

PRESS STATEMENT

ReCAAP ISC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP 5/11

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and ReCAAP Focal Point (India) - Indian Coast Guard had successfully conducted the Fifth Capacity Building Workshop in Goa, India, on 15-17 November 2011. The theme for the workshop is "*Building Capacity through Enhanced Information Sharing*".
2. Vice Admiral MP Muralidharan, AVSM,NM, Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, also the Governor (India) of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council in his welcome address highlighted the significance of bringing together the ReCAAP Focal Points and engagement of the various stakeholders to work together in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. He also said that the ReCAAP serves as the conduit between the Focal Points and the commercial entities is a unique example of combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.
3. LTC(Retd) Nicholas Teo, Deputy Director, ReCAAP ISC, in his Opening Address emphasized the importance of Capacity Building activities among the members of the Focal Points to remain engaged and updated with the various developments as the maritime crime is also evolving .
4. The aims of the 3-day Capacity Building Workshop 5/11 were to share best practices and experiences of the ReCAAP Focal Points in responding to incidents of piracy and armed robbery, and to foster closer working relationship and networking among the Focal Points. In addition, the workshop provided a platform to enhance operational cooperation among the ReCAAP Focal Points and the ReCAAP ISC.
5. Apart from the ReCAAP Focal Points, the participants involved the ReCAAP ISC, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Indian Coast Guard, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), the Indonesian Maritime Security Coordinating Board (BAKORKAMLA) and the Indian National Shipping Association (INSA), .
6. Participants of the workshop included operational-level officers from the ReCAAP Focal Points and other relevant agencies. The importance of establishing a multi-agencies' information network environment was iterated as maritime incidents are multi-national in nature and cross territorial boundaries; thus collaborative effort are required to address them. No single agency has the resources to counter it alone, thus inter-ministries' and inter-agencies' cooperation is essential.

7. For a second time, representatives of the Djibouti Code of Conduct Information Sharing Centres (DCoC ISCs) located in Dar es Salaam – United Republic of Tanzania, and Mombasa – Kenya, observed the conduct of the Capacity Building Workshop 5/11. Prior to the CBW 5/11, the ReCAAP ISC also conducted a short training for the DCoC ISCs followed by the signing of SOPs between the ReCAAP ISC and the respective DCoC ISCs. The SOP to facilitate communication and exchange of piracy related information between the ReCAAP ISC and the 3 DCoC ISCs were signed on 11 Nov 11 to pave the way for the Centres' operational link-up across the regions in Asia and Western Indian Ocean, in furtherance of the effort to address the growing challenges.

8. The workshop concluded with an anti-piracy demonstration at sea staged by the Indian Coast Guard that allowed the participants to gain a better understanding of the Indian Coast Guard's capability in combating and suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
17 November 2011

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



ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop 5/11
Marriott Hotel, Gao, India
15-17 November 2011



(Above two pictures)
Anti-piracy Demonstration at sea staged by the Indian Coast Guard
17 November 2011