



(For immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE

ReCAAP ISC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP 9/16

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) with the co-host, the Philippine Coast Guard, organised the ninth Capacity Building Workshop in Manila, the Philippines, on 21-23 June 2016.
2. Capacity Building, together with Information Sharing and Cooperative Arrangements, are the three pillars of the ReCAAP. Capacity Building Workshop is conducted to enhance the ReCAAP Focal Points' capability in information sharing on piracy and armed robbery in Asia. The Workshop is designed for operational-level officers from the ReCAAP Focal Points and other relevant agencies which include officers from Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.
3. The aims of the 2-day Workshop are to enhance the capabilities of the ReCAAP Focal Points by promoting dialogue and sharing of knowledge on recent incidents of piracy and armed robbery, to promote networking mutual understanding among ReCAAP ISC, Focal Points and law enforcement agencies, and to improve the efficiency of Focal Points for submitting Incident Reports through *Information Network* (IFN) training.
4. During the sessions, the recent situation of piracy and armed robbery in Asia and its analysis on the emerging challenge was shared by the ReCAAP ISC and other agencies. The participants also discussed on the *Future of ReCAAP ISC* in order to contribute to the deliberations of the Working Group¹.
5. At the Opening Remarks delivered by Mr Masafumi Kuroki, the new Executive Director who took office on 1 April 2016, he thanked the Philippine Government's strong commitment and continuous support for the ReCAAP and ISC. He also commended the joint efforts by the stakeholders – law enforcement agencies, shipping community, ReCAAP ISC and Focal Points, in the recent successful arrest of perpetrators by the Indonesian authority in the case of hijacked tanker *Hai Soon 12* which took place in May 2016. In this regards, he underscored the importance to further improve information sharing structure among the ReCAAP Focal Points and respective law enforcement agencies, and to strengthen confidence with shipping industry.

¹ The establishment of the Working Group on the *Future of ReCAAP ISC* was decided by the ReCAAP Governing Council in March 2016. The Working Group's main tasks are to identify the key components of the *Future of ReCAAP ISC*, and deliberate on the Road Map in order for the ReCAAP ISC to be a *Centre of Excellence for Information Sharing* by 2020, among others.

6. The Workshop ended with a visit to the National Coast Watch Centre (NCWC) located at the Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters. NCWC, inaugurated on 28 April 2015, is to serve as a coordinating and implementing mechanism in a whole-of-government approach to address current and future maritime safety, security and environmental protection challenges in the Philippines.

7. Thanks to the cooperation of the Philippine Coast Guard, Capacity Building Workshop of ReCAAP was successfully conducted with fruitful discussions and valuable information sharing.

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
23 June 2016

For media enquiries, please contact the ReCAAP ISC Secretariat at secretariat@recaap.org.



ReCAAP ISC Executive Director, Mr Masafumi Kuroki, calling on the Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard, Rear Admiral William M Melad, PCG



**ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop
21-23 June 2016 at Manila Hotel, Philippines**