

# Piracy & Sea Robbery Conference 2022

## Situation of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre  
5 April 2022

# Scope

- I. Situation in Asia (January-March 2022)**
- II. Situation Update by Location**
- III. Abduction of Crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas**
- IV. Update of Regional Guide for Asia**

# I. Situation in Asia (January-March 2022)



## 1. Overview

### 1. **Number of incidents has increased** during Jan-Mar 2022 compared to Jan-Mar 2021

- (1) 22 incidents (21 actual incidents and 1 attempted incident) during Jan-Mar 2022
- (2) 29% increase compared to Jan-Mar 2020 (17 incidents)
- (3) Increase of incidents in Singapore Strait, Bangladesh and India
- (4) However, decrease of incidents in Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam

### 2. **Severity level of incidents**

- (1) No CAT 1 (most serious incident) and CAT 2 incidents
- (2) Majority (67%) were CAT 4 incidents (least serious incidents)
- (3) Crew not injured in all incidents

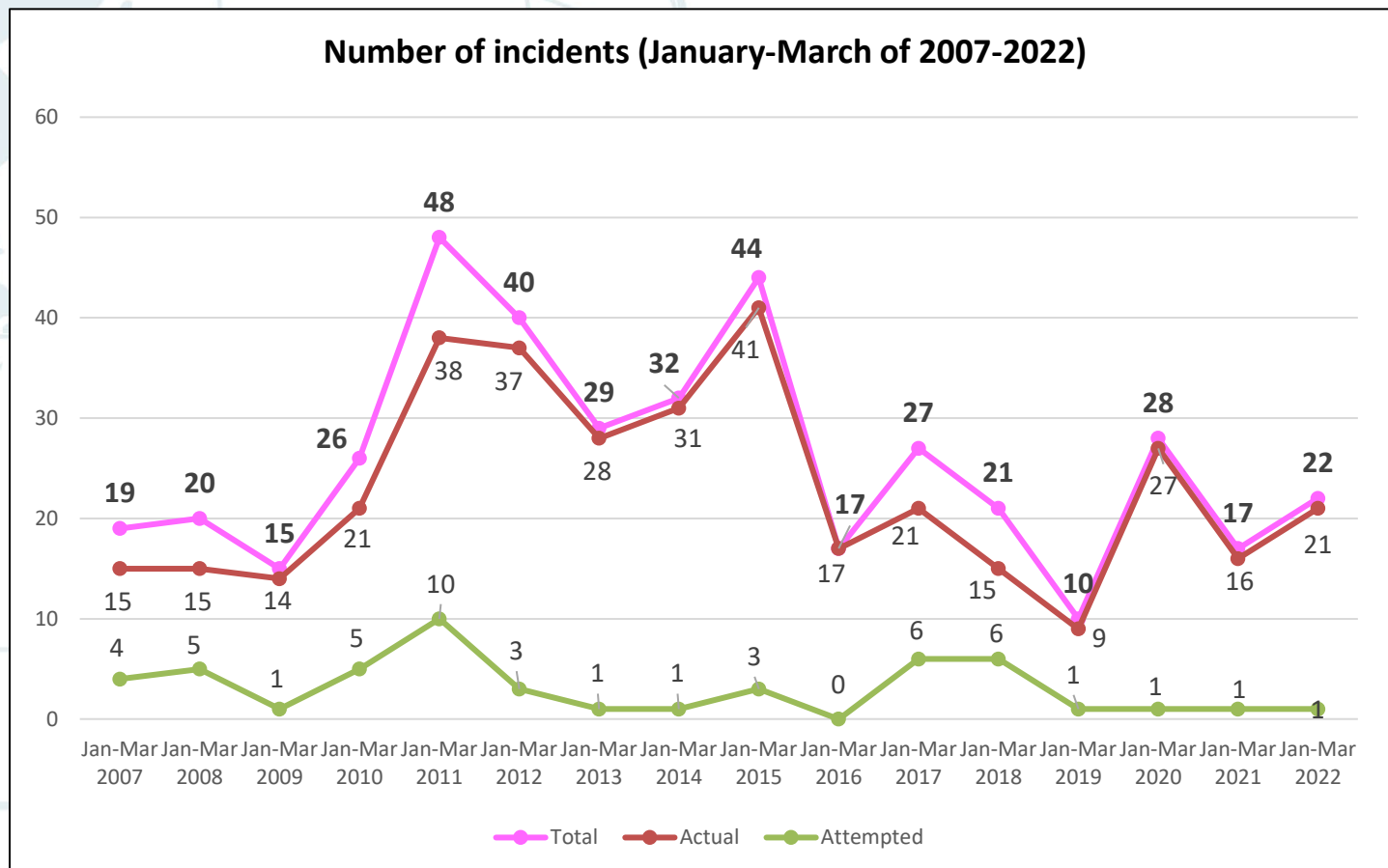
### 3. **Areas of concern**

- (1) Continued occurrence of incidents in Singapore Strait: 17 incidents during Jan-Mar 2022 (7 during Jan-Mar 2021)
- (2) Threat of abduction of crew by Abu Sayyaf Group remains high

# I. Situation in Asia (January-March 2022)

## 2. Number of Incidents

- ❑ 22 incidents (21 actual and 1 attempted) during Jan-Mar 2022
- ❑ Increase by 29% compared to Jan-Mar 2021 (17 incidents)
- ❑ 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in total number of incidents in the last five years (2018-2022)

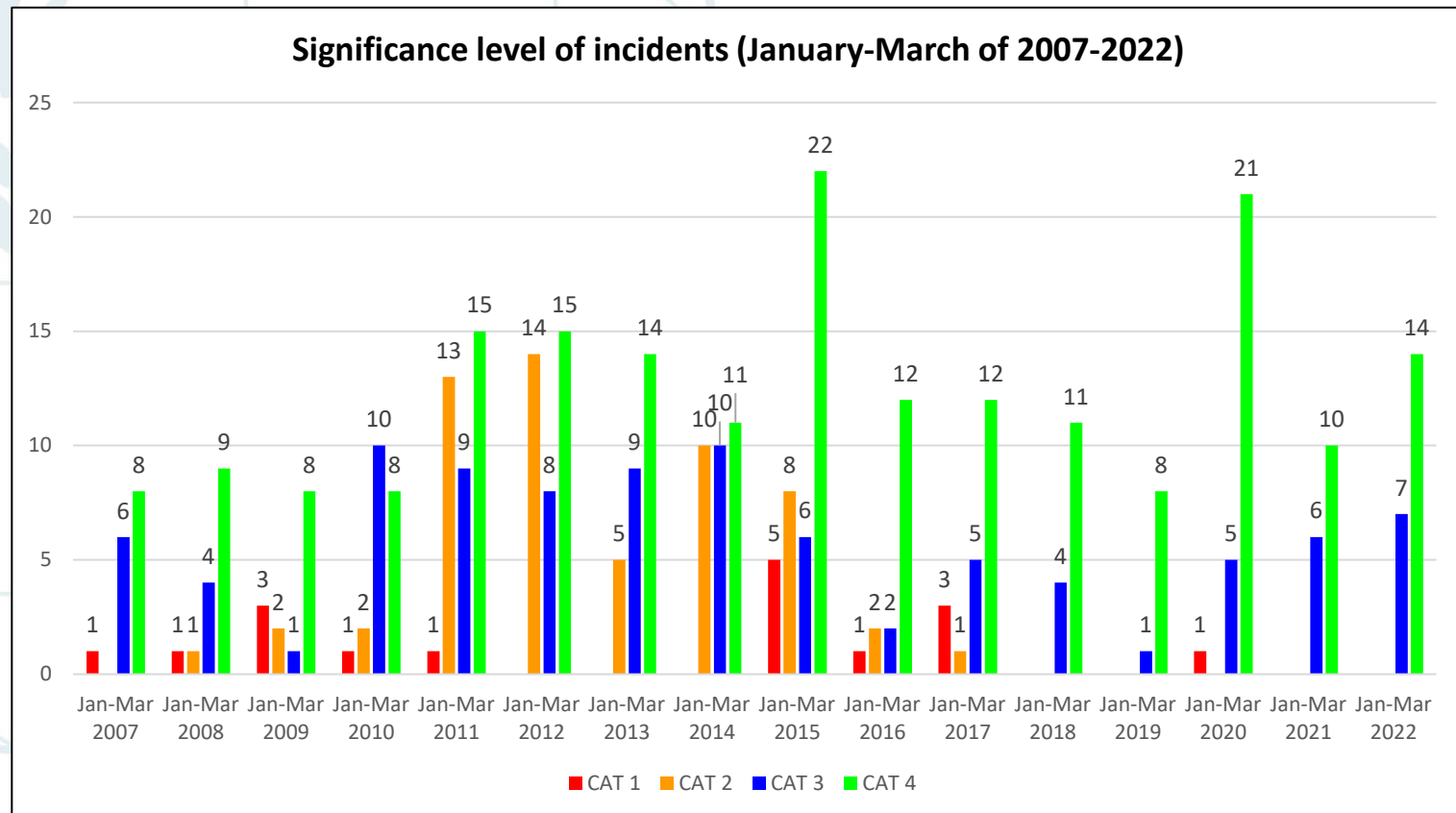


# I. Situation in Asia (January-March 2022)

## 3. Severity of Incidents

☐ 21 actual incidents during Jan-Mar 2022

- No **CAT 1** and **CAT 2** incidents
- Number of **CAT 3** incidents remained fairly consistent with Jan-Mar 2021
- Majority (67%) are **CAT 4** incidents (perpetrators not armed, crew not harmed)



# I. Situation in Asia (January-March 2022)

## 4. Location of Incidents

- Singapore Strait (17)
- India (2)
- Indonesia (2)
- Bangladesh (1)

**All incidents are armed robbery against ships:**  
(occurred in territorial seas or archipelagic waters)

**No piracy incident**  
(occurred on high seas)

### Areas of Concern during Jan-Mar 2022

- (1) Increase of incidents in Singapore Strait
- (2) Threat of abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas

# I. Situation in Asia (January-March 2022)

## 5. Decrease/Increase of Incidents

### ❑ Decrease of incidents:

#### Ports/anchorages

(compared to Jan-Mar 2021)

- **Indonesia:** [2 incidents](#) (- 3 incidents)
- **The Philippines:** [0 incident](#) (- 2 incidents)
- **Vietnam:** [0 incident](#) (- 2 incidents)

### ❑ Increase of incidents:

#### Mostly at ports/anchorages

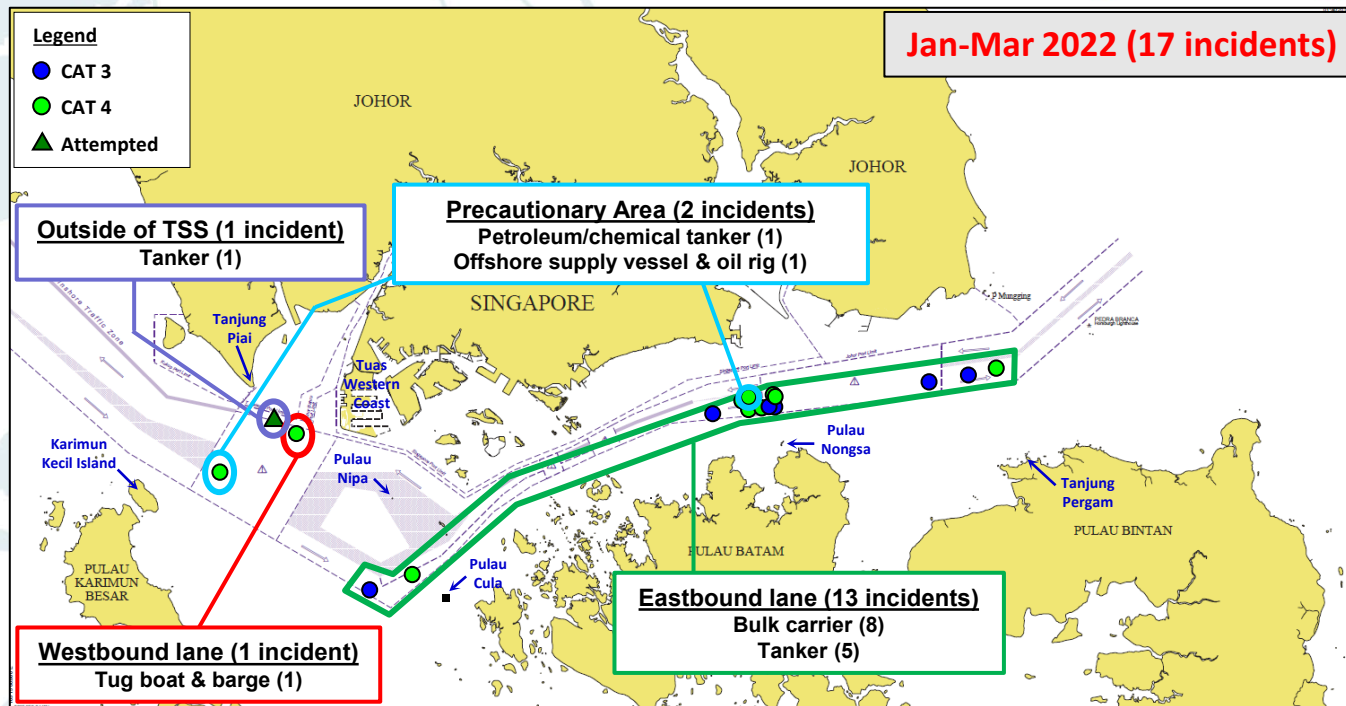
- **Bangladesh:** [1 incident](#) (+ 1 incident)
- **India:** [2 incidents](#) (+ 1 incident)

#### Underway

- **Singapore Strait:** [17 incidents](#) (+ 10 incidents)

# II. Situation Update by location

## 1.(1) Singapore Strait (Jan-Mar 2022)



### January-March of past 8 years ...

- 21 (2015) → 0 (2016) → 1 (2017) → 2 (2018) → 2 (2019) → 9 (2020) → 7 (2021) → **17 (2022)**
- Decrease in 2016:** Arrests of perpetrators by Indonesian authorities in 2014 and 2015

**Jan-Mar 2022:** 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in total number of incidents during Jan-Mar of 2007-2022 (highest in 2015)

- CAT 3:** 37% (perpetrators armed with knives but crew not harmed)
- CAT 4:** 63% (perpetrators not armed and crew not harmed)
- Attempted:** 1 incident



# 1. Singapore Strait

## (2) Recommendations



- ❑ Since Jan 2021, **ReCAAP ISC had issued 9 Incident Alerts**  
(7 in 2021, 2 during Jan-Mar 2022)

Recommendations:

### ➤ **To littoral States**

- Increase surveillance and patrols of littoral States
- Enhance information sharing and strengthen coordination among littoral States
- Respond promptly to incident reported by ship in order to make arrest and prosecute the perpetrators

### ➤ **To ships**

- Crew to keep abreast of latest situation, exercise utmost vigilance, adopt preventive measures and report incidents immediately to nearest coastal State

# II. Situation Update by location

## 2. Bangladesh

### Past 5 years ...

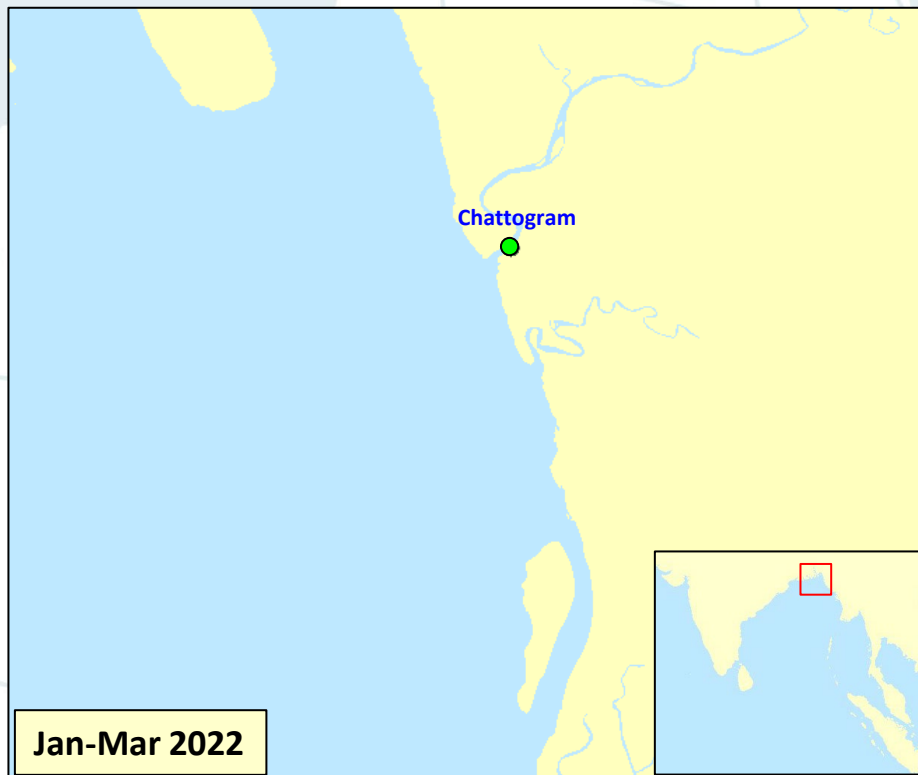
- 11 (2017) → 11 (2018) → 0 (2019) → 5 (2020) → 0 (2021) → 1 (Jan-Mar 2022)

### January-March 2022

- 1 x CAT 4
- At Chattogram

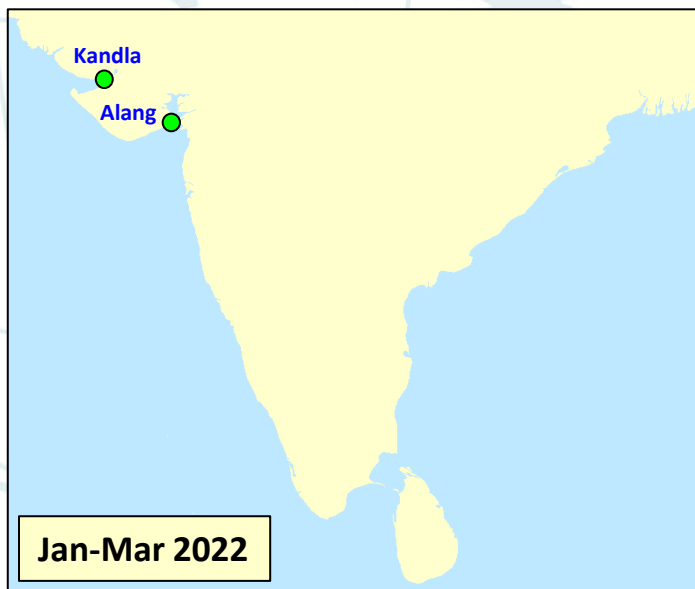
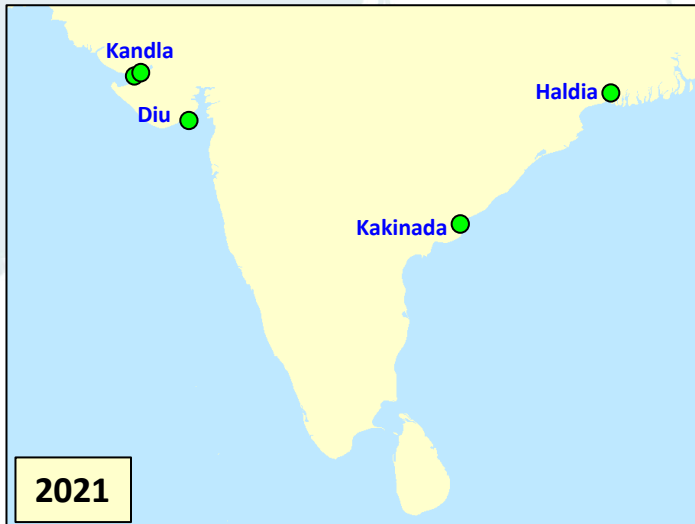
### Insight of incident on 15 Mar 2022

- 6 perpetrators boarded ship from small wooden craft
- Alarm raised, crew mustered, perpetrators escaped with ship stores
- Crew was not injured
- Bangladesh Coast Guard boarded ship within 20 min, and investigated incident
- Recovered stolen items



## II. Situation Update by location

### 3. India



#### Past 5 years ...

- 4 (2017) → 4 (2018) → 5 (2019)  
→ 9 (2020) → 5 (2021) → 2 (Jan-Mar 2022)

#### January-March 2022

- 2 x CAT 4
- Off Alang (1), Kandla (1)

#### 2021

- 5 x CAT 4
- 2 in Kandla, 1 in Kakinada, 1 in Haldia,  
1 off Diu

# III. Abduction of Crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas

## 1. Situation Update

**No incident** was reported during Jan-Mar 2022

➤ Last incident occurred in January 2020

**No crew is currently held in captivity**

Number of past incidents:

(Year)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Jan-Mar 2022
Actual incidents (20)	12	3	2	2	1	0	0
Attempted incidents (11)	6	4	1	0	0	0	0

**Threat of abduction of crew remains high**

➤ Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) leaders responsible for the past incidents of abduction of crew are still at large

➤ Members of ASG are active

# III. Abduction of Crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas

## 2. Advisory & Guidance by ReCAAP ISC



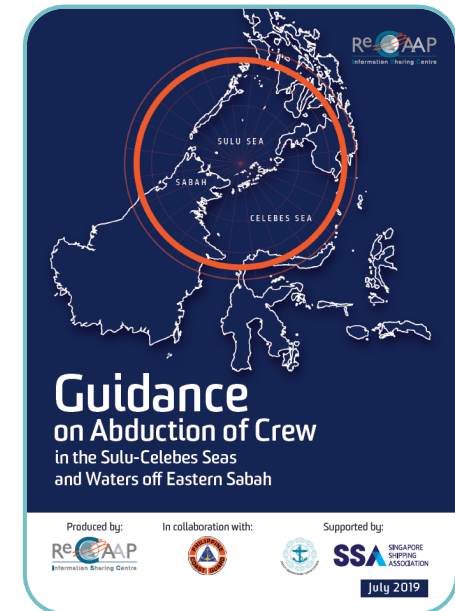
### Advisory

#### ReCAAP ISC Alert issued on 21 Nov 2016

- Re-route from area, where possible
- Exercise extra vigilance and maintain comms with authorities of Philippines and Malaysia

### Guidance

Shipping industry is advised to refer to the  
***“Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah”***



# IV. Update of Regional Guide for Asia

## *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*

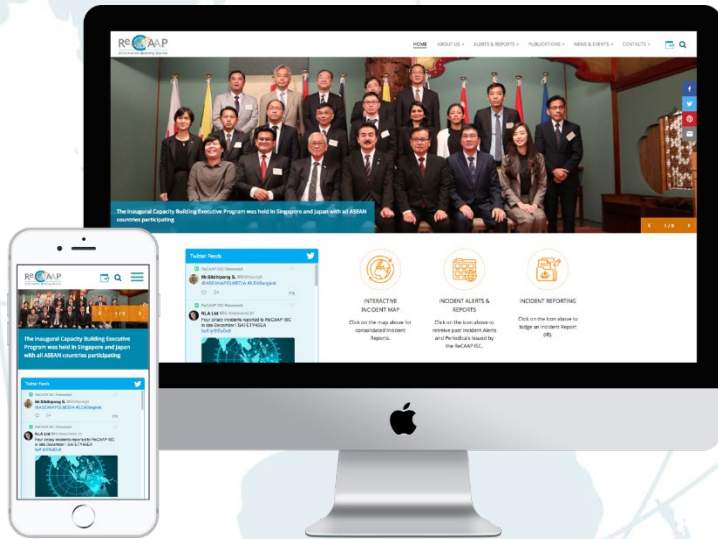
- ❑ The “*Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*” was produced in 2016 by ReCAAP ISC, supported by a Working Group (WG) with reps. from ASA, SSA, IFC, INTERTANKO, OCIMF and RSIS
- ❑ The ‘*Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robber against Ships in Asia*’ was updated in March 2022 with information on the types of piracy and armed robbery against ships incidents that occurred in Asia from 2016, revised recommendations on risk/threat assessment and preventive measures; and updated contact details of the relevant agencies.
- ❑ The updated Guide can be found on ReCAAP ISC website.
- ❑ Hardcopy of the Guide is available for the shipping industry upon request.



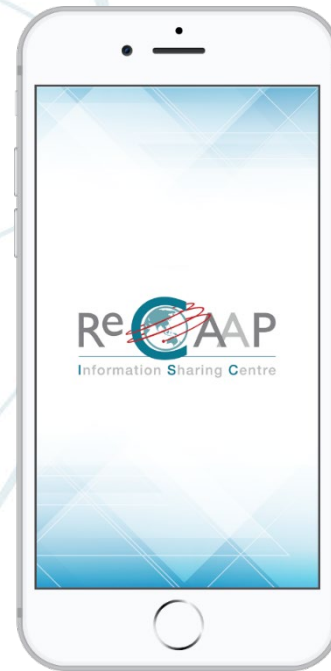
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