

(for immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE
ReCAAP FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING 8/15

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP), organised the eighth ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (FPSOM) in Sydney, Australia on 6-8 October 2015. The Meeting was supported by Australia's Maritime Border Command which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point for Australia.

2. Building upon the successful conduct of the previous seven meetings held since 2008, the theme for the Meeting this year was "*Addressing Challenges Together*"; it is an important platform for the ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point to come together with the aims to reiterate the commitments of ReCAAP Focal Points on their roles and responsibilities; share experiences among ReCAAP Focal Points and institutionalise Focal Points' feedback mechanism under the ambit of the three pillars of ReCAAP; and share ideas on the 'Road Map to Centre of Excellence' and 10th anniversary celebration events.

3. In this Meeting, Rear Admiral Michael Noonan, Commander Maritime Border Command and Governor (Australia) of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council said in his welcome remarks that the Focal Point Senior Officers Meeting provided invaluable opportunities for representatives from each Focal Point to meet, enhance personal working relationships and explore avenues to further enhance the capabilities of each Focal Point. Echoing the same sentiments, Mr Yoshihisa Endo highlighted in his opening remarks that the strength of the ReCAAP mechanism lies in the high capability of ReCAAP Focal/Contact Points. He appraised the ReCAAP Focal Points personnel for the commendable efforts to provide with further timely and accurate information. He was, however cautious of complacency and urged all to be prepared for overcoming many challenges towards achieving our ultimate goal "a Centre of Excellence" in another decade. In this regard, he introduced the commendable remarks by the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Sekimizu, on the recent occasion of his visit to the ReCAAP ISC office. His commendable article carried in the blog of IMO web site is attached herewith.

4. Senior officers from the ReCAAP Contracting Parties as well as a senior officer from Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) had good exchanges at the Meeting. The strong participation signaled the continuous and strong collective commitment in crystallising the will, collectively addressing the challenges and charting the way ahead. Further, the face-to-face Meeting helped to enhance personal working relationship and understanding that were essential in establishing the "comfort zone" and exploring avenues to further enhance the capabilities of the various Focal Points.

5. In light of the increasing number of incidents reported in Asia, areas of discussion at the Meeting focused on the situation update on piracy and armed robbery in Asia including siphoning incidents, and sharing of experience and expertise in piracy and armed robbery countermeasures.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
8 October 2015

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2015 ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officer's Meeting
Sydney



Blog from IMO Secretary-General



29 September 2015

Sharing information to counter piracy

Yesterday, I visited the new premises of the Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of ReCAAP (the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia), which recently opened in Singapore's information technology compound.

Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of ReCAAP and its centre. The centre has made a significant contribution to the efforts of Asian countries to counter piracy and armed robbery in the region and has established a good model for other regions to establish similar mechanisms to share vital information on piracy incidents. During my visit, I was accompanied by Mr Andrew Tan, CEO of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), and took the occasion to congratulate Mr Yasuhisa Endo, Executive Director of ReCAAP-ISC, and his staff for their excellent efforts to promote maritime security and the safety of international shipping in this region.

With the strong support of the host country, Singapore, ReCAAP-ISC is exploring its future possibilities in the field of maritime security, not only in the region but also in a global context. By transforming itself into a centre of excellence for the world, it could continuously provide shipping with the vital real-time security information that will be essential for sustainable maritime activities in the coming decades.

I wish Mr Endo and his team all the best for their endeavours in preparing for the tenth anniversary year in 2016 and exploring the future of ReCAAP-ISC.

Koji

Posted 1 day ago

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The IMO Secretary-General's blog is a platform where Mr. Koji Sekimizu shares some of his thoughts, considerations and suggestions on issues related to IMO matters around the world.

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Remarks by the Secretary-General of IMO, Mr Sekimizu, on the recent occasion of his visit to the ReCAAP ISC office carried in the blog of IMO website