The Seventh Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC

Chaired by Rear Admiral Rodolfo D Isorena PCG, the Seventh Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was held on 5-7 March 2013 in Singapore. Delegations headed by Governors / Governors’ Representatives from the Contracting Parties and Partner Organisations reviewed ReCAAP ISC’s works for the current and the following work year.

Chairperson welcome the United Kingdom, the 18th Contracting Party of the ReCAAP, in joining the Meeting since becoming a full-fledged member on 2 May 2012. The Council also welcome the notification by Australia on 1 March 2013 of their desire to accede to the ReCAAP. The expansion of ReCAAP membership from the original 14 in November 2006 demonstrates ReCAAP’s relevance and growing credibility in the international maritime community and further underscores the importance of international cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery effectively.

The Meeting was pleased to note the marked improvement in the situation in Asia in 2012 of 132 incidents (123 actual and nine attempted incidents). This is the largest year-on-year decrease of 16% in the total number of incidents reported during the five year reporting period of 2008-2012. The overall improvement of the situation highlighted the effectiveness of the ReCAAP information sharing network, and operational-level cooperation and collaboration among the stakeholders.

Governors, Governors’ Representatives and Executive Director at the Seventh Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC 5-7 March 2013, Singapore
Voluntary financial contributions pledged by the ReCAAP Contracting Parties towards the work of the ReCAAP ISC for FY 2013 –2014 were announced at the Meeting with details appended as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting Parties</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Singapore</td>
<td>SGD 1,651,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>SGD 555,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea</td>
<td>KRW 150 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of Norway</td>
<td>USD 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>GBP 50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People's Republic of China</td>
<td>USD 50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of India</td>
<td>USD 50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom of the Netherlands</td>
<td>EUR 25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Council elected of the next Chairperson to be held by Governor for Thailand, His Excellency Dr Pornchai Danvivathana, and Vice-Chairperson by Governor for Bangladesh, Mr Nasir Arif Mahmud, with effect from 8 March 2013 for a term of two years.

The Council also appointed Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the current Executive Director, to be the next Executive Director for the period of 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2016.

The Council commended the various capacity building activities. These included the successful conduct of ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Seminar 1/12 on 23-25 October 2012 in Singapore (where the launch and training session of the second generation Information Network System were conducted) and Cluster Meeting 3/12 on 23-25 July 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand, co-organised with Thailand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Royal Thai Navy.

The Council further commended the inter-regional efforts of ReCAAP ISC, in close partnership with the IMO, to share experience and expertise with the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC), in particular, at the Joint ReCAAP/DCoC Counter Piracy Seminar and Workshop on 3-6 December 2012 in Tokyo, Japan, funded by the Special Contribution of Japan arising from the need for closer cooperation. The event was supported by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Japan Coast Guard, endorsed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The External Participants who attended the Meeting were representatives from Malaysia, Australia, United States (for the first time), Asian Shipowners’ Forum (ASF), Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), European Commission (EC), Federation of ASEAN Shipowners’ Association (FASA), Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), Information Fusion Centre (IFC), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and International maritime Organization (IMO).

The next Governing Council Meeting is scheduled in the week of 3-7 March 2014.
For the first time, the Joint Social Event was held on-board ICGS Samudra Paheredar. ICGS Samudra Paheredar (CG 202) is the second Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) of its kind commissioned on 20 July 2012. She is based at Vishakapatnam (AP) under the administrative and operational command and control of the Commander Coast Guard Region (East).

The ship is equipped with state of the art pollution response equipment that include containment equipment like booms, recovery devices like skimmers and side sweeping arms and storage devices like ORO tanks and inflatable barges. The ship is capable of unhindered oil recovery operations with storage capability of 500 KL.

The ship is 94.1 M long, draws 4300 tons at max displacement and is propelled by 3000 KW twin diesel engines whose power are further enhanced by twin shaft generators for a maximum speed of 21 Kn. At economical speed, it has an endurance of 6000 nautical miles and can stay at sea for 20 days. The ship can carry Chetak Helicopter as integral flight/ship borne flight.

It was a night filled with friendship and joy, for having the opportunity to get together enjoying the delicious dinner prepared on-board.

Co-organised with the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) - Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), the fourth Event in the series was held on 10 January 2013 at the STI Auditorium of Capital Tower, Singapore.

The Forum was aimed to engage Singapore maritime community in an informal session to highlight the situation on piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia for 2012, share/exchange views, and solicit feedback and recommendations from the stakeholders.

Sharing on the findings of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia for 2012, the ReCAAP ISC reported the downward trend continued in 2012 since 2010, which is also the largest year-on-year improvement. ED-ISC credited the stakeholders for this improvement and iterated the importance of cooperation between the governmental agencies and the industrial partners.

Other Speakers at the Forum included Captain M Segar, the Assistant Chief Executive and Mr Daniel Tan, the Executive Director of SSA. Two Guest Speakers were Captain George Solomon, the Representative of Asian Shipowners’ Forum, and Captain Maritime Haji Rozali Bin Mohd Said, Head of Maritime District Tg Sedili (East Johor) of Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.
Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

cont.... Nautical Forum 4/13

One of the highlights of the Forum was the launch of “Tug Boats and Barges (TaB) Guide”. The Guide, jointly produced by the ReCAAP ISC and Information Fusion Centre (IFC) is aimed to assist the tug boat owners and operators in enhancing their security measures.

The Forum concluded with a six-member panel discussion which provided a good platform for exchanges with some 120 participants at the Forum.

Launching Ceremony for “Tug Boats and Barges”

Change of Governors

We have three new Governors who came onboard of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council in this quarter.

Governor (Cambodia)
Mr Sokhom Vireakphal
Deputy Director-General of Transport Ministry of Public Works of Transport
With effect from 15 January 2013

Governor (Bangladesh)
Mr Nasir Arif Mahmud
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Shipping
With effect from 4 February 2013

Governor (India)
VADM Anurag G Thapliyal, AVSM
Director General
Indian Coast Guard
With effect from 28 February 2013

Welcome on board!