



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre and Royal Thai Navy Co-Organised Cluster Meeting to Strengthen Regional Cooperation Against Piracy and Sea Robbery

The Royal Thai Navy, ReCAAP Focal Point for Thailand, and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), today concluded a three-day cluster meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

This meeting brought together representatives from the Royal Thai Navy, Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thai Marine Department, Thai Shipowners Association, neighbouring ReCAAP Focal Points from Cambodia, Myanmar and Singapore, as well as regional authorities from Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and Indonesia Coast Guard (BAKAMLA). Participants discussed ways to strengthen regional cooperation and information sharing to combat Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Southeast Asia.

The Thai authorities shared how they are stepping up cooperation with neighbouring countries to deal with the emerging maritime security concerns through platforms such as the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum and ReCAAP ISC, and conducting security drills between law enforcement agencies and shipping companies to detect, deter, deny, and delay ship boarding by criminals.

ReCAAP Focal Points from Singapore, Myanmar and Cambodia, namely the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Myanmar Navy and Cambodia Merchant Marine Department, deliberated on ways to strengthen the existing mechanisms of cooperation, collaboration, coordination and communication to prevent maritime crimes. The Focal Points also shared how they are enhancing information sharing with commercial shipping companies to enable shipmasters to make better informed decisions when planning voyages through areas of concern.

Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC, said, “Focal Points of ReCAAP Member States play a vital role in timely and accurate information sharing and swift response to reported incidents of piracy and sea robbery. ReCAAP ISC will continue to build the capability of our Focal Points to deal with maritime crimes for the safety of commercial vessels and the well-being of seafarers.”

“To better serve the maritime community, the Centre will be enhancing our data analytics capabilities to analyse the impact of external factors such as wind speed, weather conditions, and moon phases on past incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships. By conducting deeper analysis and drawing co-relations between different data sets, ReCAAP ISC aims to provide more meaningful data and insights to enable the shipmasters make better informed decisions when planning their voyages through the areas of concern.”

Admiral Choengchai Chomchoengpaet, Commander in Chief, Royal Thai Navy, said, “The cluster meeting has strengthened understanding between the Royal Thai Navy, regional maritime authorities and Thailand’s shipping community. It has also provided a platform for ReCAAP Focal Points to exchange best practices and impressed the need for enhanced cooperation of all stakeholders in combating 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>