

ReCAAP ISC Newsletter

From the
editorial

A hectic second quarter in 2011 had passed.

To keep you abreast of the happenings, this issue showcased the Front-page event: *'The ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 4/11'*, followed by,

- page 3 *'ReCAAP Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011'*,
- page 4 *'The Inaugural Cluster Meeting 1/11 in Hanoi, Vietnam'*, and
- page 4 *'Workshop on Counter Piracy Programme'*.

The "News Updates" section tagged on page 4 shares with you a piece of good news.

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

Be connected!

Issue 5/11

Newsletter Date: Apr-Jun 2011

The ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 4/11

The ReCAAP ISC and the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM) of the Republic of Korea jointly organised the Fourth ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (FPSOM) on 7-9 June 2011 at JW Marriott Hotel, Seoul, the Republic of Korea.

Of significance, this was the second time the Meeting was held outside Singapore and participated by 14 Focal Point, one Contact Point, and attended by representatives from the Republic of Indonesia and Malaysia. The strong participation signaled the continuous and strong collective commitment in crystallizing the will in addressing challenges in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The theme for the Meeting this year was *Enhancing Information Exchange*, and the main objectives were to share best practices and experiences of ReCAAP Focal Points on piracy and armed robbery countermeasures, and to establish rapport and facilitate networking in order to establish the "comfort zone" among senior officers from ReCAAP Focal Points and the maritime industry.

Mr Sun Weon-Pyo, Governor (Republic of Korea) of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council,

said in his welcome remarks, that streamline the inter-agency and intra-agency information flow and sharing within each ReCAAP Focal Point is utmost important. He added that emphasis must also be given to the continuous engagement between the ReCAAP Focal Point and their local maritime industry. Echoing the same sentiments, Mr Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC reiterated that combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea is a collective responsibility to be shared by all stakeholders—the governments, international organisations and maritime industry; and all must work together to make the water safer for all.

The participants were active in discussions, in particular the engagement with maritime industry, inter-governmental linkages and sharing of experience and best practices. The ReCAAP ISC also gave an update on the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct Programme—an effort in addressing concerns over the piracy situation in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.



ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 4/11
7-9 June 2011, JW Marriott Hotel, Seoul, Republic of Korea

cont.... The ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 4/11

On the last day of the event, MLTM hosted a visit for the participants to the General Information Centre on Maritime Safety & Security (GICOMS) Centre located in Seoul.

After the visit to GICOMS, all participants were invited to a sumptuous Korean lunch and a visit to the Korea Palace, *Changdeokguna* which is one of the UNESCO's World Heritage, as the social event for this Meeting hosted by MLTM.

The informal engagements during the social event were the best opportunity in fostering stronger friendship. It was filled with laughter and non-stop photo-shoots. Indeed, Ka Leong's constant head-count still lingers till this day.



(Above) At the Visit hosted by MLTM to the General Information Centre on Maritime Safety & Security (GICOMS) Centre located in Seoul.



(Left) A memorial walk into the ancient Palace.

(Below) Testimonials to the excellent lunch at the *Tosokchon*.



ReCAAP Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011

The third in its series, the ReCAAP ISC organised the Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011 jointly with BIMCO, INTERTANKO, NATO Shipping Centre (NSC) and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) on 14 April 2011 at Marina Mandarin Hotel, Singapore.

Aimed 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, the Confer-

ence's theme was *Sharing information, Enhancing Responses*.

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 collective responsibility. Cooperation is the key; confidence building is the other in order to work as ONE."



ADM Ramon C Liwag, Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council delivering Opening Remarks



Participants from Government Agencies, Shipping Associations, Maritime Industries, Seafarers, and like-minded individuals.

After keynote address given by the President of BIMCO, Mr Robert Lorenz-Meyer, the morning session was lined up by a good mix of speakers from the public and commercial sectors which provided a platform to facilitate sharing of different perspectives and a common understanding.

The Anti-piracy Poster, a joint project by the ReCAAP ISC and BIMCO was launched at lunch hour. This poster 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".

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 organisations, 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.

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.



(L) Group Photo of Speakers, Panelists, and Workshop Organisers at the ReCAAP Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2011
(R) Launching Ceremony of the Anti-Piracy Poster by BIMCO Secretary-General, Mr Torben C. Skaaniid, and ReCAAP ISC Executive Director, Mr Yoshihisa Endo



Inaugural Cluster Meeting 1/11 in Hanoi, Vietnam

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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

As part of the ReCAAP ISC's continuous efforts in the suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, the inaugural Cluster Meeting was jointly organised with the ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam) on 24-27 May 2011 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The other participating ReCAAP Focal Points included Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. This new initiative undertaken by the ReCAAP ISC in 2011 was aimed to better engage a selected group of ReCAAP Focal Points which has common challenges in terms of geographical areas.

Collectively, the Meeting addressed mechanisms to improve communications and identified areas for mutual support.

Senior Colonel Phu Van Lam, Director of the International Relations Department, Vietnam Marine Police, also the ReCAAP Focal Point

(Vietnam), said that this meeting was a good platform to engage the various stakeholders as resources are limited and all needs to work together.

Representatives from Thailand and Laos also expressed their interests to organise Maritime Forums to reach out to the maritime industry and like-minded organisations to promote the ReCAAP's effort and to share with the shipping industry the many developments that had taken place.

The Governor (Vietnam), Senior Colonel Nguyen Quang Dam, Deputy General Director / Chief of Staff of the Vietnam Marine Police welcomed the Cluster Meeting initiative and assured his support to further develop the ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam) and to enhance the regional effort in combating the maritime crime.



(L) Governor (Vietnam), Snr COL Nguyen Quang Dam and ReCAAP ISC Deputy Director, LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo
(R) Dinner hosted by the Governor (Vietnam), Snr COL Nguyen



Inaugural Cluster Meeting 1/11, 24-27 May 2011, Hanoi, Vietnam

News updates

The Chairperson is now an Admiral

Following the appointment of VADM Ramon C Liwag PCG as the 23rd Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard on 19 April 2011, the Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council has been promoted to Admiral (four-star flag rank) on 18 June 2011 by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III.

Congratulations to the Chairperson!

