

**Incident Report** : 05/2014

**Name and Type of Ship** : *Ai Maru* / product tanker

**Date/Time of Incident** : 14 Jun 14 at or about 2030 hrs (local time)

**Location of incident** : 02° 06.90' N, 104° 39.80' E

## Details of Incident

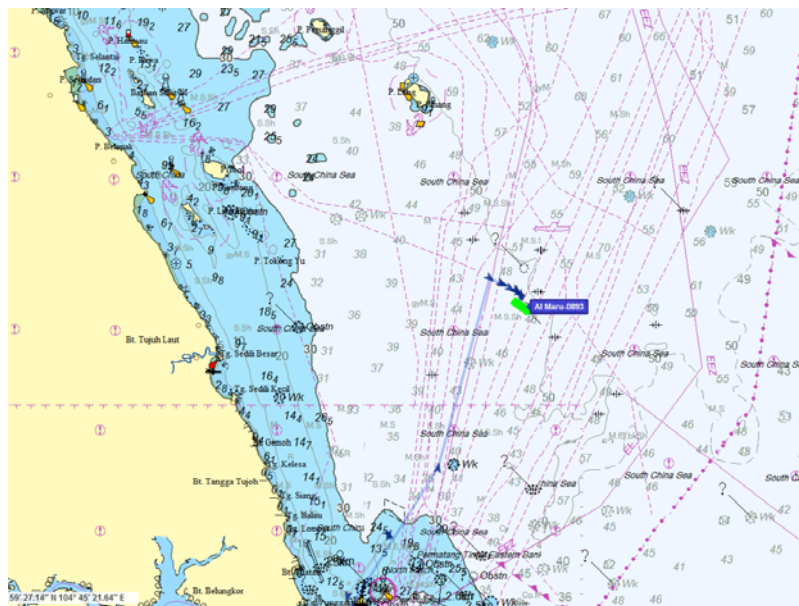
1. On 14 Jun 14, the shipping company reported to the ReCAAP ISC that the Honduras-registered product tanker *Ai Maru*, IMO no. 7727504 with 1520 metric tonne of MGO departed western OPL Singapore for the Gulf of Thailand. At or about 2030 hrs, she was boarded by an unknown number of robbers from three speed boats at 02° 06.90' E, 104° 39.80' E (South China Sea). The vessel then turned and headed on a south-easterly course at about 6.5 knots. See estimated location below.



**Approximate location**



2. The ReCAAP ISC immediately worked with the IFC and alerted the regional maritime authorities in the area. Whilst the vessel continued to head south-easterly at a speed of about 4.5 knots (see tracked locations in map below), maritime assets were deployed in response. At about 0050 hrs, *Ai Maru* stopped with its shipboard lighting turned on, and it was assessed that the unauthorized personnel had left the vessels as they have been alerted that the maritime authorities were closing in.
3. Malaysian maritime enforcements vessel had proceeded alongside the *Ai Maru* for investigation.



**Tracking locations of Ai Maru**

## Reported by

Shipping company

## Comments by ReCAAP ISC

4. The same vessel, *Ai Maru* had been boarded by pirates in 2012 in the South China Sea with the same intention of siphoning. However, the pirates' plan was foiled when the authorities were in the vicinity. This time round, the pirates' plan was again foiled owing to the quick response from regional maritime authorities. The ReCAAP ISC commends the shipping company for the timely reporting and the region authorities from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia for the cooperation and coordinated operation responses and would once again emphasized the need for timely information sharing as well as proper information management. Such collaborative effort between the industry and enforcement agencies has prevented a possible case of piracy / fuel siphoning crime at sea.

