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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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