



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

25 May 2023

### **ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre and Cambodia Ministry of Public Works and Transport Co-Organise Meeting to Strengthen Regional Cooperation Against Piracy and Sea Robbery**

The Merchant Marine Department, General Department of Waterway-Maritime Transport and Ports, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Cambodia, which is the ReCAAP Focal Point for Cambodia, and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), today concluded a two-day cluster meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The meeting brought together senior officers from the General Department of Waterway-Maritime Transport and Ports, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, National Committee of Maritime Security, Cambodian port authorities and maritime police, Royal Cambodian Navy, representatives from the shipping industry, and officers from neighbouring ReCAAP Focal Points to discuss ways to strengthen regional cooperation to suppress Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia.

On the first day of the meeting, officers from the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port and Phnom Penh Autonomous Port gave an overview of the measures taken by Cambodia's port authorities to strengthen security in its ports and anchorages. A key measure is the use of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code as a framework to detect and deter acts which pose a threat to port and maritime security.

In addition, representatives from three ReCAAP Focal Points, namely the Royal Thai Navy, Vietnam Coast Guard and Laos Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared how they collaborate with the Cambodian maritime police, navy and port authorities to fight maritime crimes and strengthen security in regional waters. Cooperative arrangements include a hotline to share information, regular high-level exchanges between coast guards and navies, as well as joint patrols.

Mr Mak Sideth, Director General of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Cambodia, said, "Given the essential goods and valuable cargo transiting through our ports and territorial waters daily, the Merchant Marine Department works closely with the port authorities and maritime police to detect and deny criminals who plan to commit robberies on ships anchored in our ports and anchorages. The Cambodian

maritime police also conduct regular patrols and keep a lookout for suspicious looking vessels which may be used by perpetrators to commit sea robberies.”

On the second day of the meeting, participants deliberated on ways to strengthen existing laws and response mechanisms to combat piracy and maritime crimes, how to deter unauthorised ship boardings by perpetrators, and ways to simplify incident reporting processes for ship masters.

Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC, said, “The cluster meeting has strengthened understanding between Cambodian maritime agencies and the shipping community, as well as fostered greater synergy between ReCAAP Focal Points. ReCAAP ISC will continue to co-organise meetings with our Focal Points to build their knowledge and capacity to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.”



The ReCAAP Cluster Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, brings together the shipping community and maritime authorities from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to share best practices and discuss ways to strengthen cooperation to fight piracy, sea robbery and other maritime crimes.

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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>

## **About the Ministry of Public Works and Transport**

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport was established under the Law on the Establishment of Royal Kram No. NS / RKM / 0196/03 dated 24 January 1996 on the promulgation of the Law on the Establishment of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport acts as a staff for the Royal Government in the mission of leading and managing the public works and transport sectors of the Kingdom of Cambodia in order to develop the economy and improve the living standards of the people based on the principles of free market economy and social equity, please visit <https://www.mpwt.gov.kh>.