The first Centre-to-Centre Dialogue with the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) Regional Information Sharing Centres (RISCs), jointly organised by the ReCAAP ISC and the IMO’s Project Implementation Unit (PIU), was conducted on 19-21 Sep 11 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The meeting was aimed to share expertise and experience of Asian initiative on engaging national focal points, discuss the technical and operational experiences of the RISCs to-date, ways to promote national cross-agency cooperation and practical ways of linking ReCAAP and DCoC training and capacity building activities where applicable.

A total of seven delegates and two observers participated in the meeting. The programme consisted of formal presentations and participant-led discussions. A set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the exchange of piracy-related information between the RISCs and ReCAAP ISC was also drafted at the meeting.

The meeting was successfully concluded with a visit to the UKMTO.

An invitation was also extended by the ReCAAP ISC to host the Heads of the RISCs in Singapore on 10-11 Nov 11 to finalise and sign the SOPs in conjunction with a training session on the management of information sharing centres. A visit to the Singapore Navy’s MSTF Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore’s Port Operations Control Centre will also be part of the programme.

The trip to Singapore will be followed by attendance of the Heads of the ISCs at the ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) 5/11 in Goa, India on 15-17 Nov 11. A representative of the IMO will also attend the two events mentioned above.

This is indeed an important and remarkable milestone for both regions in terms of operational linkages.
Visit to MMEA Southern Maritime Region, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

A ReCAAP ISC Delegation led by the Executive Director, Mr Yoshihisa Endo, visited the Southern Maritime Region of the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) on 19 Sep 11. The Head of the Southern Maritime Region, FADM (Maritime) Zulkifili bin Abu Bakar, who hosted the visit, gave a briefing on the functions of the centre and its linkages with the other operation centres. A visit to MMEA’s Ops Room and two jetties was also part of the programme.

The courtesy call at the MMEA Southern Command enhanced operational level cooperation and communication between the ReCAAP ISC and the Southern Maritime Region. It was also to better understand the anti-piracy operations and measures carried out by the MMEA in monitoring and conduct of surveillance operations off Johor, Malaysia.

This visit was a significant milestone in the Centre’s efforts in engaging Malaysia in addition to the regular visits to the MMEA HQ, Malaysia’s National Security Council and Malaysia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2007.

Second ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF), Pattaya, Thailand

The ReCAAP ISC, represented by its Deputy Director, LTC(Retd) Nicholas Teo, participated at the Second ASEAN Maritime Forum on 17-19 August 2011 in Pattaya, Thailand, with the theme “Towards ASEAN Community in the Context of Enhanced Maritime Security, Safety and Connectivity”.

The objectives of Forum was to pursue ASEAN interests on maritime issues and to explore whether common approaches could be developed in the field of maritime security, safety and connectivity.

Recognising that piracy, transnational crimes and terrorism being cross-boundary, the importance to exchange information and to enhance regional maritime domain awareness were reiterated at the Forum.
First Maritime Safety & Security Seminar 2011, Batam, Indonesia

The first Maritime Safety & Security Seminar organised by two commercial security consultancy companies that work closely with the law enforcement agencies in the Batam region - Saint 7 International and PT Sharks Security Services. It was held in Batam, Indonesia on 12 Jul 11. The ReCAAP ISC Delegation led by the Executive Director, Mr Yoshihisa Endo, was invited to attend the Seminar.

Representing the ReCAAP ISC, LTC(NS) Toong Ka Leong, Senior Manager (Ops/Programmes) made a presentation at the Seminar on the overview / piracy and armed robbery situation in the region.

There was also a presentation made by LTK Yassin, Head of Indonesia Marine Police, Batam Region, in addition to the presentations by the industry.

ED-ISC and LTK Yassin had a good exchange of views at the Seminar. LTK Yassin also indicated his interest in visiting the Centre to enhance the cooperation between the ReCAAP ISC and Indonesia Marine Police.

About 50 participants from the maritime industry of Singapore and Indonesia; and the Indonesia Marine Police attended the seminar.

Fifth Seoul International Maritime Forum, Seoul, Republic of Korea

The Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM), Republic of Korea held its Fifth Seoul International Maritime Forum (SIMF) at the Imperial Palace Hotel on 26-28 Sep 11. The theme of the event is “How to effectively cope with the challenges of Piracy”.

The Forum focused on the international cooperation in the suppression and deterrence of piracy, self-protective measures against piracy attacks and legal issues on combating piracy.

There was an excellent mix of participants, which included international organisations / governmental agencies—IMO, UNODC, ReCAAP ISC and EUNAVFOR; research institution and legal professionals (covering the legal aspects of the programme); and maritime industry representatives from INTERTANKO, local shipbuilding companies, commercial entities and the IMB.
ReCAAP ISC Information Sharing Exercises

A series of three Information Sharing Exercises (ISEs) was conducted with the three groups of ReCAAP Focal/Contact Points, namely:

- 7 Sep — Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam,
- 14 Sep — Brunei, China, Japan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea and Hong Kong SAR,
- 21 Sep — Bangladesh, Denmark, India, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway and Sri Lanka.

With the strong support and participation from all the Focal/Contact Points involved, the scenario-based ISEs, lead by the ReCAAP ISC’s Programmes Department, Assistant Director – CDR Shinichiro Matsuyoshi (Japan Coast Guard) and Manager – CDR Komson Suwanrit (Royal Thai Navy), were successfully concluded.

VMT—Very Much Thanks!

Upcoming events...

… Cluster Meeting 2/11, Dhaka/Chittagong, Bangladesh

TO BE Jointly organised by the ReCAAP ISC and ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh), the Second Cluster Meeting will take place on 11-13 October 2011 in Dhaka / Chittagong, Bangladesh. This Cluster Meeting will also involve representative from three other ReCAAP Focal Points – India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

The Meeting will conclude with a Forum participated by inter-ministries officials and local shipping industry representatives. The Forum is aimed to address the issues at hand to seek avenues for better cooperation and collaboration collectively.

… ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) 5/11

TO BE Jointly organised by the ReCAAP ISC and Indian Coast Guard, also the ReCAAP Focal Point (India), the Fifth CBW Meeting will take place on 15-17 November 2011 in Goa, India, with the theme of “Building Capacity through Enhanced Information Sharing”.

… Vice-Chairperson Mr Sun Weon-Pyo visiting the ReCAAP ISC

The Vice-Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, Mr Sun, will visit the ReCAAP ISC on 4 November 2011 while being invited under the Distinguished Visitor’s Programme (DVP) organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). Vice-Chairperson Sun is the Director-General of the Republic of Korea’s Maritime Safety Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM).