

## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ReCAAP Member States gather to share best practices in combating piracy and sea robbery at Capacity Building Executive Programme 2021**

Today, 47 officers from 21 ReCAAP Member States, including its newest member, Germany, participated in an annual Capacity Building Executive Programme 2021 (CBEP-21) that was organised virtually by the ReCAAP ISC.

2. The aim of the programme was to share with the Focal Points of ReCAAP's Contracting Parties, the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia and the best practices in combating piracy and sea robbery. The event was also an opportunity for the participants to share their expertise in enhancing law enforcement capacity.

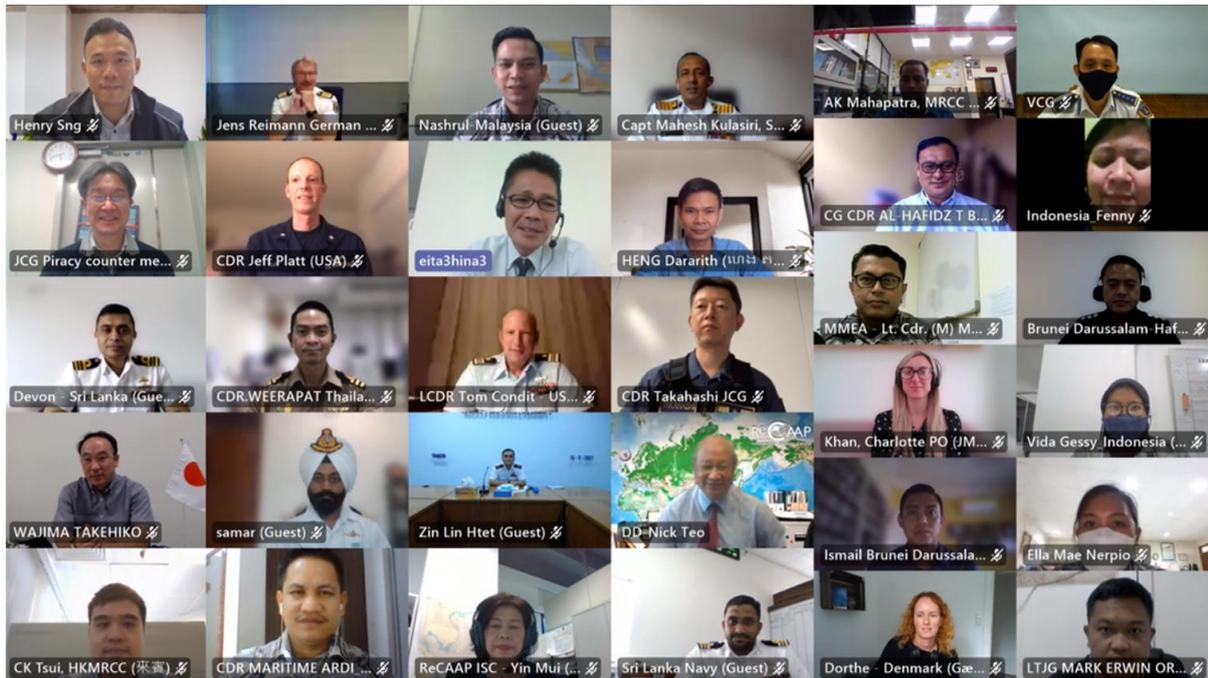
3. The following topics were discussed/highlighted for this year's programme:

- Efforts to address armed robbery against ships in Singapore Strait
- Countermeasures to prevent piracy and armed robbery against ships: experiences shared by Germany and Japan
- Law enforcement training by Mobile Cooperation Team: expertise shared by Japan Coast Guard and US Coast Guard

4. "While the overall piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia has improved, there are some areas that have shown an increase in the number of incidents and with increased violence by the perpetrators towards the ship crew. Focal Points of ReCAAP Member States play a primary role in the timely and accurate information sharing on piracy and sea robbery incidents. The ReCAAP ISC will continue to build the capability of Focal Points to effectively deal with maritime crimes to ensure the safety of seafarers and safe navigation.

5. This Programme provided an opportunity for the maritime regulatory and law enforcement authorities across Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States of America, to gain a common understanding of the current piracy and sea robbery situation, to share best practices and the relevant expertise to enhance their law enforcement capability, as well as to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against maritime crimes," said Mr Nicholas Teo, Deputy Director of ReCAAP ISC.

6. The ReCAAP Contracting Parties represented at this virtual CBEP-21 were Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, United Kingdom, and the United States of America



Caption: Officers from ReCAAP contracting Parties and ReCAAP ISC gathered virtually at the ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Executive Programme 2021.

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**For any further information, please contact:**

Audrey Lee

E-mail: [audrey\\_lee@recaap.org](mailto:audrey_lee@recaap.org)

Tel: +65 9658 2473

**About ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP 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 against ships in Asia. The Agreement entered into force on September 4, 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties, and the Information Sharing Centre was established on November 29, 2006. To date, 21 States (14 Asian countries, 5

European countries, Australia, the USA) have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. To fulfil its vision as the Information Hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, ReCAAP ISC enhances regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP ISC has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea. For more information about ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>