Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 5-11 Mar 19, an incident of armed robbery against ship was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 5 Feb 19 and was reported to ReCAAP ISC by Focal Point Singapore after verification with the relevant agencies. The location of the incident is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incident is tabulated in attachment.
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS

As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off eastern Sabah remains, ReCAAP ISC maintains its advisory issued via the ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:

**RECOMMENDATION**

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia.
### Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
5-11 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship Name Type of Ship</th>
<th>Date Local time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of the Incident</th>
<th>Details of the Incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or International Organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jin Hwa 43 Tug boat</td>
<td>05/02/19 1709 hrs</td>
<td>1° 12.63’ N, 103° 34.79’ E</td>
<td>While the tug boat towing barge was underway, the master of the tug boat reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and Singapore Police Coast Guard that some perpetrators were boarding the barge from a few small boats. The barge was laden with scrap iron. The master later reported that the perpetrators had left the barge with some scrap iron. The tug boat and barge continued her voyage to Penang, Malaysia.</td>
<td>The crew was not injured. Some scrap iron was stolen.</td>
<td>The master of the tug boat reported the incident to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and Singapore Police Coast Guard.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>Informed Singapore Police Coast Guard.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Actual Incident in Asia**

1. **Jin Hwa 43**
   - Tug boat
   - Malaysia
   - 148 9689768
   - While the tug boat towing barge was underway, the master of the tug boat reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and Singapore Police Coast Guard that some perpetrators were boarding the barge from a few small boats. The barge was laden with scrap iron. The master later reported that the perpetrators had left the barge with some scrap iron. The tug boat and barge continued her voyage to Penang, Malaysia.
   - The crew was not injured. Some scrap iron was stolen.
   - The master of the tug boat reported the incident to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and Singapore Police Coast Guard.
   - Yes
   - ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
   - Informed Singapore Police Coast Guard.