

ReCAAP ISC Newsletter

From the
editorial

The first quarter of 2011 was a busy period at the ReCAAP ISC with three events being organised.

We have lined up in this issue the Front-page article: '*The Fifth Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC*', followed by,

- page 2 '*Change of Helm at the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council*',
- page 3 '*Nautical Forum 2/11*', and
- page 4 '*Workshop on Counter Piracy Programme*'.

The "**Upcoming events**" section tagged on page 4 shares with you the upcoming events planned for April–June 2011.

As always, do feel free to write to us newsletter@recaap.org

Be connected!

Issue 4/11

Newsletter Date: Jan–Mar 2011

The Fifth Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC

The Fifth Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was successfully conducted on 1-3 March 2011 at the Swissotel Merchant Court Hotel, Singapore, with 59 participants from the seventeen Contracting Parties and 14 External Participants. Governors commended the ReCAAP ISC on achieving further milestones in research and analysis, capacity building, engagement and co-operation with other organisations with interests in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

The Council welcomed the Kingdom of Denmark and the Kingdom of the Netherlands joining ReCAAP on 3 July and 20 November 2010 respectively. Denmark has also made a financial contribution of USD50,000 for FY2010/11. The expansion of ReCAAP membership demonstrates ReCAAP's growing credibility and relevance in the international maritime community, and further underlines the international cooperation being a key element in combating piracy and armed robbery effectively.

ReCAAP ISC's initiative to embark on a three-year workplan was aimed at enhancing ReCAAP ISC's value proposition in information sharing, capacity building and co-operation with the industry and partner

organisations. The Council commended ReCAAP ISC's innovative approach to facilitate inter-agency co-operation and industry engagement at each Contracting Party.

Voluntary financial contributions towards the work of the ReCAAP ISC for FY2011/12, were pledged at the Meeting. These include:

- Singapore: S\$ 1,586,020
- Japan: S\$ 637,610 (estimate)
- The Netherlands: EUR 75,000
- Norway: US\$ 100,000
- Republic of Korea: KRW 100 million
- China: US\$ 50,000
- India: US\$ 50,000

These financial contributions are in addition to the secondment of staff from China, India, the Republic of Korea, Japan and the Philippines.

The Council discussed the enhancement of communication in accordance with Article 9.3 of ReCAAP Agreement and encouraged each Contracting Party to ensure the smooth and effective communication between its designated Focal Point, and other competent national authorities including rescue co-ordination centres, as well as relevant non-governmental organisations.



The Fifth Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC
1-3 March 2011, Swissotel Merchant Court Hotel, Singapore

cont..... The Fifth Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC

The Council commended the concrete efforts of ReCAAP ISC in its active contribution to the Expert Meeting and Open Forum for Capacity Building of Neighbouring States of Somalia in the field of maritime law enforcement activities, organised by the Japan Coast Guard and the Ocean Policy Research Foundation in Tokyo in October 2010.

Representatives from industry organisations who attended the Meeting also expressed their support for the ReCAAP initiative, and reiterated their desire to partner and collaborate with the ReCAAP ISC.



The Open Session of the Fifth Governing Council Meeting took place on 3 March 2011, with a total of 59 participants from the 17 Contracting Parties of the ReCAAP Agreement, and 14 External Participants.

There was also a time set aside for informal engagements during the three-day meeting when all Participants were invited for a *Singapore River Cruise* followed by a buffet dinner at the *Swissotel Merchant Court Hotel, Ellenborough Market Café*. The evening breeze, scenic river views, conversations, laughter and photo-shootings kept the group engaged.

Indeed the ice-breaking session brought about a comfort zone and stronger ties among all. Till we meet again at the Sixth Governing Council Meeting in 2012!



With the photographer's instructions: "Smile! A bigger Smile!" - a Group Picture was taken at the Joint Social Event held on 2 March 2011.

Change of Helm at the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council

Dr Pornchai, Governor (Thailand), served as the Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council since 28 February 2009, had completed his two-year term of Chairmanship when the Fifth Governing Council Meeting ended on 3 March 2011.

At the Fifth Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC, the Governing Council unanimously supported the nominations of the Chair to be held by the Philippines, and the Vice-Chair by the Republic of Korea, with effect from 4 March 2011.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr Pornchai for successfully steering ReCAAP ISC in the last two Workyears.

A warm welcome to the newly appointed Chairperson, VADM Ramon C Liwag from the Philippines, and Vice Chairperson, Mr Lim Ki Tack from the Republic of Korea.



Symbolic Handing-over Ceremony of the Chairpersonship VADM Liwag assumes the appointment of Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council on 4 March 2011.

Nautical Forum 2/11

Aimed to share the findings of the Piracy and Sea Robbery situation in Asia for 2010 with members of the shipping industry, the ReCAAP ISC, ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) - Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), and Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) jointly organised the second Nautical Forum on 12 January 2011 morning, at the STI Auditorium, Capital Towers, Singapore. In which, ReCAAP ISC gave an account of the 164 incidents (133 actual, 31 attempted) reported in Asia in 2010.



Speakers (from left): Captain George Solomon (SSA), Mr Yuichi Sonoda (ASF)



Speakers (from left): Mr Yoshihisa Endo (ReCAAP ISC), Mr Yee Cheok Hong (MPA)

Mr Endo, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, shared in his Opening Remarks that there has been a marked 60% increase in the number of piracy and armed robbery incidents in 2010 compared to that of 2009. Notably, the increase was largely attributed to the less significant incidents in Category 2 and 3. There was no increase in the number of "very significant" incidents under Category 1. He urged all stakeholders to work together with collective responsibility to address the challenges encountered, and to propose measures to improve the situation.

Mr Yee the Group Director (Policy & Planning) who represented MPA, said that tackling the problem is a shared responsibility of governments and the shipping industry. Both have roles to play; the governments will continue to work together in addressing the problem while the industry can be more active in encouraging its members to adopt self-protection measure.

Mr Tan, Executive Director of SSA, commented that SSA is very appreciative of the anti-piracy measures adopted by industry groups, littoral states, ReCAAP Contracting Parties, and other stakeholders. He noted, however, that as the majority of reported incidents took place while a ship is anchored or in port, he strongly urged individual ports to upgrade their fundamental security measures, allowing maritime security forces to focus on incidents of armed robbery at sea.

Mr Sonoda, Secretary-General of the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF), reiterated that piracy is a threat to the world trade and piracy activities in the South East Asia region is of no less importance than the Somali region. He commended that the ReCAAP ISC has contributed greatly to raising the awareness of piracy activities in the region by engaging the industry and sharing of critical information since its inception and ASF will continue to cooperate with ReCAAP ISC in addressing the threat of piracy.

Ms Chan, Research Fellow & Coordinator of Maritime Security Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) echoed on the importance of collaboration and that it is essential for governments and shipping industry to embrace a comprehensive and integrated cooperative approach in order to ensure safety, security and success of the international maritime system. Timely information sharing and reporting too is crucial in providing an accurate reading of this common threat, and the formulation of effective response.



(Left picture) Panelists: Ms Yang (RSIS), Ms Lee (ReCAAP ISC), Mr Yee Cheok Hong (MPA), LTC(Retd) Teo (ReCAAP ISC), Mr Sonoda (ASF) and Capt Solomon (SSA)



Q&A Session was an active session with exchange of minds by some 140 participants with the Panelist. The Participants were dominated by company representatives holding senior position.

Workshop on Counter Piracy Programme

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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.

Vision

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

Values

Reliability
excellence
Cohesiveness
Alertness
Adaptability
Professionalism

Integrity
Sustainability
Commitment

ReCAAP ISC supported a Workshop on Counter Piracy Programme organised by the Japan Coast Guard on 15-17 March 2011, in Singapore. The Workshop was aimed at providing the participants with knowledge of piracy countermeasures, introducing information sharing scheme for piracy cases, and providing relevant training materials to enhance law enforcement capabilities.

In particular, the Japan Coast Guard focused on training to address challenges on piracy and armed robbery for participants from the Republic of Djibouti, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, and the Kingdom of Thailand.

ReCAAP ISC, on the other hand, undertook the role of sharing its experience and knowledge in information sharing with the participants from the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Yemen, who are responsible for the opening and operating the Information Sharing Centre for the Signatories of the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC). Notably, the Information Sharing Centres' operation have just commenced.

This is part of ReCAAP ISC's continuous efforts in supporting the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in its implementation for the DCoC since January 2009 when the IMO organised a

high-level meeting to help to address the problem of piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. The outcome of this meeting was the formulation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct.

Following which, the ReCAAP ISC attended the Working Group 1 (WG1) Meeting of Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia conducted at the IMO Headquarter on 7-8 May 2009. The WG1 Meeting was tasked to examine "Operational Coordination and Regional Development" issues.

As a follow-through efforts, ReCAAP ISC participated in the IMO-Seychelles Sub-Regional Meeting held on 12-16 October 2009, aimed to consider practical and operational aspects of countering piracy and armed robbery against ships and to develop national action plans for the implementation of the DCoC.

The inaugural Familiarisation Programme for DCoC Focal Points on 5-6 November 2009 was organised by ReCAAP ISC for a total of nine participants from Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Maldives, Seychelles, and Tanzania. The participants attended the Capacity Building Programme held in Manila, the Philippine thereafter.



Workshop on Counter Piracy Programme, 15-17 March 2011 York Hotel, Singapore

Upcoming events

Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011

Jointly organised by the ReCAAP ISC, BIMCO, INTERTANKO, NATO Shipping Centre, and RSIS, the one-day Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011 will be held on 14 April 2011, at the Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore.

The morning Conference will highlight and discuss a spectrum of issues such as "Overview and Perspective of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships" and "Operational Challenges and Experiences". The afternoon Workshop will be conducted by NATO Shipping Centre, and IMO, a scenario based floor exercise and focus on sharing of first hand experiences on maritime piracy including attack, capture and release.