The ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) 4/10 was successfully conducted on 9-11 Nov 2010 at York Hotel, Singapore. It was jointly organised by the ReCAAP ISC, and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). Building upon the successful conduct of last year’s meeting, the theme this year was “Enhancing Cooperation, Improving Efficiency”.

The aim of this meeting was to build on the achievements of the previous capacity building workshops and to share best practices and experiences of the ReCAAP Focal Points in responding to incidents of piracy and armed robbery through a scenario based table-top exercise.

Capt. Khong Shen Ping, Assistant Chief Executive of MPA, who represented Governor (Singapore) in delivering the Welcome Remarks, highlighted the importance of quick and efficient exchange of actionable information amongst the ReCAAP Focal Points, maritime enforcement agencies and industry, to the prevention and suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships.

A total of 30 operational-level officers from the various ReCAAP Focal Points officers and other relevant agencies participated the workshop and shared experience through the case study and discussion sessions.

The workshop was concluded with a visit to the Port Operations Control Centre 2 (POCC2) for a briefing hosted by MPA, and NYK Ship Management to view the advanced training facilities.
Similar to previous workshops, a scenario based table top exercise was conducted. Capt Hong, Assistant Director (Ops), gave a briefing on IFN followed by participants having a hands–on experience in information exchanges, submitting Incident Reports and follow-on Amplified Reports. The session ended with Ms. Lee Yin Mui, Assistant Director (Research) providing an overview of the exercise with participants.

Joint Anti-piracy and Search & Rescue Exercises – ICG/PCG/JCG/KCG

Three Joint Exercises were conducted between Indian Coast Guard (ICG) PASSEX—Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) held in Subic Bay, Philippines, on 21-24 Nov 10; Indian Coast Guard PASSEX—Japan Coast Guard (JCG) held in Kobe, Japan on 1-5 Dec 10; and Indian Coast Guard—Korean Coast Guard (KCG) held in Jeju, Republic of Korea on 5-9 Dec 10.

These joint exercises were Interactive between ICG’s Vishwast and respective vessels/units of the PCG, JCG and KCG and other relevant maritime enforcement agencies. Three ReCAAP ISC teams were honored to be present to participate and witness the information exchange exercise and the conduct of anti-piracy operations at sea, including intercept, apprehension, and search & rescue operations.
The Kingdom of Denmark joins the ReCAAP Network

The Kingdom of Denmark becomes a Contracting Party to the ReCAAP on 20 November 2010.

This is the third State after The Kingdom of Norway and The Kingdom of the Netherlands located outside Asia being a member to the ReCAAP network. To-date, there are 17 Contracting Parties to the ReCAAP. This reaffirms the multilateral efforts in addressing the issues and challenges in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea in Asia.

Ms. Birgit Sølling Olsen has been appointed as the Governor (Denmark); she is currently the Deputy Director-General responsible for Shipping Policy at the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA). She remarked that It is important that Denmark also supports the efforts made to combat piracy in Asia.

ReCAAP ISC Governor for Denmark, Ms. Birgit Sølling Olsen
The Kingdom of Denmark joins the ReCAAP Network

Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) is the designated Focal Point (Denmark).

During the Ops Visit to Denmark, the ReCAAP ISC Team operationalised IFN at the DMA.

A meeting at the Admiral Danish Fleet was also conducted during the Ops Visit.

The Royal Danish Navy carries out the Coast Guard roles as well.

To Denmark: Welcome Aboard!

Flag Ceremony by ED-ISC
Denmark’s flag joins 16 others displayed at the ReCAAP ISC Office front lobby.

Upcoming events up to March 2011

12 January 2011
The Nautical Forum 2/11
Second time in its running, the Nautical Forum 2/11 will be held on 12 January 2011, at the STI Auditorium, 9th Floor of Capital Tower in Singapore. The forum is aimed to engage and interact with the maritime industry and provide a platform to highlight some of the key trends and concerns presented in the ReCAAP ISC’s Annual Report 2010. Invitations are extended to the maritime industry in Singapore. Admission is by invitation only.

1-3 March 2011
The Fifth Annual Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
The Governing Council of the ReCAAP ISC will have its Fifth Annual Meeting 1-3 March 2011 in Singapore. The 17 Governors (or their appointed representative) will review the works of the ReCAAP ISC, set policies for ReCAAP ISC’s management, approves the work plans and budget for the following years and provide guidance to the ReCAAP ISC Secretariat.

There will be two new Governors from Denmark and The Netherlands at this meeting following their accession of ReCAAP Agreement in July and November 2010 respectively.