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PRESS RELEASE

Launching of Maritime Security Charts

1 The Admiralty Maritime Security Charts¹ covering the waters around India and Southeast Asia, including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, were launched at the Shared Awareness Meeting held by the Information Fusion Centre at the Changi Command and Control Centre on 17 May 2013. Held in conjunction with the Fourth Maritime Information-Sharing Exercise (MARISX²), the launching ceremony was jointly conducted by representative from Information Fusion Centre (IFC), ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (RSN MSTF), and United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO).

2 These paper charts provide a single point of reference for recording the most up-to-date security information and, taken together with the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office's three existing security and piracy charts, create the world's first suite of security planning charts. They are designed to be used by ship personnel, shore-based managers and security specialists as a key voyage planning tool for recording the latest security-critical navigational information, and for plotting any sightings or incidents that could pose a threat to security, including armed robbery, embargoes, exclusion zones, illegal fishing and smuggling. They can also meet the routing and reporting requirements put in place by military or security forces.

3 The ReCAAP ISC was involved in urging vessels to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) of the nearest coastal State and the ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point immediately. The chart also displays the contact details of the ReCAAP ISC and ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point which ship personnel, shore-based managers and security specialists can report to.

¹ Free downloadable versions of these charts are available at www.ukho.gov.uk/security

² MARISX 13 which was held at the Multinational Operations and Exercise Centre located in the Changi Command and Control Centre, on 13-18 May 2013, saw the participation of 85 International Liaison Officers and 40 operations centres from 30 countries.

4 Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, commended the excellent joint efforts in the making of these charts. He remarked that, “I cannot emphasize more the need for all stakeholders to work together in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.”



At the Launching Ceremony of the Admiralty Maritime Security Charts

(from left)

Mr Chris Parry MBE MA, Head of UK Fleet AWNIS Unit at the UK Ministry of Defence
RADM Harris Chan, Commander of Maritime Security Task Force, Republic of Singapore Navy
LTC Nicholas Lim, Head of Information Fusion Centre
LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, Deputy Director of ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

17 May 2013

(Please contact The ReCAAP ISC Secretariat, Ms Amy Fang at 6376 3091, for further enquiries.)

Further information on the ReCAAP and the ReCAAP ISC

FACT SHEET

About the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia. It was finalised on 11 November 2004 and entered into force on 4 September 2006. To date, 18 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The eighteen Contracting Parties to ReCAAP are the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Kingdom and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) was established under the Agreement, and was officially launched in Singapore on 29 November 2006. It was formally recognised as an international organisation on 30 January 2007.

The roles of the ReCAAP ISC are to:

- serve as a platform for information exchange with the ReCAAP Focal Points via the Information Network System (INF); facilitate communications and information exchange among participating governments to improve incident response by member countries; analyse and provide accurate statistics of the piracy and armed robbery incidents to foster better understanding of the situation in Asia;
- facilitate capacity building efforts that help improve the capability of member countries in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region; and
- cooperate with organizations and like-minded parties on joint exercises, information sharing, capacity building programme, or other forms of cooperation, as appropriate, and agreed upon among the Contracting Parties.

The ReCAAP ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network System (INF). Through this network, the ReCAAP Focal Points are linked to each other as well as the ReCAAP ISC on a 24/7 basis, and are able to facilitate appropriate responses to incident. The agency receiving the incident report will manage the incident in accordance to its national policies and response procedures, and provide assistance to the victim ship where possible. The agency will in turn, inform their ReCAAP Focal Point which will submit an incident report to the ReCAAP ISC and its neighbouring Focal Points.

For more information about the ReCAAP and ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>