAAP ISC received report from ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) about an abduction incident occurred on a boat (name and type not known) on 5 Dec 18. At about 0001 hrs on 5 Dec 18, about 20 men believed to be from the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), armed with firearms, boarded the boat from speed boats painted green with grey, and powered with double engine.



It was reported that the group abducted three crew (one Malaysian and two Indonesians) and arrived at Laminusa Island, Siasi Municipality, Sulu Province on 6 Dec 18, before proceeding to So Dumlog, Brgy Likud, Pata, Sulu Province on 7 Dec 18. The Joint Task Force Sulu is exerting an all-out effort to establish the status, condition and location of the alleged kidnapped victims.

**Reported by:** ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)

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**Comments**

This is the second actual abduction incident reported in 2018. The first actual incident occurred on board fishing trawler, *Sri Dewi 1* on 11 Sep 18 where two crew were abducted in Semporna waters, off Sabah. Of the two abducted crew, one of them was rescued by the Philippine authorities on 5 Dec 18.

#### Incident Alert issued on 11 Sep 2018

In 2018, the Centre issued two Warnings in May and October on abduction of crew incidents in the Sulu-Celebes Seas. The Warning on 30 October was issued within 24 hours upon receiving validated information from Philippine FP. It warned that a group of Abu Sayyaf Group members was planning to conduct kidnapping activities in waters off Sabah, targeting businessmen or ship's crew of foreign ships passing through the area. It was reported that, through this Warning, the Malaysia's Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) deployed assets and intensified security in their waters.

#### Incident Alert

Incident Alert is issued to give timely information about a serious incident, based on the verified information of Incident Report by FP, to alert mariners in the vicinity to exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate measures.

In 2018, ReCAAP ISC issued two Incident Alerts. They are:

1. "Abduction of Crew of Fishing Trawler" issued on 11 September 2018
2. "Abduction of Crew" on 10 December 2018

#### Periodic Reports

The Centre publishes Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Reports. The aims of these periodical reports are to provide an updated situation with

#### WARNING 01-10-2018

Date: 30 Oct 2018

1. The ReCAAP ISC has received information from the Philippine Focal Point (Philippine Coast Guard) that a group of approximately 10 ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) members armed with pistol, rifles and grenade launcher is planning to conduct kidnapping activities at any opportune time in undisclosed areas in Sabah primarily targeting businessmen or ship's crew of foreign vessels passing through the area. They are using unmarked coloured blue and white motorbanca locally known as jungkong.
2. Ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the waters off Eastern Sabah and Sulu-Celebes Seas.
3. Source: Philippine Coast Guard

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#### Warning issued on 30 Oct 201

statistics, analyse the modus operandi of perpetrators and share best practices and lessons learned to FPs, other governmental agencies, shipping industry, media and research institutes.

#### 6. SINGLE-SHEET SUMMARIES

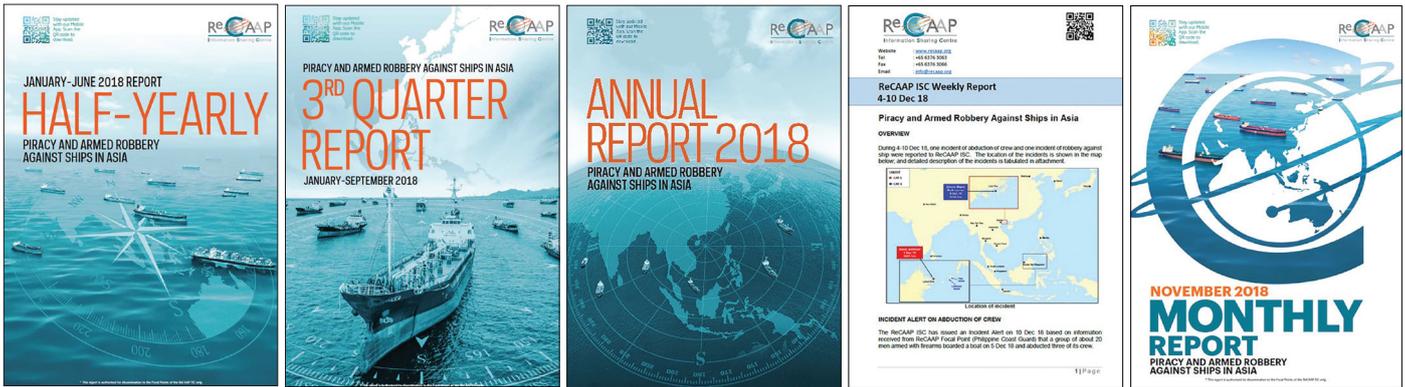
Single-sheet summaries of are produced for Centre's reports on a quarterly basis, i.e. 1st Quarter Report, Half Yearly Report, 3rd Quarter Report and the Annual Report. The Single-sheet summary adopts info-graphics design of the graphs, charts and maps for easy understanding and quick overview of the situation.

#### 7. ReCAAP ISC MOBILE APP

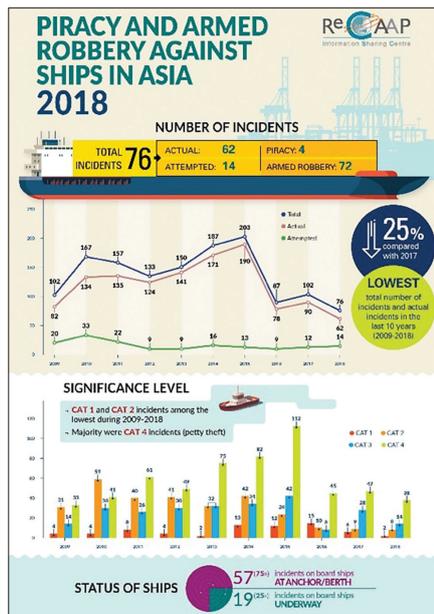
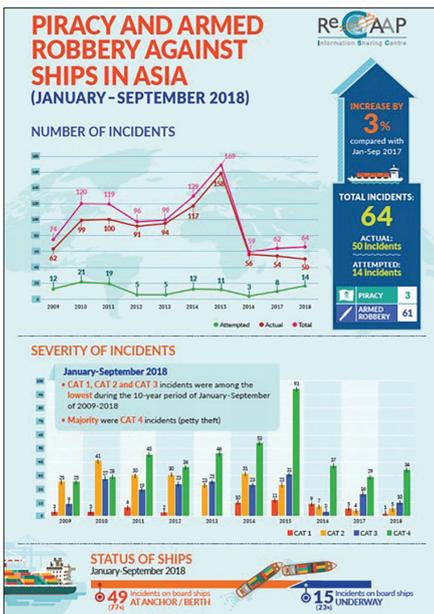
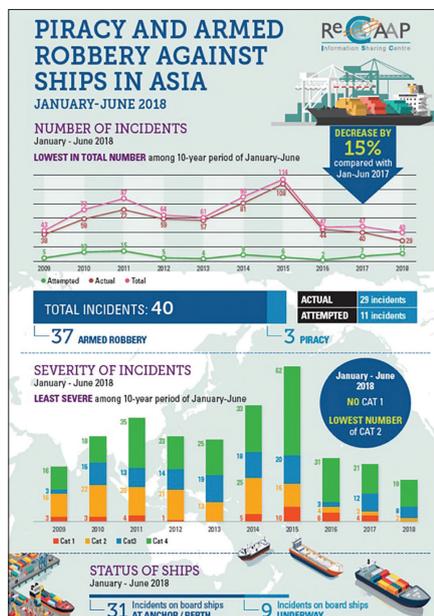
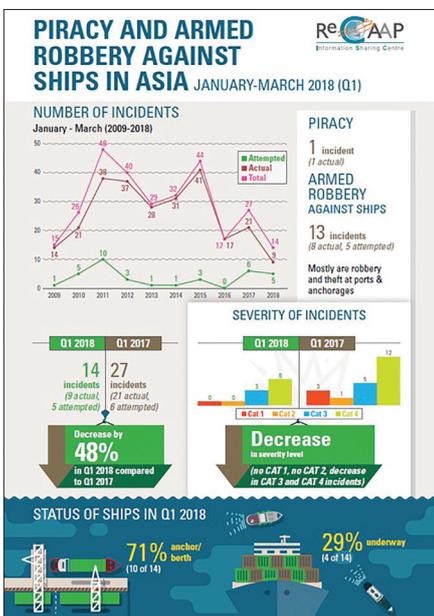
The Mobile Application of the Centre known as ReCAAP Focal Points was first launched in 2014. Taking into consideration the positive feedback from users and riding on technological advance, the Centre developed an enhanced version. The new mobile app, renamed ReCAAP was launched in March 2018, and is linked to the upgraded ReCAAP ISC website. The ReCAAP app contains two primary modules, i.e. Directory (of ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point) and Publications as well as Incident Reporting. The ReCAAP mobile app has a GPS-aided capability to enable an incident report submitted by a ship to be automatically disseminated to the FP of the sender, the FP of the Flag State, and the nearest Coastal State (if these States are ReCAAP Member Countries).

The ReCAAP app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play Store. One can also download it from the QR code (as shown):





Examples of ReCAAP ISC Periodic Reports



Examples of Single-Sheet Summary

## 1. OVERVIEW

Capacity building plays a complementary role to information sharing pillar. The capacity building activities of the Centre are designed to meet the needs of FPs to competently and confidently operate the ReCAAP Information Network (IFN) System as well as to effectively address issues and challenges related to piracy and sea robbery in Asia. The capacity building activities are also designed for FP officers across the entire spectrum, from operators to senior officers and policy makers. The topics and issues addressed also cater to the functions of FPs, be they maritime law enforcement agencies, regulatory authorities, navies, or other agency.

Beyond addressing traditional challenges, the Centre has also continued to incorporate topical issues as well as evolving threats into its capacity building activities. The topics covered in 2018 included international law against piracy and sea robbery, domestic legislative approaches, as well as the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah.

## 2. CAPACITY BUILDING EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME, TOKYO, JAPAN (19 to 25 May 2018)

The Capacity Building Executive Programme (CBEP), first introduced in 2017, was held for the second time on 19 to 25 May 2018 in Japan. For the first time, CBEP 2018 was open to participants outside of ASEAN, with senior



Participants of CBEP 2018 with the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzō Abe at the observation of Japan Coast Guard Sea Review and Comprehensive Drill

officers of all 20 ReCAAP Member Countries as well as Indonesia and Malaysia attending.

Also for the first time, the participants joined an observation of Japan Coast Guard (JCG) Sea Review and Comprehensive Drill on-board a JCG vessel as part of a series of activities to mark the 70th anniversary of the formation of JCG. The event was officiated by the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzō Abe.

During the week-long programme in Tokyo, the participants were briefed on regional as well as international developments in maritime safety and security, attended lectures on topics such as UNCLOS and ISPS Code, and exchanged experiences and best practices in the shared mission to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships. Lectures and discussions were complemented with a visit to key operational installations and facilities of the JCG.

To encourage dialogue with the industry, the participants also exchanged views with the Japan Shipowners' Association, and engaged in a discussion with executives from Japan's shipping industry.



CBEP 2018: Dialogue with Japan Shipowners' Association

## 3. CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP, YANGON, MYANMAR (3 to 6 SEPTEMBER 2018)

The Government of Myanmar hosted its first capacity building activity in Yangon with the Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) on 3 to 6 September 2018.

Twenty-six maritime law enforcement and regulatory officers from 14 ReCAAP Member Countries and from Malaysia participated in CBW 2018, which featured sharing by local government authorities including the Myanmar

Navy (ReCAAP Myanmar Focal Point), the Myanmar Maritime Police Force and the Myanmar Department of Maritime Administration addressed issues such as inter-agency coordination and port and ship security.

In addition, the Bangladesh Coast Guard, the Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centre (Thai-MECC), the Philippine Coast Guard, and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) presented case studies from their respective experiences in managing maritime safety and security in their waters, while the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore delivered a lecture on international maritime law and piracy-related regulations.

Table top exercises on incident reporting by ReCAAP Focal Points and group discussions on the best practices of timely and accurate information were also organised to build the capability and confidence of the Focal Points to operate the (IFN) System.

the 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, FPSOM 2018 featured a segment on the legislative approaches to addressing piracy and sea robbery, with a lecture by a representative of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and presentations from the FPs of Japan and India on their own legislative models.

Providing a first-hand perspective of piracy at FPSOM 2018 was the Korean ship captain who was in command of “MV Samho Jewelry” when it was attacked by Somali pirates in 2011. With the situation evolving in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, ReCAAP Philippine Focal Point, the Philippine Coast Guard, also presented an update on security measures taken by the Philippine Government. To provide inputs on the policy matters and key activities of the Centre, the Senior Officers capped the meeting with a group discussion, which produced useful suggestions on actions that the Centre together with its network of Focal Points can take to strengthen their collective mission to promote maritime safety and security.

A FPSOM was also held in Singapore on 16 to 17 January 2018 (Financial Year 2017), bringing together Senior Officers from 17 ReCAAP Member Countries to advance



CBW in Myanmar: Lecture on UNCLOS by the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore



CBW in Myanmar: Table-top exercises for providing timely and accurate information

#### 4. FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS’ MEETING, SEOUL, KOREA (12 to 15 NOVEMBER 2018)

Senior Officers of 16 ReCAAP Focal Points met in Seoul, Korea on 12 to 15 November 2018 to a two-day Focal Point Senior Officers’ Meeting (FPSOM) to take stock of the evolving maritime safety situation, and strengthen



FPSOM in Korea: UNODC presented on anti-piracy legislation



FPSOM in Korea: Discussions on policy matters related to the work of the Centre

efforts in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. At the two-day meeting, Dr. Sam Bateman, Advisor, Maritime Security Program at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Ms. Kaitlin Meredith, Programme Coordinator at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime respectively addressed the topics of maritime safety in Asia and the role of the Centre as well as the capacity building of maritime law enforcement agencies.

### 5. FOCAL POINT TRAINING PROGRAMME, SINGAPORE (15 to 16 January 2018)

Following positive feedback from the first Focal Point Training Programme (FPT) in 2017, the Centre conducted its second FPT on 15 to 16 January 2018. The aim of the programme is to train new FP staff who are responsible for the operations of the Focal Point in their countries. The programme included the learning of the roles and functions of FP and the training of incident reporting via the IFN System. The programme also included the participation in the Nautical Forum on 15 January 2018, and a visit to the Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) of Singapore. The participants were from the FPs of China, India, Philippines and Thailand.

### 6. CLUSTER MEETING IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES (14-15 AUGUST 2018)

Recognising that the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas was a concern for the shipping industry and was an issue that required close interagency coordination, the Centre and Philippine FP co-organised a meeting in Manila on 14-15 August 2018 to deepen cooperation and to enhance maritime safety and security in the area.

The Cluster Meeting brought together key littoral stakeholders including relevant government agencies in the Philippines, the Philippine shipping industry, the Indonesia Coast Guard (BAKAMLA), as well as members of the diplomatic community in Manila to review the current situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, take stock of past and current efforts, and explore ways to further deepen cooperation.



Cluster Meeting in the Philippines on the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas

## 7. BILATERAL VISITS TO FOCAL POINTS

### Bilateral Visit to Bangladesh (23 October 2018)

The Centre and the Bangladesh FP (Bangladesh Department of Shipping) held a meeting on 23 October 2018. The meeting allowed the Centre to better appreciate the development of the capabilities of the Bangladesh FP and its challenges. The Centre also had an opportunity to engage with other governmental agencies involved in the maritime domain such as the Coast Guard, Navy, Chittagong Port, Mongla Port, as well as the Bangladesh Shipowners' Association.

The visit facilitated a constructive discussion about the cooperation issues, understand the concerns of the stakeholders and suggest possible measures to overcome the challenges. The Centre also visited the International Maritime Academy to give a lecture to the students on ReCAAP, the activities of the Centre, and the situation of piracy and armed robbery in Asia.



The FP visit to Bangladesh involved meeting with all the stakeholders

### Bilateral Visit to Sri Lanka (25 October 2018)

On 25 October 2018, the Centre conducted a bilateral visit to the ReCAAP Sri Lanka FP (Sri Lanka Navy). The visit allowed the Centre to strengthen cooperation with FP and understand the local challenges and conditions of its operations. The Centre also had an opportunity to engage the Coast Guard, local fishery and shipping community, where information was shared on ReCAAP structure, mechanism of incident reporting and updated situation in Asia.



FP visit to Sri Lanka

## **8. PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD - JAPAN COAST GUARD - RECAAP ISC MULTILATERAL COMBINED EXERCISE (25 NOVEMBER 2018)**

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and the Centre conducted a multilateral combined exercise at Manila Bay on 25 November 2018. Two PCG vessels and two PCG Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats, JCG patrol vessel "Echigo" with its on-board helicopter participated in the exercise which included drills on situations such as counter-piracy, firefighting with rescuing, and water spray.

## **9. TELECONFERENCING WITH FOCAL POINTS**

With a view to enhancing interaction between the Centre and FPs, the Centre started teleconferencing in 2017 and has conducted two sessions via Skype in 2018. It was a good opportunity for the Centre to have face-to-face interaction with FP staff to discuss relevant issues. Because of technical difficulty of communication and at the request of FPs, quarterly sessions will cease and teleconferencing will be conducted on ad hoc basis with FPs who request it.

## COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

### 1. OVERVIEW

When ReCAAP was first established in 2006, the Agreement had 14 signatories—all of them Asian countries. Since then, ReCAAP's membership has expanded to 20 countries beyond Asia into Europe, Australia, and the United States, with more countries stating their intentions to join ReCAAP. Most of the leading maritime nations of the world are signatories of the ReCAAP Agreement.

As an inclusive international organisation, the Centre is committed to promoting cooperative arrangements not only with the ReCAAP Contracting Parties but also with governmental organisations as well as shipping industries and research institutes that share the common goal of ensuring the safety of maritime transport and the well-being of seafarers.

We are inclusive because we recognise that as a maritime crime, piracy and armed robbery against ships requires holistic and collective efforts across law enforcement, regulators, policy makers, and not least the shipping industry to be effectively addressed.

At ReCAAP ISC, cooperative arrangements take the form of activities to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen partnerships with and between key stakeholders. These activities include organising and participating in international and regional conferences that provide the platform to position ReCAAP ISC as a successful model of regional cooperation.

### 2. INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

#### Malaysia

The Centre has continued the visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the operational cooperation with Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and the shipping industry in 2018.

The specific engagements included the following:

- On 19 February 2018, ED-ISC called on the then Director General of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and exchanged views on the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia and discussed avenues of operational cooperation with maritime agencies.
- On 19 February 2018, ED-ISC had a meeting with the Director General of MMEA. They discussed areas of operational cooperation such as exchange of

information and participation in the capacity building activities of the Centre.

- On 28 November 2018, ED-ISC called on the new Director General of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the meeting, ED-ISC updated the situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, and extended invitation to Malaysia to attend the capacity building activities and conferences to be organised by the Centre in 2019.
- On 27 November 2018, ED-ISC met the Chairman of the Malaysia Shipowners' Association (MASA). During the meeting, both discussed enhancing collaboration with Malaysia's shipping industry.

In 2018, the Malaysian Government sent officers of NSC or MMEA to participate in the Centre's activities as attendees and/or speakers at the Capacity Building Executive Programme in Japan, ReCAAP ISC-RSIS Maritime Roundtable in Singapore, the Capacity Building Workshop in Myanmar, and the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference in Hong Kong, China.

#### Indonesia

The Centre has continued engagements with Indonesia in 2018. The direct engagements included the following:

- On 28 February 2018, ED-ISC called on the Director for Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the ways to enhance operational cooperation with Indonesia and to invite Indonesian maritime agencies to the capacity building activities and conferences organised by the Centre
- On 23 October 2018, ED-ISC had an informal meeting with the Executive Secretary of Indonesia Coast Guard (BAKAMLA) on the sidelines of the 14th HACGAM. They discussed the situation of sea robbery in Indonesia and activities of BAKAMLA.

In 2018, the Indonesian Government sent officers from BAKAMLA to attend the Capacity Building Executive Programme in Japan and the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference in Hong Kong, China.

### 3. MOU WITH WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY

The Centre and the World Maritime University (WMU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 2 July 2018 to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations in the shared interest in increasing knowledge on evolving situation of piracy and sea robbery. The Centre has had cooperation with WMU for several years in the area of giving lectures on Asian experience of combating piracy and sea robbery to WMU students in Malmö, Sweden, and hosting WMU students at the Centre on their field studies to Singapore. Both organisations will explore concrete area of cooperation by leveraging their knowledge and expertise.



Signing of MOU with WMU on 2 July 2018

### 4. ENGAGEMENTS WITH MULTILATERAL REGIMES INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

#### IMO 99th and 100th Session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) Meeting, London, United Kingdom (16-25 May 2018 and 3-7 December 2018)

The Centre attended the 120th IMO Council Meeting on 2 to 6 July and the 99th and 100th MSC Meeting on 16-25 May and 3-7 December respectively as an observer. At the MSC Meetings, the Centre updated the committee on the situation in Asia with an information paper and engaged MSC's Member States including ReCAAP Contracting Parties. The Centre also attended an informal working group for standardisation.

#### International Maritime Safety Conference, Busan, Republic of Korea (4-6 July 2018)

The 4th International Maritime Safety Conference was held in Busan, Korea, from 4-6 July 2018, hosted by the Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, and Busan Metropolitan City. The aim of the conference was to reiterate the importance of maritime safety to prevent tragic marine accidents such as the Sewol ferry disaster and to reduce related risks. Participants included navies, coast guards, international and local shipping companies and marine equipment experts. The Centre was invited to

make a presentation on "Enhancing Regional Cooperation" under the theme of "Responding to Piracy Incidents." The Centre's presentation focused on its activities, the latest situation and recommendation of counter-piracy measures in accordance with the Regional Guide.

#### Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Training Course for Maritime Law Enforcement in Asia and Off Somalia, Tokyo, Japan (10 July 2018)

The Centre was invited by JICA to deliver a lecture on the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia on 10 July 18 in Tokyo, Japan. A total of 15 participants from law enforcement agencies in Asia and Africa attended the course. Through case studies, the Centre highlighted the importance of operational response by enforcement agencies and collective efforts between governmental agencies and the shipping industry.

#### UNODC Contact Group Meeting on Maritime Crimes in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, Manila, Philippines (27-28 August 2018)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Philippines National Coast Watch Centre jointly organised Contact Group meeting on Maritime Crimes in the Sulu-Celebes Sea on 27-28 August in Manila, Philippines. The meeting brought together maritime law enforcement agencies from Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, members of diplomatic missions, academia, civil society and private sector. At the meeting, ED-ISC and AD(R) of the Centre delivered presentations on the threat of maritime crime focusing on incidents of piracy, armed robbery and kidnapping of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, and participated in Working Groups to discuss specific aspects of maritime crimes and cooperation among littoral States.

#### 14th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), Dhaka, Bangladesh (23-26 October 2018)



The annual gathering of the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies provides a useful platform for the Centre to underscore the importance of regional cooperation

The 14th HACGAM was held on 23-27 October 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest for the inaugural session who delivered the opening address. The meeting included plenary session and work group discussions. ED-ISC, made a presentation on the role of the Centre promoting regional cooperation and the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia.

**Galle Dialogue 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka (22-23 October 2018)**

The Galle Dialogue 2018 was held on 22-23 October in Colombo, Sri Lanka to discuss maritime issues by national and international navies. The theme of the conference was “Synergizing for Collaborative Maritime Management” on which stakeholders, particularly the States in the Indian Ocean Rim Association, deliberated.

**Lecture at International Maritime Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 23 October 2018**

The Centre conducted a lecture at International Maritime Academy in Dhaka on 23 October. The lecture was attended by 68 first-year students and five instructors of the Academy. The presentation covered background of ReCAAP, main activities of the Centre and the latest situation in Asia.

**Lecture at Korean Maritime and Oceans University, Busan, Korea (15 November 2018)**

The Centre conducted a lecture at Korean Maritime and Oceans University in Busan on 15 November. The lecture covered the background of ReCAAP, main activities of the Centre and the latest situation in Asia.

**87th INTERPOL Annual General Meeting, Dubai, UAE (18-21 November 2018)**

The 87th INTERPOL General Assembly was held in Dubai on 18-21 November and the Centre was invited as an observer. The theme was “Policing in the information age” and presentations focused on how innovation can best be leveraged to detect, prevent and investigate international

crime. Cooperation in combating terrorism, organised crime and cybercrime were also addressed.

**Lecture and Engagement with World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden (30 November 2018)**

The Centre conducted a lecture at WMU on 30 November to a class of 120 students. The presentation covered the activities of the Centre and the latest situation in Asia. A meeting was also held with the WMU staff to explore future cooperation.

**Coast Guard Global Summit Working Level Meeting 2018, Tokyo, Japan (27-28 November 2018)**

The Coast Guard Global Summit Working Level Meeting was held in Tokyo, on 27-28 November. The participants discussed the objectives, rules of governance, meeting logistics etc. in preparation of the next Coast Guard Global Summit scheduled in 2019.

**8th ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF) and 6th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF), Manila, Philippines (5-7 December 2018)**

8th AMF and 6th EAMF were held back-to-back in Manila on 5-7 December. ED-ISC was invited by the host country to make a presentation on “Assessment of the Maritime Security Situation in the Region” at EAMF.

**5. ENGAGEMENT WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY**

**Nautical forum 2018 (16 January 2018)**



9th Nautical Forum on 16 January in Singapore



The Galle Dialogue 2018 was a useful platform for the Centre to enhance its relationship with countries in the Indian Ocean Rim Association

Nautical Forum 2018, Singapore (16 January 2018)  
The Centre co-organised the 9th Nautical Forum with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Singapore Shipping Association on 16 January in Singapore. The Centre presented the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2017 based on its Annual Report and speakers shared views on areas of concern. A total of 153 participants from the shipping industry, diplomatic missions, and maritime agencies attended the Forum.

#### **ReCAAP ISC-RSIS Maritime Roundtable (25 April 2018)**

The Centre and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) co-organised for the first time, a Maritime Roundtable on 25 April 2018 in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week. The topic of discussion was “Is a Single Reporting Centre the Answer to Timely Reporting, and Prompt Response against Piracy and Sea Robbery?”



The ReCAAP ISC-RSIS Maritime Roundtable was one of the new activities of 2018

The participants included senior representatives from IMO; international and regional shipping associations such as the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA), BIMCO, INTERTANKO, International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), OCIMF, Singapore Shipping Association (SSA); maritime regulatory and enforcement agencies such as Indian Coast Guard (ICG), Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centre (Thai-MECC), Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG); and information centres such as International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and Information Fusion Centre (IFC). The Maritime Roundtable was useful to have free and frank discussions on pros and cons of a single reporting centre and understand better each other's views.

#### **ReCAAP ISC-OCIMF Dialogue, Singapore (26 April 2018)**

On 26 April, the Chairperson of the Governing Council and ED-ISC hosted members of OCIMF in Singapore for a dialogue to discuss the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, particularly the abduction of crew incidents in the Sulu-Celebes Seas.

#### **ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference, Hong Kong, China (12 June 2018)**

The annual ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2018 was held, for the first time, outside of Singapore. It was held on 12 June in Hong Kong, China, to reach out to the shipping community in China and beyond. The theme of the Conference was “Counter Piracy: Proactive Response.”

The Conference was co-organised by the Centre, BIMCO and INTERTANKO, with the support of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association. The Conference took stock of the current situation in Asia and shared the situation of piracy and sea robbery in other parts of the world, namely in the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Guinea. The conference was attended by 90 participants from shipping industry based in Hong Kong, regional and local maritime agencies.



For the first time, ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference was held outside Singapore, in Hong Kong, China, to reach out to the shipping community in China and beyond

## **6. VISITS BY MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS**

Throughout 2018, the Centre hosted numerous visits by FPs, senior government officials, leading maritime industry, and scholars on maritime safety and security. Hosting such visits is vital for the Centre to share updated and accurate information and to increase supporters of ReCAAP by promoting better understanding on our activities. In 2018, visitors to ReCAAP ISC included senior officials from the following organisations:

#### **Governmental & International Organisations**

- Ambassador of Romania in Singapore
- Indian Navy
- India Coast Guard
- UK National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC)
- INTERPOL
- Japan Coast Guard
- Korea Coast Guard
- United States Coast Guard
- UK Royal Navy
- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

**Industry**

- BIMCO
- OCIMF
- Regional Support Office of the Bali Process
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- International Chamber of Shipping (ICS)
- NYK Line
- Safety4Sea

**Academic Institutions**

- CNA Centre for Strategic Studies
- Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- J. F. Oberlin University
- World Maritime University

# PROFILING AND BRANDING ReCAAP ISC

In 2018, the centre has considerably strengthened its profiling and branding efforts, both on the traditional and digital fronts.

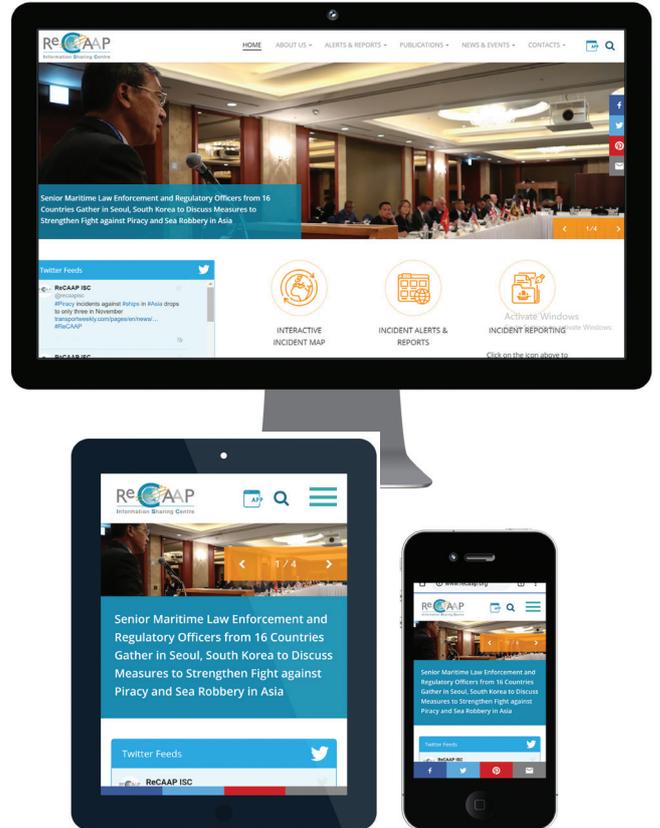
## 1. DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

The Website and Mobile app were renewed in March 2018. The new website is mobile responsive, adjusting its content to the screen size of the device. It is also visually more user-friendly, and linked with Mobile app and Twitter of the Centre. It provides main functions such as the Interactive Incident Map, Incident Reports and Alerts, and Incident Reporting.

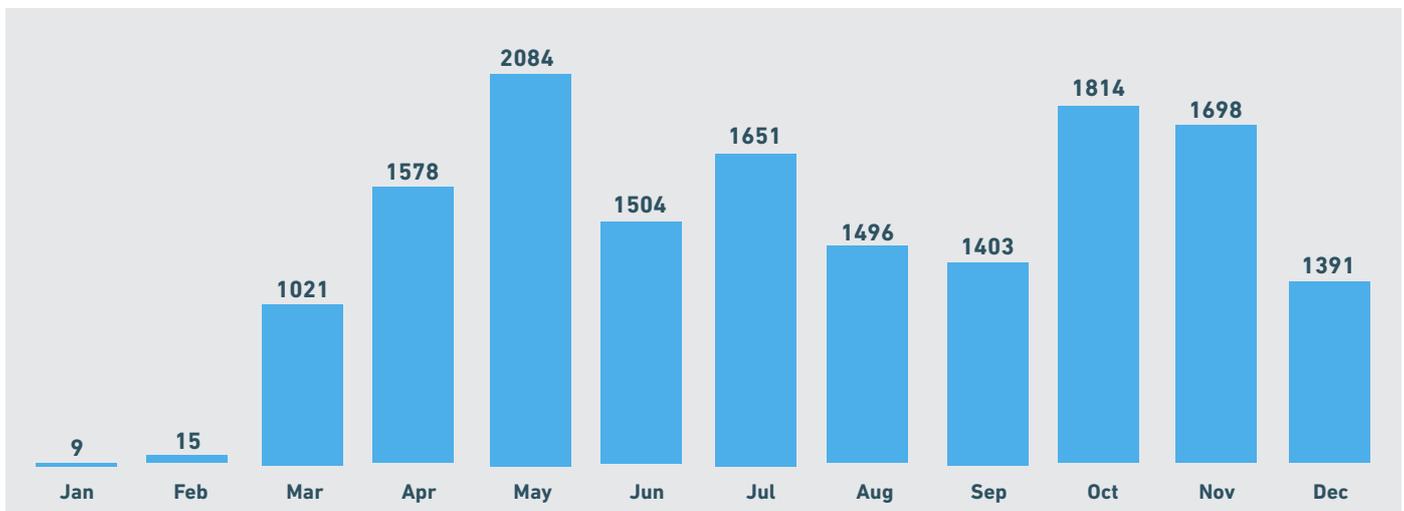
Recognising that users want quick and efficient access to information, the Centre is disseminating its periodical reports quickly to the maritime community through Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google.

The renewed ReCAAP mobile app is another digital tool that was launched in 2018. It provides the timely information of incidents issued by the Centre and it is closely linked with the Centre’s website.

In 2018, the Centre also continued to invest in in-house capability in producing videos to profile its key activities. For example, the Centre produced a series of videos highlighting the experience of participants in Capacity Building Executive Programme in Japan. The videos are on the ReCAAP ISC YouTube Channel for public viewing.



The renewed website is screen adaptive, more user friendly, and is linked to the renewed Mobile App

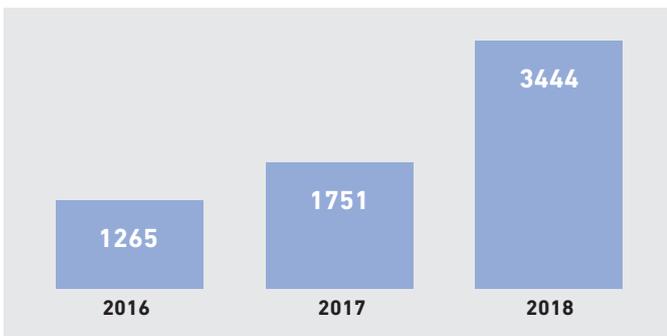


On average 1,300 unique visitors use the ReCAAP ISC website each month



Example of in-house video on Capacity Building Executive Programme in Japan

On the digital front, the Centre has demonstrated considerable growth despite our recent entry into social media in 2016. The social media hits of the Centre in 2018 have increased by 172% since 2016.



ReCAAP ISC's social media hits per year

## 2. MEDIA REPORTS

In 2018, the Centre continued to work diligently to earn substantial coverage in influential and credible media publications as well as news broadcasts. These have included:

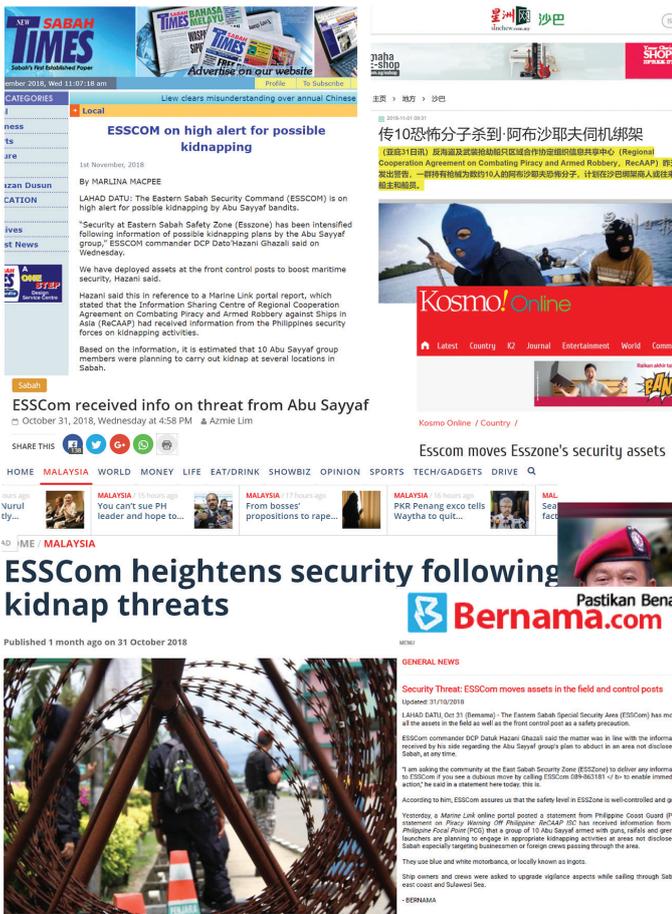
- ED-ISC organised a media briefing session for Singapore-based local and international media twice in 2018; in January at the release of Annual Report 2017 and in July at the release of Half-Yearly Report.

The content of the briefings was broadly covered in the following days.

- IHS Safety-at-Sea* – As a result of an interview of ED-ISC with the UK-based correspondent in November 2018, the well-respected periodical portrayed a balanced picture of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia in its January 2019 issue.
- Singapore Nautilus* – ED-ISC gave an interview to the Singapore Nautilus, the internationally distributed publication of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, on the role and contribution of the Centre to maritime safety and security in the region. The edition was published during the Singapore Maritime Week 2018.
- Channel NewsAsia* – The interview with ED-ISC and reports and activities were given prominent air time by the Singapore-based TV broadcast throughout 2018. Topics that were covered include statistics of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, CBEP 2018, and the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas.



Information of the Centre, including its Warnings on the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, garnered prominent coverage on Channel NewsAsia



The ReCAAP ISC Warning on 30 October 2018 was issued to the media and was widely reported by the Malaysian and international press

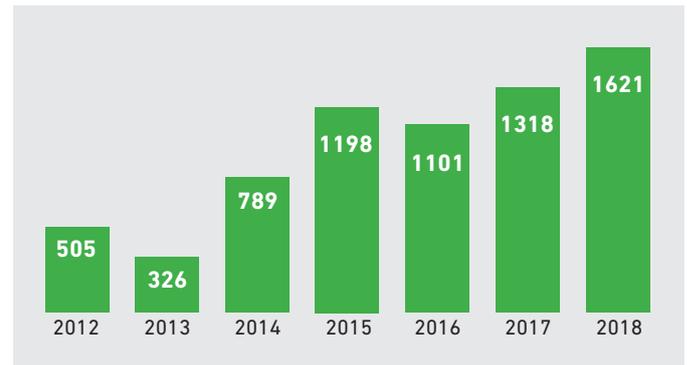
In addition, the key announcements, reports and activities of the Centre remained well covered regionally and internationally, reinforcing the credibility of the Centre as a Centre of Excellence for information sharing.

A prominent example was the Warning issued by the Centre on 30 October 2018 concerning a plan of Abu Sayyaf Group members to conduct kidnapping activities in undisclosed areas in Sabah primarily targeting businessmen or ship's crew of foreign vessels passing through the area. The Warning was disseminated to the media and amplified on the Centre's digital channels.

Within days, several mainstream Malaysian media including Bernama (the national news agency of Malaysia), New Straits Times, Sin Chew Daily (Malaysia's Chinese-language newspaper), and many more, covered the Warning, as did international maritime media such as Jane's Navy International, S&P Ocean Intelligence, Seatrade Maritime, Tradewind News, Lloyd's List, BunkerWorld, Hellenic Shipping News, Safety4Sea, Splash 24/7, Maritime Executive, World Maritime News, and more. Channel NewsAsia also devoted its news

programme on the same evening of 30 October 2018 to present the issue. In total, the Centre's Warning garnered 65 news clips.

Between 1 January to 31 December 2018, the Centre earned a total of 1,621 media hits on traditional media, the highest number of media hits since the Centre began tracking media coverage in 2012. This represents a 23% increase over 2017. A seven-year comparison is appended below.



Number of traditional media hits of the Centre by year

### 3. BRANDING ReCAAP ISC AS A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR INFORMATION SHARING

Following the announcement of "Centre of Excellence" at the 12th GC Meeting in March 2018, the Centre updated its key branding assets, i.e. the website, corporate brochure and corporate video, as well as through media materials, to profile the Centre of Excellence brand.





[www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)



Find "ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre" on:



Mobile App



Twitter



LinkedIn



Youtube



Google