

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

By The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC),
The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO),
International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO),
NATO Shipping Centre (NSC), and
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Sharing Information, Enhancing Response

Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011

14 April 2011, Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore

1. The ReCAAP ISC, BIMCO, INTERTANKO, NSC, and RSIS jointly organised the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011 on 14 April 2011 at Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore. The Conference was held in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week 2011.
2. The theme of this year's conference was *Sharing Information, Enhancing Response*. The aim of this conference was to share views and experiences in enhancing responses towards piracy and sea robbery among stakeholders, which included governments, international organisations, shipping associations, ship owners and operators, maritime industries, seafarers and like-minded individuals.
3. At the opening remarks delivered by VADM Ramon C Liwag, the Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, he said "Challenges in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships are many and multi-layered. It cannot be the responsibility of one agency but a responsibility collectively shared by governments, ship owners, shipping associations and the maritime industries. Cooperation is the key; confidence building is the other in order to work as ONE." He added that the ReCAAP ISC will continue to build on its foundation, to advocate multi-channel information reporting and sharing, and to engage like-minded organisations.
4. Mr. Robert Lorenz-Meyer, President of BIMCO, in his keynote address reiterated the importance of close cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and the shipping industries.
5. The Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011 brought together a mix of speakers from the public and commercial sectors, provided a platform to facilitate sharing of different perspectives and a common understanding, and to foster closer cooperation among all parties to collectively address the challenges of combating piracy and sea robbery.
6. The morning presentation sessions, in "Overview and Perspective of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships" Session, started with ReCAAP ISC sharing "Trends of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia" and Mr Yuichi Sonoda, Secretary-General of the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF) offering the industry's perspective, as well as Mr Chris Trelawny from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), speaking on international efforts and initiatives. In the Reality at Sea: Operational Challenges and Experiences session moderated by Dr Euan Graham of RSIS, with panellists Mr Simon Church, Industry Liaison Officer of EUNAFOR, Mr Tim Wilkins, Asia-Pacific Regional Manager of INTERTANKO and Mr Thomas Timlen, Asia Liaison Officer of BIMCO, sharing operational experience in combating piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Aden and

the Western Indian Ocean, Best Management Practices (Version 3) and Guidelines on 'Capture to Release'.

7. The Anti-Piracy Poster, titled: Prevent Piracy, a joint project by the ReCAAP ISC and BIMCO was launched by Mr Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC and Mr Torben Skaanild, Secretary-General of BIMCO. The Poster, which is recommended to be placed at conspicuous locations onboard ships, aims to serve as a check-off list to seafarers for risk assessment, preparation for transit and recommended actions if under attack or boarded, and as a constant reminder to "Be Prepared".

8. The afternoon interactive scenario based workshop conducted by NSC and led by NSC Branch Head CDR SG Stein Olav Hagalid, supported by an expert panel including representatives from naval forces, shipping industry and maritime organizations, focused on sharing of first hand experiences on maritime piracy including attack, capture and release. This was the first time such a workshop has been conducted in Asia, and aimed to benefit the Asian maritime industry members while plying their ships in the high risk area in Gulf of Aden and Western Indian Ocean.

9. Some 200 participants of the Conference applauded the good efforts by the organisers in bringing together an excellent mix of speakers and the learning session during the interactive workshop.

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ReCAAP ISC, BIMCO, INTERTANKO, NSC and RSIS

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FACT SHEET

About the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (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 in Asia. It was finalised on 11 November 2004 and entered into force on 4 September 2006. To date, 17 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The seventeen Contracting Parties to ReCAAP are the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) was established under the Agreement, and was officially launched in Singapore on 29 November 2006. It was formally recognised as an international organisation on 30 January 2007.

The roles of the ReCAAP ISC are to:

- serve as a platform for information exchange with the ReCAAP Focal Points via the Information Network System (IFN); facilitate communications and information exchange among participating governments to improve incident response by member countries; analyse and provide accurate statistics of the piracy and armed robbery incidents to foster better understanding of the situation in Asia;
- facilitate capacity building efforts that help improve the capability of member countries in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region; and
- cooperate with organizations and like-minded parties on joint exercises, information sharing, capacity building programme, or other forms of cooperation, as appropriate, and agreed upon among the Contracting Parties.

The ReCAAP ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network System (IFN). Through this network, the ReCAAP Focal Points are linked to each other as well as the ReCAAP ISC on a 24/7 basis, and are able to facilitate appropriate responses to incident. The agency receiving the incident report will manage the incident in accordance to its national policies and response procedures, and provide assistance to the victim ship where possible. The agency will in turn, inform their ReCAAP Focal Point which will submit an incident report to the ReCAAP ISC and its neighbouring Focal Points.

About the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)

"BIMCO is the largest of the international shipping associations, with a membership drawn from a broad representation of stakeholders within the shipping industry, notably from the shipowning community, representing 640 million DWT or about 65% of merchant shipping. With a total membership of approximately 2,600 individual members from 123 countries, composed of shipowners, shipbrokers and agents and other entities with an interest in or associated with the Maritime Industries, BIMCO is widely respected for its practical approach and its opinions and recommendations are regular and important elements in the international governmental organizations' process of creating international standards and guidelines for the shipping industry. BIMCO is accredited as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and holds observers' status with several United Nations agencies involved with shipping industry matters, notably the International Maritime Organization and working closely together with maritime administrators in e.g. the European Community and the United States. In recognition of its position within the international shipping community, the US Coast Guard formed a partnership agreement with BIMCO to jointly address issues of regulatory compliance and maritime governance in an effort to find practical and workable solutions for shipowners plying US trade. BIMCO is committed to promote fair and equitable international shipping policy and regulatory matters and seeks to continue to be the selected and trusted sparring partner and source of practical information by policymakers and other stakeholders."

About International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)

INTERTANKO has been the voice of independent tanker owners since 1970, ensuring that the oil that keeps the world turning is shipped safely, responsibly and competitively.

Membership is open to independent tanker owners and operators of oil and chemical tankers, i.e. non-oil companies and non-state controlled tanker owners, who fulfil the Association's membership criteria. Independent owners operate some 80% of the world's tanker fleet and the vast majority are INTERTANKO members. As of January 2011, the organisation had 250 members, whose combined fleet comprises some 3,400 tankers totalling 260 million dwt. INTERTANKO's associate membership stands at some 330 companies with an interest in shipping of oil and chemicals.

About the NATO Shipping Centre (NSC)

Who we are:

The NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) is the link between NATO military forces and the merchant shipping community. Manned by uniformed NATO members, the NSC is the primary, permanent point of contact in NATO for the shipping community, for the exchange of merchant shipping information between NATO's military authorities and the international shipping community. The NSC is the primary advisor to merchant shipping regarding potential risks and possible interference with maritime operations. In addition to our current Counter-Piracy mission, the NSC supports NATO, national, and multinational Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) operations and exercises. The NSC is part of the Allied Maritime Command Headquarters Northwood in the UK. It has been commanded since August 2008 by Cdr SG Stein Olav Hagalid.

Our current operations:

The NSC is currently engaged in 2 NATO operations: OCEAN SHIELD and ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR.

OPERATION OCEAN SHIELD is NATO's counter-piracy operation in the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin. The NSC collaborates with the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operation (UKMTO) in Dubai and with the European Union's (EU) Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) in order to track merchant vessels as they transit these perilous waters. Beyond tracking ships and responding to pirate attacks, including the warning of individual ships that may be in the vicinity of an attack, the NSC is a proponent of the recommended self-protective measures found in BMP3 and works to encourage all merchant vessels transiting the operation area to employ the Best Management Practices that have been recommended by the BMP3 signatories. The NSC liaises with the international shipping community to raise awareness and compliance of BMP3 through workshops, conferences and industry meetings. The NSC provides current information on piracy to mariners through its website including; current alerts on pirate attacks and the location of Pirate Action Groups; the disposition of known pirated vessels ('motherships'); an alert map; weekly situation updates; and much more.

OPERATION ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR is NATO's counter-terrorism operation in the Mediterranean. The NSC's contribution includes tracking of merchant shipping through the region and providing voyage information to NATO warships in order to help them optimize their screenings and boardings. Reporting by merchant vessels to the NSC for ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR is voluntary, but lessens the likelihood of their voyage being disrupted by an ACTIVE ENDEAVOUR patrol.

About S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) was officially inaugurated on 1 January 2007. Before that, it was known as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), which was established ten years earlier on 30 July 1996. Like its predecessor, RSIS was established as an autonomous entity within the Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

The School exists to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of Asia-Pacific security studies and international affairs. Its three core functions are research, graduate teaching and networking activities in the Asia-Pacific region. It produces cutting-edge security related research in Asia-Pacific Security, Conflict and Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Area Studies.

The School's activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia-Pacific and their implications for Singapore.