

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 January 2022

Senior Officers of ReCAAP Focal Points Gather virtually to Deepen Knowledge and Enhance Cooperation to Combat Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

48 Senior officers from 19 ReCAAP Member States gathered virtually for the Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting (CBSOM) 2021 organised by ReCAAP ISC on 27 January 2022.

At the meeting, the ReCAAP ISC presented the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia based on the Annual Report 2021 which saw a 15% decrease in the total number of sea robbery incidents in Asia in 2021.

In the presentation, the FP of India and the Philippines shared best practices, experiences and knowledge on their efforts to enhance the relationship with local shipping industry and to improve the timeliness of reporting to better combat piracy and armed robbery cases against ships in Asia.

One of the focus of the meeting was a panel discussion on the mechanism of sharing of information/intelligence on maritime safety and security as well as coordination of operation among national agencies and with other countries. The panelists were from the Australian Border Force/Maritime Border Command, the Philippine National Coast Watch Centre and the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Centre. The panellists shared the experience and best practices of their national mechanism with other participants.

"CBSOM provides a valuable opportunity for the maritime regulatory and law enforcement authorities across Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States to come together to gain updated information on the situation and areas of concern, share best practices, and mutually learn lessons among Focal Points on how to fight against maritime crimes. There is a constant need for vigilance and it is only through the collective efforts of all stakeholders that piracy and sea robberies can be effectively mitigated" said Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, ReCAAP ISC's Executive Director.

The ReCAAP member countries represented at CBSOM were Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Denmark, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Myanmar, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Vietnam.



Caption: Senior officers from ReCAAP Focal Points gathered virtually at the Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting to gain an in-depth understanding of the piracy and armed robbery against ships situation in Asia



Caption: The panellists of virtual Panel Discussion were from the Australian Border Force/Maritime Border Command, the Philippine National Coast Watch Centre and the Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Centre. The discussion was facilitated by Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

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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>