

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

05 April 2022

ReCAAP ISC Conducted Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2022 to share situation of Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia and Best Practices to tackle these Challenges

In conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week, the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) today held its Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2022, that was attended by 150 participants from the international and local shipping associations, shipping companies, ReCAAP Focal Points, regional authorities, diplomatic missions in Singapore, academia and research institutes.

2. The Conference deliberated on the prevailing situation of maritime piracy and sea robbery in Asia and Africa and shared the best practices and challenges of anti-piracy efforts including capacity building.

3. Ms. Laila Jesmin, Additional Secretary of Shipping, Bangladesh and Vice Chairperson of ReCAAP ISC Governing Council in her opening address, mentioned that today's Conference "serves as an information sharing platform where members of the shipping associations, shipping companies, regional enforcement agencies, international organisations and academia come together to share and exchange views on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and anti-piracy efforts". She added that such a platform also helps "to foster confidence, trust and cooperation among all the stakeholders".

4. Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in his keynote address, highlighted that as the maritime industry continues to overcome the effects posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, reminded that we "do not lose sight of the serious challenges posed by piracy and armed robbery". The Secretary General expressed his concern regarding the increase in number of incidents in the Strait of Malacca to 69 in 2021 from 48 incidents in 2020. While there have been some positive developments including 25% fall in the number of global incidents of attempted piracy and armed robbery (incidents) in 2021, he urged all "not to become complacent". He reiterated the importance of regional cooperation of

ReCAAP ISC to tackle this growing regional challenge and to further build upon the existing measures to reduce the number of incidents in the Singapore Strait.

5. Ms. Lee Yin Mui, Assistant Director (Research), ReCAAP ISC in her presentation on the *Situation of Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia*, noted that for the first three months of 2022 (January-March), there has been an increase in the total number of incidents in Asia with a 29% rise in incidents compared to the same period in 2021. Of the 22 incidents reported in Asia during the first quarter of 2022, 17 incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait. This increase in the number of incidents in the Singapore Strait is of great concern. Another area of concern in Asia is the threat of abduction of crew for ransom from ships transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas and the waters off Eastern Sabah. The threat remains high as the terrorist group in the Southern Philippines responsible for the abduction incidents remains at large.

6. Other topics that were addressed at the Conference included the sharing of the perspective of the Shipping industry on the situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, the efforts of the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum (SHADE) on the accomplishments made in terms of efforts to tackle the issue in the Gulf of Guinea. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) focussed on the *Needs and Challenges of Anti-Piracy Capacity Building* from the organisation's perspective in terms of adopting a regional response, as well as sharing of lessons learnt.

7. The Q&A session was moderated by Professor Kentaro Furuya, Adjunct Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan/ Professor, Japan Coast Guard Academy (JCGA).

8. Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC in his closing address, noted that "fight against piracy and armed robbery against ships is a shared responsibility". He went on to share the situation in the Singapore Strait is concerned, that the "collaborative and sustained vigilance effort by the authorities of the littoral States would certainly reduce the incidence of piracy and sea robbery." Mr. Natarajan also mentioned that the Centre had recently updated the Regional Guide for Asia, in collaboration with its partners. The Regional Guide 2 to counter piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia will provide practical guidance for the shipping industry and it is available on the Centre's website at www.recaap.org.



Caption: ReCAAP ISC today conducted its Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2022 virtually which was attended by 150 participants. The Conference focused on the situation of maritime piracy and sea robbery in Asia and Africa. Also shared on the best practices and challenges of anti-piracy efforts.

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For any further information, please contact:

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Annex

Time	Event
1345 hrs	Registration
1400 hrs	Opening Address Ms. Laila Jesmin Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Bangladesh / Vice-Chairperson, ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
1410 hrs	Keynote Address (video message) H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
1420 hrs	"Situation of Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia" Ms. Lee Yin Mui Assistant Director (Research), ReCAAP ISC
1430hrs	"Situation of Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia – Shipping industry's perspective" Mr. Joo Sung-kuk General Manager (Marine Superintendent), Tanker Management Team HMM Ocean Service Co. Ltd
1450 hrs	"Countering the Piracy Threat in the Gulf of Guinea: A Collaborative Effort" Mr. Simon Church Special Advisor to the Chairs of the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum – SHADE
1505 hrs	"Needs and Challenges of anti-Piracy Capacity Building – UNODC's perspective" Mr. Juan Marquez Deputy Head of Country Officer, Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
1520 hrs	Q & A Moderator: Professor Kentaro Furuya Adjunct Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan / Professor, Japan Coast Guard Academy (JCGA)
1555 hrs	Closing Address Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC
1600 hrs	End of Conference