

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE
Nautical Forum 6/15

1. The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) jointly organised the Sixth Nautical Forum on 14 January 2015 afternoon at Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Singapore.

2. The main objective of this Forum was to bring together the ReCAAP ISC, MPA and members of the shipping industry to share on the findings of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia for 2014. It was also a platform set for the various stakeholders to share and exchanges views, and solicits feedback and recommendations from the maritime community and the ReCAAP ISC's stakeholders.

3. Mr Yoshihisa ENDO, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC highlighted in his Opening Remarks the need to leverage all relevant resources, and to cooperate and collaborate amongst the stakeholders in order to combat this crime efficiently. On this note, he was pleased to inform the participants of INTERPOL's speaking at this Forum. This was in connection with the increasing transnational nature of piracy incidents and demonstrated well the ReCAAP's extensive network and responsiveness to address the evolution of modus operandi of pirates with a view to realising its goal "to make the sea in Asia safe".

4. Assistant Director (Research) of the ReCAAP ISC, Ms LEE Yin Mui presented a detail analysis on the incidents reported in 2014. In which, she reported that the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia had increased to a total of 183 incidents (168 actual and 15 attempted) which was a 22% increase compared to 2013. However, it was noted that 62% of the 183 incidents reported were petty theft and Category 3 (less significant) incidents which were less severe in nature. Of concern was the increase in reports of siphoning of ship fuel/oil incidents in 2014. Of the total 13 Category 1 (very significant) incidents, 12 incidents were siphoning of ship fuel/oil. It was further observed that half of the 41 Category 2 (moderately significant) incidents involved ships at anchor/berth.

5. Recognising that the bulk of incidents were petty theft and Category 3 incidents occurred at the SCS, Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), and certain ports and anchorages, the ReCAAP ISC strongly advocates sustained coordinated efforts by the littoral states in SOMS and SCS, urged ship owners and masters to enhance vigilance, to report all incidents to the nearest coastal States timely, and to exercise anti-piracy watch activities while their ships are at ports and anchorages.

6. Captain M SEGAR, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) of MPA, presented on the ongoing efforts to combat piracy and sea robbery in the

region and commended the ReCAAP ISC for its excellent works in serving its stakeholders well. He emphasised that while governments work together to root out the source of piracy and sea robbery, it is important the industry undertakes or enhances its self-protection measures.

7. Executive Director of SSA, Mr Michael PHOON said, “The shipping industry deplores the attacks on the seafarers who serve the cause of global shipping and world trade. I am confident that demonstrations of strong political will and firm resolve on the part of maritime States, coupled with close cooperation amongst the various stakeholders, will greatly reduce the threat of maritime piracy and armed robbery.”

8. The guest speakers at the Forum were from the Asian Shipowners’ Forum (ASF), Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). This was the first time INTERPOL speaking at this series of Forums since the ReCAAP ISC and INTERPOL signed a cooperative agreement in late 2012.

9. Noting the latest piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia in 2014, the Forum concluded with an active Q&A session of engagements between the eight-member panel led by the Deputy Director, LTC(Retd) Nicholas Teo, and some 200, largest ever, participants. The deliverables of Forum were the practical suggestions and invaluable exchanges that further endorsed the need to cooperate closely for it is a shared responsibility.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

14 January 2015

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ReCAAP Factsheet

Background Information

About the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (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 in Asia. It was finalised on 11 November 2004 and entered into force on 4 September 2006. To date, 20 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The twenty Contracting Parties to ReCAAP are Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

“ReCAAP is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.”

Mission

To enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships

Vision

To be the information hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia

ReCAAP ISC Factsheet

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) was established under the Agreement, and was officially launched in Singapore on 29 November 2006. It was formally recognised as an international organisation on 30 January 2007.

The roles of the ReCAAP ISC are to:

- **Information Sharing**

Serve as a platform for information exchange with the ReCAAP Focal Points via the Information Network System (IFN); facilitate communications and information exchange among participating governments to improve incident response by member countries; analyse and provide accurate statistics of the piracy and armed robbery incidents to foster better understanding of the situation in Asia;

- **Capacity Building**

Facilitate capacity building efforts that help improve the capability of member countries in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region; and

- **Cooperative Arrangements**

Cooperate with organisations and like-minded parties on joint exercises, information sharing, capacity building programme, or other forms of cooperation, as appropriate, and agreed upon among the Contracting Parties.

The ReCAAP ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network System (IFN). Through this network, the ReCAAP Focal Points are linked to each other as well as the ReCAAP ISC on a 24/7 basis, and are able to facilitate appropriate responses to incident. The agency receiving the incident report will manage the incident in accordance to its national policies and response procedures, and provide assistance to the victim ship where possible. The agency will in turn, inform their ReCAAP Focal Point which will submit an incident report to the ReCAAP ISC and its neighbouring Focal Points.

For more information about the ReCAAP and ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>

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