

(for immediate release)

**PRESS Release**  
**ReCAAP's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event**  
**Conduct of High Level Meeting and Symposium**

1 The ReCAAP ISC organised a *High Level Meeting* as a part of ReCAAP's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event. The Meeting was conducted on 18 March 2016 morning, at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore. The Meeting was chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Don Pramudwinai, with ReCAAP Contracting Parties<sup>1</sup> being represented by high level representatives<sup>2</sup> including more than half of them at Ministerial level.

2 The *High Level Meeting* took up various issues surrounding ReCAAP. The Meeting produced useful deliverables such as the introduction on the *Developments of the ReCAAP over the Decade, The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Publication* (copy available upon request), production of two Guidances<sup>3</sup> for the shipping industry, and report on the recent improving situation<sup>4</sup> in our region. The Meeting also welcomed the adoption of the *Joint Statement*<sup>5</sup> which gave important guidance for the future course of actions towards the ReCAAP and its strategies for the next decade of operations aiming at becoming a Centre of Excellence in information sharing.

3 Many Delegates made their statements which also demonstrated their strong commitment to the ReCAAP.

4 In the afternoon, a *Symposium*<sup>6</sup> was conducted with the Keynote Address delivered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Don Pramudwinai, followed by the two panel discussions respectively with the theme '*Enhancing regional cooperation against emerging maritime security challenges in Asia*', and '*Industry-supported initiatives and cooperation between the industries and the authorities in addressing piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia*'. The *Symposium* was attended by over 200 experts from a wide ranging global maritime community with the valuable inputs for the ReCAAP's future course of action.

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<sup>1</sup> ReCAAP Contracting Parties are appended in Annex 1

<sup>2</sup> ReCAAP Contracting Parties' High Level Representatives are listed in Annex 2

<sup>3</sup> Guidance includes (1) *Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia against Piracy and Armed Robbery involving Oil Cargo Theft*, and (2) *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*

<sup>4</sup> Summary of Situation Update on the piracy / armed robbery situation in Asia is appended in Annex 3

<sup>5</sup> *Joint Statement* adopted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting is appended in Annex 4

<sup>6</sup> ReCAAP's 10th Anniversary Event- *Symposium* Programme is appended in Annex 5

5 Both *High Level Meeting* and the *Symposium* had been successfully concluded with valuable deliverables, high level representations from Member Countries, and a large number of attendance from the maritime community at the *Symposium* demonstrating ReCAAP's strong relevance to the regional and international maritime community.

The ReCAAP ISC Secretariat  
18 March 2016

(Please contact the ReCAAP ISC Press Management Officer, Ms Amy FANG, at +65 63763091 or [amy\\_fang@recaap.org](mailto:amy_fang@recaap.org), for further enquiries.)

**Contracting Parties to the ReCAAP**

1. Australia
2. People's Republic of Bangladesh
3. Brunei Darussalam
4. Kingdom of Cambodia
5. People's Republic of China
6. Kingdom of Denmark
7. Republic of India
8. Japan
9. Republic of Korea
10. Lao People's Democratic Republic
11. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
12. Kingdom of the Netherlands
13. Kingdom of Norway
14. Republic of the Philippines
15. Republic of Singapore
16. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
17. Kingdom of Thailand
18. United Kingdom
19. United States of America
20. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

## Head of Delegations from ReCAAP Contracting Parties

1	<b>Australia</b> <b>AU</b>	Mr Roman QUAEDVLIEG Commissioner of Australian Border Force
2	<b>Bangladesh</b> <b>BD</b>	Mr Shajahan KHAN Minister of the Ministry of Shipping
3	<b>Brunei</b> <b>BN</b>	Superintendent Matusin Haji Jumat Officer Commanding of Marine Police Royal Brunei Police Headquarters
4	<b>Cambodia</b> <b>KH</b>	His Excellency Sokhom PHEAKAVANMONY Secretary of State of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport
5	<b>China</b> <b>CN</b>	HE CHEN Xiaodong Ambassador to Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Singapore
6	<b>Denmark</b> <b>DK</b>	Her Excellency Ms Berit Basse Royal Danish Embassy in Singapore
7	<b>India</b> <b>IN</b>	Inspector General VSR Murthy, PTM, TM Deputy Director General (Ops & CS)
8	<b>Japan</b> <b>JP</b>	Mr Hitoshi KIKAWADA Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
9	<b>Republic of Korea</b> <b>KR</b>	Mr PARK Kwang-yuol Assistant Minister, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries
10	<b>Laos</b> <b>LA</b>	Mr Viloun SILAPRANY Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry, Ministry of Public Security
11	<b>Myanmar</b> <b>MM</b>	Rear Admiral Myint Nwe Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Defence
12	<b>The Netherlands</b> <b>NL</b>	His Excellency Jacques Louis WERNER Ambassador to Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Singapore
13	<b>Norway</b> <b>NO</b>	Ms Dilek AYHAN Deputy Minister Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
14	<b>Philippines</b> <b>PH</b>	Mr Jesus I. YABES Under Secretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Department of Foreign Affairs
15	<b>Singapore</b> <b>SG</b>	Mr KHAW Boon Wan Coordinating Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Transport
16	<b>Sri Lanka</b> <b>LK</b>	Hon. Dinendra Ruwan WIJewardene State Minister of Defence Ministry of Defence
17	<b>Thailand</b> <b>TH</b>	Mr Don PRAMUDWINAI Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand
18	<b>United Kingdom</b> <b>UK</b>	HE Scott WIGHTMAN High Commissioner British High Commission (Singapore)
19	<b>United States of America</b> <b>US</b>	Ms Caryn HOLLIS Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence (for Counternarcotics and Global Threats)
20	<b>Vietnam</b> <b>VN</b>	MG NGUYEN Quang Dam Commander, Vietnam Coast Guard

**Improvement in situation since end 2015 till February 2016 – for consideration to be included in the Press Release**

In 2015, a total of 200 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported. This represents a 7% increase in the number of incidents compared to 2014. While we are mindful of the increase, we have also observed several positive trends in recent months. First is the number of oil cargo thefts which was reported since April 2014 and continued till August 2015 with about an average of 1-2 incidents per month. No incident of oil cargo theft was reported since then. Secondly, the number of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, mostly occurred in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait, which reached its peak of an average of about 10 incidents a month till November 2016 when an attempted case was reported. No report of such incident was reported since then.

The improvement in both areas can be attributed to the apprehension of masterminds and perpetrators by the littoral States and enforcement agencies. In 2015, arrests of masterminds and perpetrators involved in four separate oil cargo thefts were made. Arrests of two groups of perpetrators responsible for incidents in the Singapore Strait were also reported. These improvements had continued into the first two months of 2016 and we witnessed the lowest number of incidents in February 2016 with three reported incidents.

The apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrators involved in piracy and armed robbery against ships can only be brought about through cooperative efforts among all stakeholders, including timely reporting by seafarers, quick response from enforcement agencies, and most importantly, close cooperation among all stakeholders, on land and at sea.

Joint Statement on the Occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the ReCAAP Information  
Sharing Centre

The Governing Council of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC),  
Signifying the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ReCAAP ISC;

Underlining the continued importance and relevance of the Regional Cooperation  
Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia of 2004  
(ReCAAP Agreement) and its values to collectively address piracy and armed robbery  
against ships in Asia;

Recognising the necessity to sustain effective functioning of the ReCAAP ISC by  
enhancing its capabilities, among others, to address challenges in the years to come  
within the mandate set forth in the ReCAAP Agreement;

Recognising further the importance of establishing links with other maritime information  
sharing centres to exchange best practice and views on how best to combat piracy and  
armed robbery against ships;

Noting with satisfaction the achievements the ReCAAP ISC has made since its inception  
and its continued contribution to the maritime community including the shipping industry in  
Asia and beyond; and

Appreciating the support made by ReCAAP Contracting Parties and their Focal Points,  
and the collaboration extended by other governmental and non-governmental entities,  
without which the ReCAAP ISC would not have made such achievements thus far,

**DOES HEREBY STATE:**

1. We aspire to the ReCAAP ISC being recognized as a centre of excellence within its purpose and mandate;
2. We greatly appreciate the commitment undertaken by the ReCAAP ISC in its three pillars, namely information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements, which has proactively contributed to all stakeholders, including the shipping industry abiding by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 and other international norms and acting upon recommendations ;
3. We fully support the Focal Points to work closely with the ReCAAP ISC in accordance with the object and purpose of the ReCAAP Agreement under the stewardship of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council;

4. We agree to set up a working group comprising representatives of Governors to come up with a roadmap for the preparation of the ReCAAP ISC to become a centre of excellence, in accordance with the decisions made at the Governing Council Meetings concerned;
5. We welcome and promote the sharing with other regions of the ReCAAP's expertise and experience to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea;
6. We stress the importance of close cooperation with Indonesia and Malaysia as States listed under Article 18, and urge them to become party to the ReCAAP Agreement so that concerted efforts in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea may be made collectively for mutual benefit.

Done at Singapore on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of 2016.

**ReCAAP's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event- Symposium**  
***Emerging Maritime Security Challenges in Asia and Region's Responses***  
**18<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (1400-1700 hrs) at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore**

Time	Activity
1:30pm	<b>Registration</b>
2:00pm	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> Dr Pornchai Danvivathana, Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
2:05pm	<b>Keynote Address</b> Mr Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thailand
<b>SESSION I</b>	
2:20pm	<b><i>Enhancing regional cooperation against emerging maritime security challenges in Asia</i></b>  <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ambassador Ong Keng Yong</b>, Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)</li> </ul> <b><u>Panellists:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RADM Maritime Dato' Zulkifili bin Abu Bakar</b>, Deputy Director General (Logistics), Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Andrew Tan</b>, Chief Executive, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)</li> <li>• <b>RADM Frederick Chew</b>, Commander Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)</li> <li>• <b>Ms Shirani de Fontgalland</b>, Capacity Building Programme Coordinator, Counter-terrorism Directorate, INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI)</li> </ul>
3:10pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
3:30pm	<b>Q &amp; A with Audience</b>
3:45pm	<b>Coffee/Tea break</b>
<b>SESSION II</b>	
4:00pm	<b><i>Industry-supported initiatives and cooperation between the industries and the authorities in addressing piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia</i></b>  <b><u>Introductory Briefing:</u></b> Mr <b>Tim Long</b> , Director, International Marine Transportation (IMT), Representative of Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) <b><u>Moderator:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Andrew Winbow</b>, Former IMO Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Maritime Safety Division</li> </ul> <b><u>Panellists :</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr Michael Phoon</b>, Secretary-General, Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA)</li> <li>• <b>Mr Patrick Chua</b>, Regional Advisor, BP shipping</li> </ul>
4:20pm	<b>Panel Discussion</b>
4:40pm	<b>Q &amp; A with Audience</b>
4:55pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Mr Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC
5:00pm	<b>End of Symposium</b>

Correct as at 11 March 2016