NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre Conducts Cluster Meeting in Myanmar

- Participants discussed sub-regional maritime security concerns and efforts by coastal states to combat armed robbery against ships

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and the Myanmar Focal Point today concluded a four-day Cluster Meeting held from 16 to 19 November 2026 in Yangon, Myanmar. The meeting brought together representatives from the Myanmar Navy, Myanmar Coast Guard, Myanmar Department of Marine Administration and Myanma Port Authority to discuss maritime security concerns and ways to strengthen inter-agency coordination in addressing armed robbery against ships in ports, anchorages and territorial waters.

The meeting was attended by officers from ReCAAP Focal Points in Bangladesh, India and Thailand, as well as representatives from the Indonesia Marine and Air Police Corps (IMAP) and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).

The meeting provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences, share operational insights and discuss common maritime security challenges. Presentations covered a range of key topics, including:

- Challenges in maritime governance and monitoring illicit activities at sea;
- Strengthening ship and port security through the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code;
- Information sharing and international cooperation in combating transnational maritime crimes; and
- Best practices for timely and accurate incident reporting by shipping companies.

Participants also engaged in group discussions on two key topics: **"Enhancing Engagement and Cooperation between the Shipping Industry and Maritime Agencies"** and **"Emerging Maritime Security Challenges in the Bay of Bengal"**. The discussions focused on strengthening communication and coordination among

maritime stakeholders, improving information sharing and identifying opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation in addressing evolving maritime security threats.

ReCAAP ISC Executive Director, Mr Vijay D. Chafekar, said:

"The littoral states of the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Thailand face a range of transnational maritime security threats, including sea robbery, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking and irregular migration by sea. This Cluster Meeting has provided a valuable opportunity for Myanmar and neighbouring ReCAAP Focal Points to exchange perspectives on shared sub-regional maritime security concerns and explore ways to strengthen inter-state cooperation and mutual trust in addressing transnational maritime crimes particularly piracy & armed robbery incidents. Continued information sharing, mutual trust and close collaboration among maritime agencies are essential to ensuring a coordinated response to these challenges."

Commander Han Tun Aung, Commanding Officer (1st Fleet), Myanmar Navy and ReCAAP ISC Governor for Myanmar, said:

"Over the past two decades, ReCAAP ISC has played an important role in strengthening regional cooperation to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia through the sharing of verified incident reports, information and analytical insights with ReCAAP Focal Points. The Myanmar Navy and Myanmar Coast Guard remain committed to supporting the Centre's capacity-building initiatives and strengthening cooperation with regional maritime partners to help keep regional waters safe and secure for seafarers and maritime trade."

The Cluster Meeting reaffirmed the importance of sustained engagement, timely and accurate incident reporting, effective information sharing and stronger partnerships among maritime agencies and the shipping industry. It also underscored the value of the ReCAAP framework as a platform for promoting regional cooperation and collective efforts to address piracy, armed robbery against ships and other emerging maritime security challenges in Asia.



Participants of ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting held from 16 to 19 November 2026

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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, 22 States 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