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As always, do feel free to write to us [newsletter@recaap.org](mailto:newsletter@recaap.org)

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# ReCAAP ISC Newsletter

Issue 14/13

Newsletter Date: Jul-Sep 2013

## ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop 6/13 Singapore, 15-16 Aug 13

The ReCAAP ISC conducted the Capacity Building Workshop 6/13 in Singapore on 15-16 Aug 13. 32 participants from ReCAAP Focal attended the Workshop with Australia and Denmark being the first time.

Other than the ReCAAP Focal Point participants, observers from Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency and shipping industry, local diplomatic missions and research institutes also attended the Workshop. They gained an insight of the ReCAAP's unique information sharing mechanism and noted the positive efforts made by the governments of the ReCAAP Contracting Parties.

The theme for the workshop was "*Enhancing Efficiency with Strengthening Cooperation*". ED-ISC in his opening address highlighted that the role of the ReCAAP ISC is to facilitate and organise educational and training programme to enable sharing of experiences and best practices. By strengthening the capabilities of Focal Points will, in turn, contribute positively to the other two pillars of the ReCAAP, which are information sharing and cooperative arrangement.

The aims of the 2-day Capacity Building Workshop 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.

There were good discussions during the presentations by the ReCAAP ISC, selected Focal Points and the Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners Association (SSSA). In addition, a re-fresher training of the new IFN system and an information exchange exercise were conducted. The Exercise was based on various scenarios which sharpened the participants' skills.



## cont.... ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop 6/13

The workshop concluded with a visit to the Singapore Police Coast Guard and Maritime Gallery where the participants were shown the Command Boat and Boarding/Diving Trainer; and the history of the Singapore Maritime Gallery respectively.



## ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting 4/13

Manila, The Philippines, 24-25 Sep 13

Jointly organised by the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and the ReCAAP Focal Point for the Philippines – the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the fourth Cluster Meeting was held on 24-25 September 2013 in Manila, the Philippines, in conjunction with the National Maritime Week in the Philippines.

Cluster Meeting is an initiative started by the ReCAAP ISC in 2011 with several intertwined objectives that includes inter-ministries coordination, engagement of local shipping industry agencies with ReCAAP Focal Point, and if required, its neighbouring ReCAAP Focal Points, to localized challenges in the effort to suppress of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. This is recognising the reality that the effort of combating piracy and armed robbery cannot be the sole responsibility of an individual agency or country. The past three Cluster Meetings were held in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Thailand.

The 2-day Meeting included presentations on inter-agency cooperation, piracy and sea robbery situation update in Asia made by the ReCAAP ISC, and an introduction of the recent establishment of Coast Watch System in the Philippines spearheaded by the PCG. These were aimed to collectively address mechanisms to improve communications and to identify areas for mutual support.

In the keynote address delivered by Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, he applauded the PCG in person for their continuous effort and perseverance in addressing the challenges that resulted in some of the success stories in the hijacked tug / barges inci-

dents. He also highlighted that although the situation in the region has steadily improved thanks to the efforts of the respective Contracting Parties, combined efforts to stamp the numbers of sea robbery especially in ports and anchorages were still much needed for as long as sea robbery remains as a threat to seafarers.

In the introductory remarks delivered by Rear Admiral Cecil R Chen PCG on behalf of Rear Admiral Rodolfo D Isorena, Commandant of the PCG, also the ex-Chairperson for the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council (2011-13), he accentuated the importance of enhanced information sharing and inter-agency cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and private stakeholders – factors which were essential in achieving success in the drive against piracy armed robbery.

The Meeting concluded with a visit to the PCG Action Centre located in the Ready Force Headquarters, and Maritime School.



(from left) Mr Yoshihisa Endo, ReCAAP ISC Executive Director  
Vice Admiral (Retd) Alexandra P Pama, Undersecretary, Office of the Executive Secretary, Office of the President of the Philippines, also the Head of Secretariat for the National Coast Watch System,  
LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, ReCAAP ISC Deputy Director



# Australia joins the ReCAAP

3 Aug 13



On 3 August 2013, Australia became the nineteenth Contracting Party to the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

The ReCAAP ISC welcomes Australia's joining to the ReCAAP. Australia supports fully the ReCAAP aims of enhancing multi-lateral cooperation among its members. Australia's accession to ReCAAP signifies the growing strength of the ReCAAP network and demonstrates the importance of international cooperation to effectively address the challenges in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The Commander of Border Protection Command has been appointed as the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) Governor for Australia. Border Protection Command's Australian Maritime Security Operations Centre has been designated to be the focal point of Australia.

Commander of Border Protection Command, Rear Admiral David Johnston reinforced that international cooperation is the most effective way to tackle piracy, as demonstrated by

the successes in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia, and is confident that the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) will continue to demonstrate its effectiveness in improving security at sea in Asia.

A ReCAAP ISC Team led by its Deputy Director, LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, visited the ReCAAP ISC Governor and the key officials of the Focal Point of Australia. In addition to operationalise the Information Network System (IFN), the team gained an insight on Australia civil maritime security arrangements in Australia.



Pictures...  
(top left) Commander of Border Protection (BPC) Command, Rear Admiral David Johnston

(top right) Head of Focal Point-designate (Australia), Deputy Commander of BPC, Mr Terry Price

(bottom) Deputy Commander of BPC, Mr Chris Wall, DD-ISC, LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, and Governor's Officer, Manager - International Engagement, Mr Andrew Hudson

## 14th Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) Meeting Cairns, Australia, 1-4 Jul 13

The 14th APHoMSA forum had more than 50 representatives from 20 countries and territories and five international organisations across the Asia Pacific region who gathered to address issues on Protection of Marine environment, Safety at Sea, Search & Rescue and Regional Cooperation.

The focus this year was centred mainly on improving maritime safety, response to pollution events and exchanging experiences on search and rescue efforts. This is the 4th APHoMSA series of forum that the ReCAAP ISC has participated and was attended by DD-ISC and M(CC).



A positive outcome in this meeting was the institutionalisation of the ReCAAP ISC as a standing participant in subsequent APHoMSA series of forums/meeting, together with other IGOs and NGOs that contributes to the maritime objectives of the forum, namely in the area of Regional Cooperation and Safety at Sea.

### The ReCAAP ISC spoke at...

(1) **The Third International Counter Piracy Conference**, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 11-12 Sep 13

The two-day forum was jointly convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, global ports operator DP World, and Abu Dhabi Ports Company (ADPC).

The ReCAAP ISC was invited to speak at the Break-out Session A – “The Maritime Security Dimension and Capacity Building”; ED-ISC represented the Centre at this Conference.

(2) **Policy Conference: “Maritime Security Lessons learned from Europe and Asia”**, London, United Kingdom, 19 Sep 13

The Conference was co-convened by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Singapore and was part of the three-year project “EU-Asia Dialogue - Shaping a Common Future for Europe and Asia” of the European Union and the KAS. ED-ISC represented the Centre at this Conference.

### Change of Governors

We have a new Governor who came onboard of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council in this quarter— Governor for the United Kingdom, Ms Sonia Farrey. She is the Deputy Head (Operations) of Security Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and has assumed the appointment of Governor on 27 August 2013.



**Welcome on board!**

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#### Mission

To enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed

#### 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