

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ReCAAP ISC CONDUCTS 2nd DIALOGUE WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS TO COMBAT PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA - 2022

Today, ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) conducted a 2nd Dialogue session with representatives from the Shipping industry and the law enforcement agencies to share with them the key highlights of the 3rd Quarter Report of the current year 2022. The last dialogue session with the Shipping Industry was held on 20 July 2022.

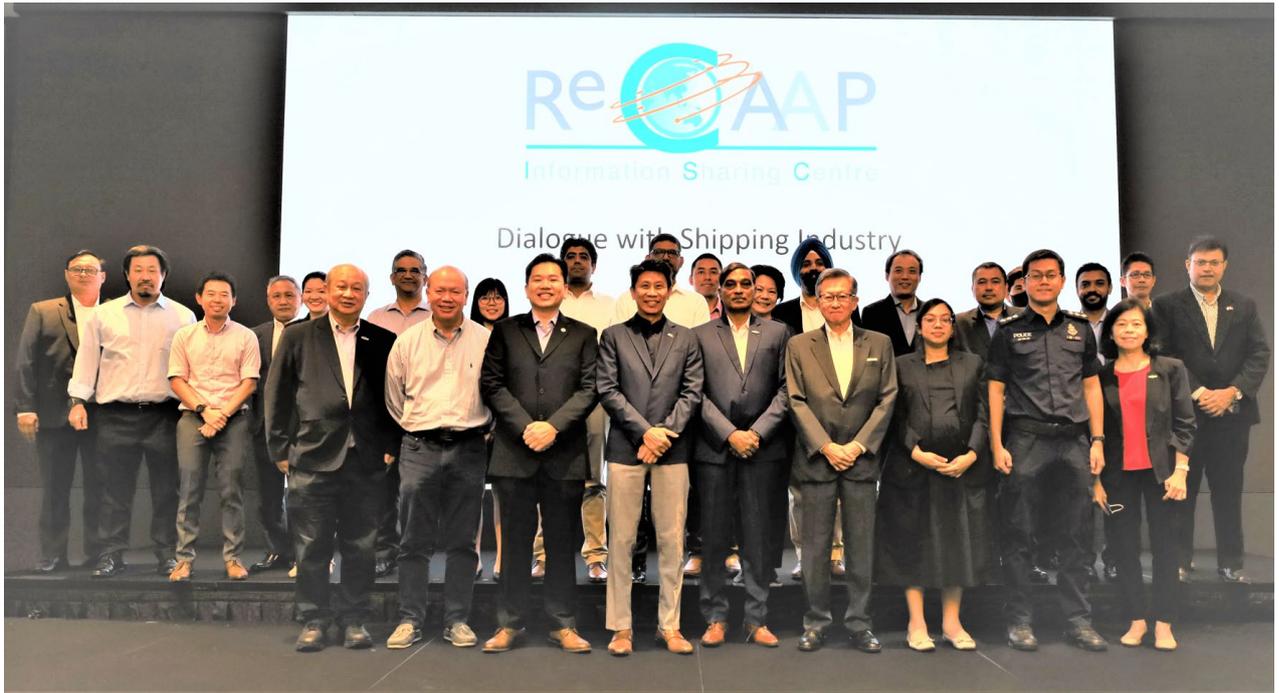
2. During January to September this year, 62 incidents were reported in the Asian region (comprising 59 actual incidents and three attempted incidents). The threat of abduction of crew incidents in Sulu-Celebes Seas although remains, the assessment level has been reduced from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to 'MODERATE'.

3. Among the issues discussed were the voicing of concern regarding the increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait and the importance of the continual review of the Risk Assessment Plan as well as the implementation of the Ship Security Plan among other measures to suppress acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships. The participants also suggested for the law enforcement agencies to step up their surveillance efforts in the Singapore Strait.

4. Through these Dialogue sessions, the Centre aims to have a better understanding of the challenges faced by the shipping industry. On its part, the ReCAAP ISC is making all-out efforts to suppress the incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships. Besides issuing Incident Alerts and publishing periodic reports for mariners to exercise caution when transiting through areas of concerns, the Centre has also produced a *Guide Book on the Identification of Fishing Boats in Asian Waters*. The aim of this Guide Book is for ship crew to familiarise themselves with the characteristics and images of fishing boats operating in different regions in Asian waters, to exercise vigilance and to adopt necessary precautionary measures when sighting boats/vessels that appear out of the norm. In July this year, the Centre also produced a Poster that contains contact details to aid the ship masters to identify the nearest coastal state for the reporting of incidents in Asian waters.

5. "The opportunity for potential attacks can be mitigated by the shipping industry, ship master and the able crew as well as the law enforcement agencies. It is vital for the law enforcement agencies of the littoral States to share information among themselves, and work closely with the shipping industry in responding promptly to reports of incidents; and to step up surveillance and enforcement efforts in areas of concern as highlighted in the ReCAAP ISC reports," said Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

6. The organisations represented at the Dialogue included the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA), the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA) as well as various shipping companies. Present at the session too were representatives from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, the Information Fusion Centre as well as the Singapore Police Coast Guard, to give their perspectives on the issue.



Caption: A Dialogue Session with representatives from the Shipping industry as well as MPA, RSN IFC and PCG to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

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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>