

PRESS RELEASE

The Djibouti Code of Conduct, which emulated the ReCAAP Model, concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, signed in Djibouti on 29 January 2009, envisaged three information-sharing centres (Djibouti Code of Conduct ISCs) in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, Mombasa, Kenya and Sana'a, Yemen. The three ISCs were declared operational in the first half of 2011 and have since actively collected and disseminated piracy related information.

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) entered into force on 4 September 2006 and established the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) on 29 November 2006. The roles of ReCAAP ISC include exchanging information among Contracting Parties on incidents of piracy and armed robbery, supporting capacity building efforts of Contracting Parties, and facilitating cooperative arrangements.

Maritime piracy continues to be a threat to maritime trade and the safe passage of ships through the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden. Piracy attacks have been reported close to the western coast of India, a ReCAAP Contracting Party, and many ships with flag or crews from ReCAAP Contracting Parties are also greatly affected when they operate in the area. It therefore benefits the stakeholders concerned that the Djibouti Code of Conduct ISCs and ReCAAP ISC pool their resources and work together to share piracy information to address the growing concerns.

The Government of Singapore supported the ReCAAP ISC and the Project Implementation Unit of the IMO for the conduct of a training programme for the Representatives of the three Djibouti Code of Conduct ISCs on 10-11 November 2011, held in Singapore.

To this end, on 11 November 2011, with the support and endorsement of IMO through the Djibouti Code of Conduct Programme, the Representatives of the three Djibouti Code of Conduct ISCs and ReCAAP ISC have agreed and signed a set of

standard operating procedures (SOP) for communicating and exchanging piracy related information to pave the way for the Centres' operational link-up to share information on piracy and armed robbery against ships in furtherance of their effort to address the growing challenges. This is following a *Centre-to-Centre Dialogue* held in Dubai on 19-21 September 2011.

Continued dialogue between the ISCs is fully supported by IMO as part of its wider aim to promote closer cross-regional collaboration through sharing best practices, information exchange and capacity building efforts in a regionally generated mechanism of piracy reporting and response.

The Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, Mr Yoshihisa Endo, who witnessed the signing ceremony of the SOP, remarked that, "*This is indeed a step forward towards greater cooperation in information sharing across the regions in Asia and the Western Indian Ocean. Based on the successful model of the ReCAAP in combating and suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, such regional cooperation will now allow a more seamless flow of relevant information and coordinated response, and brings heightened situation awareness.*"

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Center (ISC)

11 November 2011



The exchange of inked SOP between Capt. Ken Michael Chimwejo (DCoC ISC – Tanzania) and LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo (ReCAAP ISC) witnessed by the Executive Director (ReCAAP ISC) and Representative from Project Implementation Unit (PIU), IMO.



Representatives from the three DCoC ISCs (front row) and ReCAAP ISC and PIU, IMO (back row)

For more media enquiries, please contact the ReCAAP ISC Secretariat at (65) 6376 3091.

Background Information

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.

For more information about the ReCAAP and ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>