



Information Sharing Centre

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2019

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

For information sharing in
combating piracy and armed
robbery against ships at sea

VISION

To be the information hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

MISSION

To enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

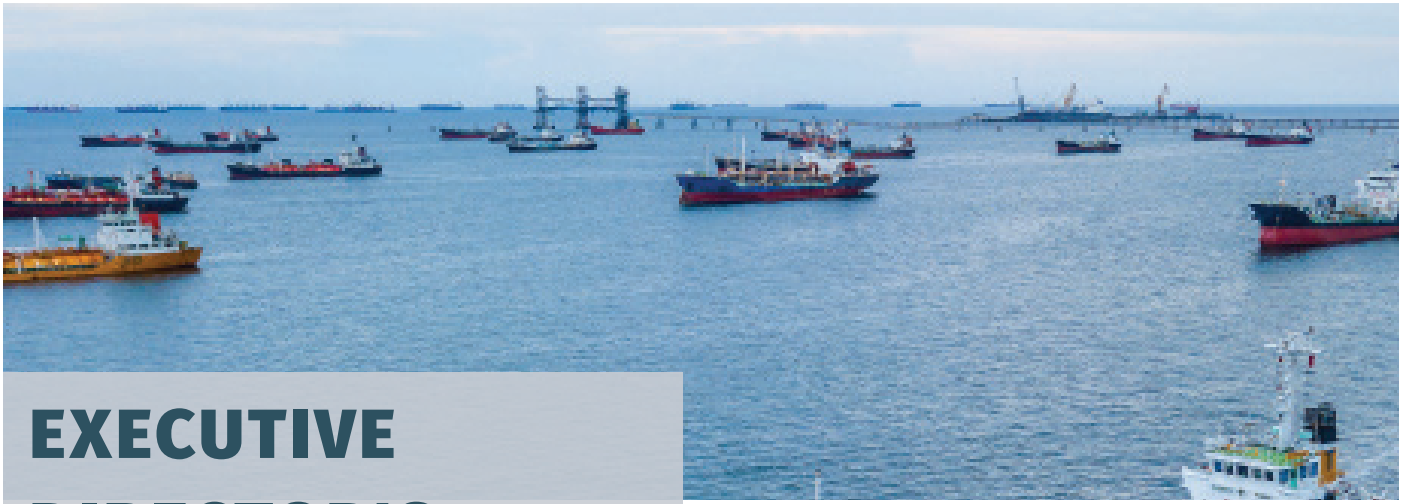
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PREFACE

At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in March 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (“the Centre”) has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea.



In 2019, the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (the Centre) has continued its efforts to play a pivotal role in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The Centre has intensified and deepened its activities by implementing the Action Plan of the Roadmap to achieve its mission of the three pillars, namely information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements.

The Centre has worked closely with its stakeholders; with ReCAAP Contracting Parties, their Focal Points (FP) and other government agencies on one hand, and with external stakeholders such as shipping industry, international and regional organisations, academics and media on the other. With the Contracting Parties and FPs, the Centre has made efforts to consolidate the foundation of ReCAAP framework which is based on the ownership and cooperation of Contracting Parties.

With the efforts of the Contracting Parties, FPs and the Centre, the overall situation of piracy

and armed robbery against ships in Asia has remained stable both in the number and severity of incidents in 2019. The Centre has also continued to establish its position as a Centre of Excellence for information sharing.

This Report presents the key activities of the Centre in 2019. The priority areas of activities are as follows.

Intensifying Efforts to Promote Timely and Accurate Information Sharing

Information sharing is at the core of the Centre's work. In 2019, the Centre intensified its efforts to promote further timely and accurate information sharing with the Contracting Parties and the maritime community. The Centre continued to watch the situation closely in cooperation with FPs and raised awareness of stakeholders on serious incidents and a deteriorating situation in particular locations by issuing Warning and Alerts in 2019. The periodic reports continued to provide the statistics, analysis of situation and recommendations, and data analytics was used to analyse a long-term trend of incidents. The Centre

has also increased its efforts to disseminate timely and accurate information to the shipping industry and media to raise awareness of the maritime community on the evolving threats.

Levelling Up the Capabilities of ReCAAP Focal Points

ReCAAP is an international grouping of diverse Contracting Parties. With the law enforcement and regulatory agencies of ReCAAP Member Countries at different stages of development, it is essential that the Centre leverages on the expertise and experience of its FPs as well as external experts to collectively raise the capabilities of Contracting Parties.

To facilitate learning, the Centre's capacity building activities employ diverse modalities including lecture, small-group discussions, panel dialogue, case studies, and table-top exercises that are designed to suit the objectives and the targeted participants of the meetings. The "Guidelines on Capacity Building Activities", adopted at the 13th GC Meeting in March 2018, has guided the Centre to improve the quality of programmes in organising various capacity building meetings.

In 2019, three main capacity building meetings for FPs of all the 20 Contracting Parties, one Cluster meeting focused on the Sulu-Celebes Seas situation, FP Training for new officers, and six bilateral visits to FP were organised to enhance the capabilities and strengthen the network of FPs.

Engaging the Maritime Community

The safety of maritime transport as the lifeblood of economic development of Asian nations and their global trading partners is of imperative importance to the governments of the region and beyond, and to the global maritime community. In addition to ensuring a robust information sharing structure and strengthening the capability of FPs authorities to deal with evolving threats, another vital way the Centre fulfils its mission is by fostering cooperation with the Asian and international maritime communities.

In 2019, the Centre has continued to participate proactively in various regional and international meetings on maritime safety and security, to which the Centre was invited to share the experience of ReCAAP as a model of regional cooperation for combating maritime crimes.

Cooperation with the shipping industry is vital for the information sharing of the ReCAAP. Our information is based on the incident reporting

by ships to the coastal States, which share the information, through their FPs, with the Centre. Incident reporting by ships is also important for coastal States to respond to incidents. The Centre has been engaging the shipping industry to encourage immediate incident reporting to the nearest coastal State as well as to raise their awareness on the updated situation of piracy and sea robbery.

In 2019, the Centre organised two major annual meetings to engage the maritime community, particularly the shipping industry. The first was the Nautical Forum in January 2019 to present the Annual Report 2018 and the second was the ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference in April 2019 during Singapore Maritime Week. Both meetings gathered 150 participants each.

Advocating the Primary Role of Coastal States for an Effective Incident Reporting and Response Mechanism in Asia

While shipping is global, the security and safety conditions vessels face differ from region to region, depending on the natural, political and economic conditions in the region and the readiness and capability of local governments to respond to maritime crimes.

Central to the ReCAAP model of regional cooperation is the recognition of the primary role of coastal States in responding to incidents within or near their waters. This is all the more important since 90% of incidents in Asia occur within territorial waters which are under the jurisdiction of coastal States. The Centre underscored this model of incident reporting and response, which has proven to be effective in reducing the incidents of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, at meetings of the IMO.

Amplifying the Profile and Reach of ReCAAP ISC

In 2019, the Centre continued to diligently implement its Blueprint for Profiling and Branding which was approved at the 12th GC Meeting in 2018.

Recognising the importance of digital channels of communication, the Centre continued to place priority on amplifying all its Periodic Reports as well as Warnings and Alerts on the ReCAAP ISC website, the ReCAAP mobile app, as well as social media channels, Twitter and LinkedIn. The Centre also continued its engagement with mainstream media with two half-yearly media briefings by the Executive Director. In December 2019, the Centre renewed its website to make its most important

content (information of incidents) more visible and easier to access by making major changes to the front page of the website.

In 2019, the Centre earned 1,524 traditional media hits (compared to 1,621 in 2018), 3,091 social media mentions (compared 3,444 in 2018), and an average of 1,900 unique visitors monthly to our website (compared to 1,300 in 2018).

The interest of the media in the topic of piracy and sea robbery may change with the attention of the shipping industry, which, in 2019, was largely focused on decarbonisation and digitalisation. Nonetheless, the Centre will continue to make the best efforts in engaging the media as an important stakeholder.

The Situation in Asia

In 2019, a total of 83 incidents (comprising 72 actual and 11 attempted incidents) were reported in Asia, compared to 76 incidents (62 actual and 14 attempted incidents) in 2018. Despite some increase of incidents, it was the second lowest number since 2007 and the severity level of incidents has not worsened.

Abduction of crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah

The incidents of abduction of crew for ransom decreased from 3 incidents in 2018 to 2 incidents in 2019. However, the threat of abduction of crew still remains in the area.

To help the shipping industry to make more informed decisions when it is necessary for their vessels to transit the area, the Centre published the "Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah" in collaboration with the Philippine Coast Guard in July 2019. The Guideline provides the in-depth analysis of past incidents and practical recommendations to the shipping industry.

Situation in the Singapore Strait

In 2019, 31 incidents out of 82 total incidents in Asia occurred in the Singapore Strait. Faced with the continued occurrence of incidents, the Centre issued six Incident Alerts on the Singapore Strait, to recommend the coastal States to strengthen the surveillance and coordination as well as to advise the shipping industry to enhance vigilance in the area.

The Singapore Strait is one of the world's busiest commercial routes, with 2,000 ships passing through every day. The Centre will continue to closely track the situation in the Singapore Strait in 2020.

The Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

Despite relatively low numbers of incidents, especially when compared to the early- to mid-2000s, the Centre should not carry on its mission in a "business as usual" way. The increase in the number of incidents in 2019 compared to 2018 is a reminder of the need for sustained vigilance. Combating piracy and armed robbery as well as capacity building requires a long-term and sustained efforts. Constant improvement of ReCAAP information sharing framework and further development of cooperation and coordination with all the stakeholders are indispensable to achieve the mission of the Centre.

Masafumi Kuroki
Executive Director
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

PART 1:

THE 13th GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ReCAAP ISC

1 OVERVIEW

The 13th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC ("the Centre") was held on 19 to 22 March 2019 in Singapore.

The Council reviewed the activities of the Centre in FY2018 and deliberated on its activities for FY2019 and beyond. The Council commended the Centre on producing positive results under the three pillars of its mission.

The Council reviewed the progress of the implementation of the Action Plan of the Roadmap and appreciated the continued progress as well as new initiatives made by the Centre as a Centre of Excellence for information sharing.

The Council encouraged the Centre to continue the mission under its mandate stipulated in the ReCAAP and its activities based on its Roadmap, by working together with the ReCAAP Contracting Parties, Focal Points, the maritime community and other stakeholders.

The Council appointed Mr. Masafumi Kuroki as the 5th Executive Director of the Centre for a three-year term beginning 1 April 2019.

On 22 March 2019, the Open Session was held with External Participants comprising representatives from three countries and 12 organisations. The session included a presentation on the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas by the Philippine Focal Point and the evolution of the Abu Sayyaf Group and implications on the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas by the think tank, RSIS.

2 VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Centre welcomed the voluntary contributions pledged/paid by ReCAAP Contracting Parties for FY2019 (1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020) as follows:

Member Countries	Singapore Dollars	Foreign Currency
Singapore	\$1,889,718	NA
Japan	\$643,208	NA
Korea (ROK)	\$173,424. ⁵⁰	KRW 150 million
Kingdom of Norway	\$134,320	USD 100,000
China	\$107,872	USD 80,000
India	\$100,656	USD 75,000
Australia	\$94,720	AUD 100,000
United States of America	\$67,400	USD50,000
Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$15,482	EUR 10,000
Total:	\$3,226,801	

The financial contribution was in addition to the secondment of staff from China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand, at ReCAAP ISC.



PART 2:

SITUATION OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA IN 2019

1 OVERALL SITUATION

A total of 83 incidents (comprising 72 actual incidents and 11 attempted incidents) were reported in Asia in 2019, compared to 76 incidents (comprising 62 actual incidents and 14 attempted incidents) in 2018. This accounts for a 9% increase in total number and 16% increase in actual incidents, compared to 2018. This is still the second lowest number since the Centre started the reports in 2007. (Chart 1 shows the number of incidents reported during 2007-2019.)

Piracy vs Armed Robbery against Ships

Of the 83 incidents reported in 2019, two were incidents of piracy (2%) and 81 were armed robbery against ships (98%). Over the 13-year period, the number of piracy incidents fluctuates each year, with an average of 12% for piracy against 88% for armed robbery against ships. Majority of the incidents of piracy in Asia occurred in the South China Sea (Refer to Chart 2).

Significance Level of incidents

Of the 72 actual incidents reported in 2019, two were CAT 1, six were CAT 2, 14 were CAT 3 and 50 were CAT 4. Similar to 2018, the two CAT 1 incidents reported in 2019 were incidents of abduction of crew for ransom.

The number of CAT 2 incidents decreased compared to 2018, while the number of CAT 3 incidents remained the same.

As in the past, the majority of the incidents were CAT 4 incidents, with perpetrators not armed and with no mistreatment or injuries to the crew.

Despite an increase of incidents from 2018, the severity level of incidents has not worsened in 2019.

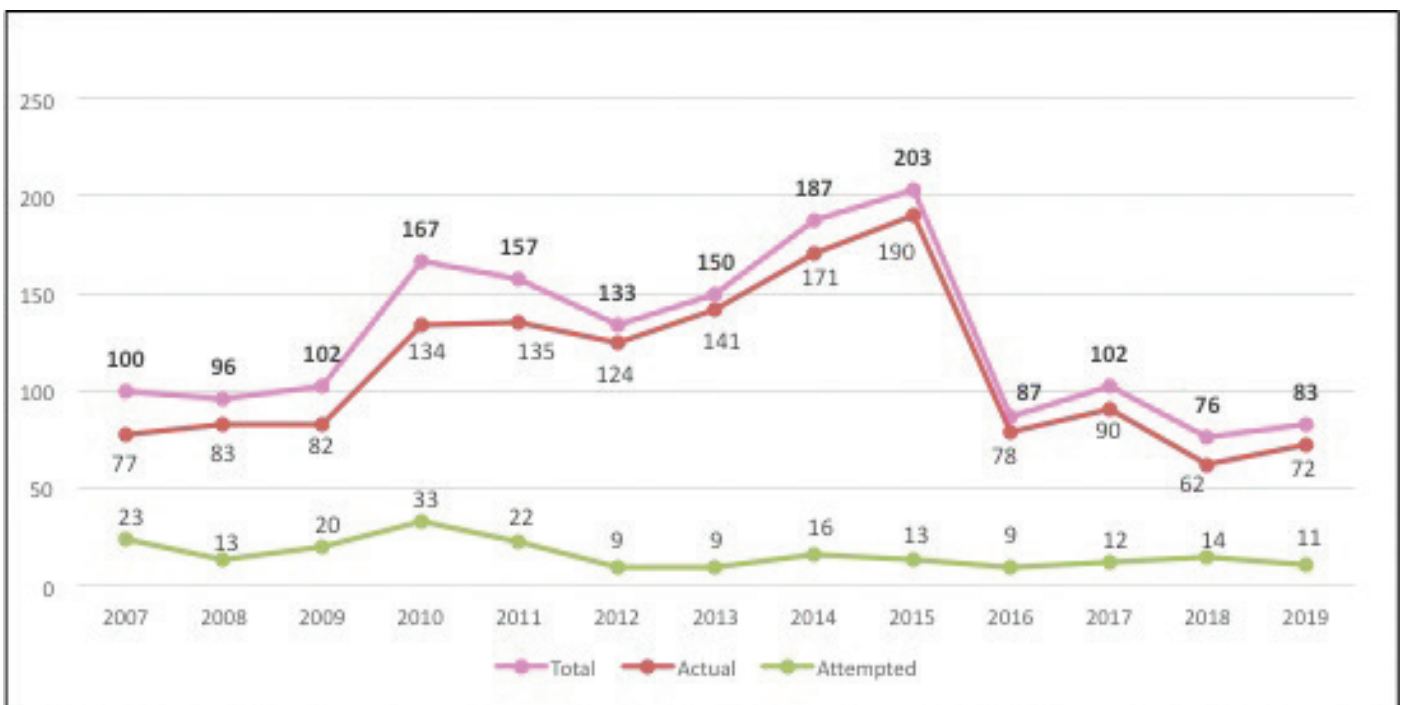


Chart 1: The number of incidents reported during 2007-2019

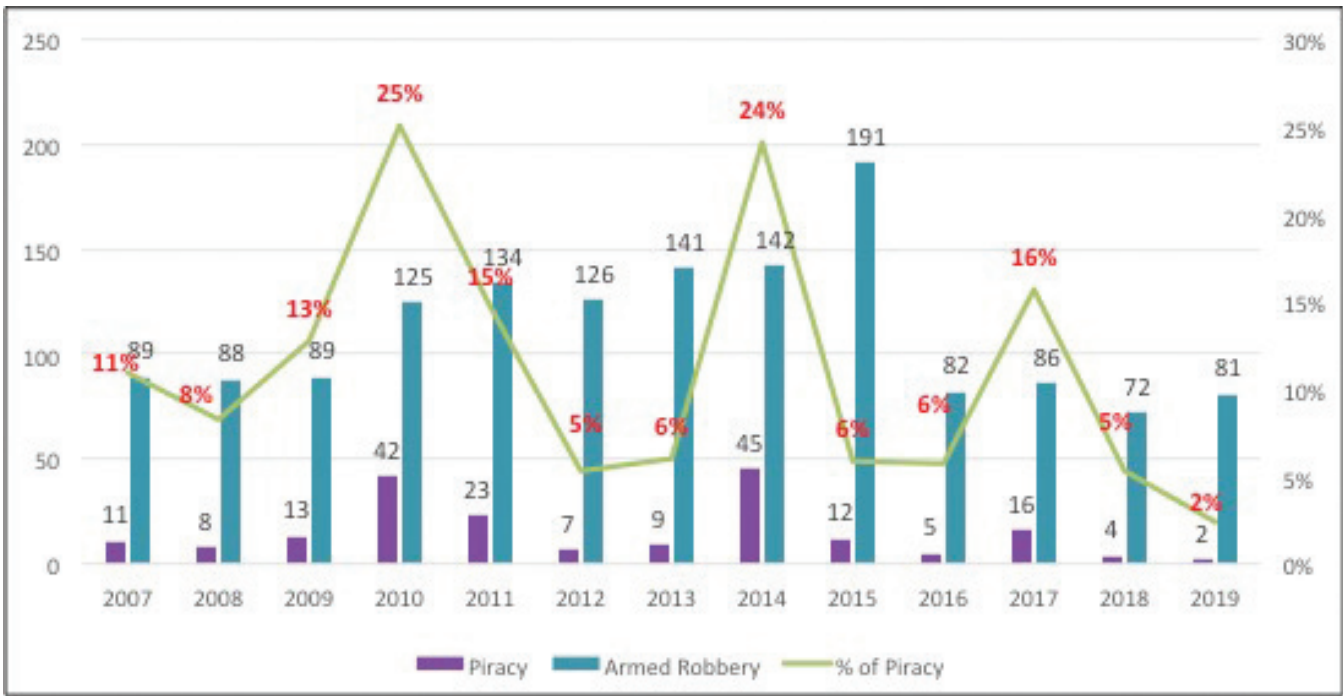


Chart 2: Incidents of piracy vs armed robbery against ships from 2007-2019

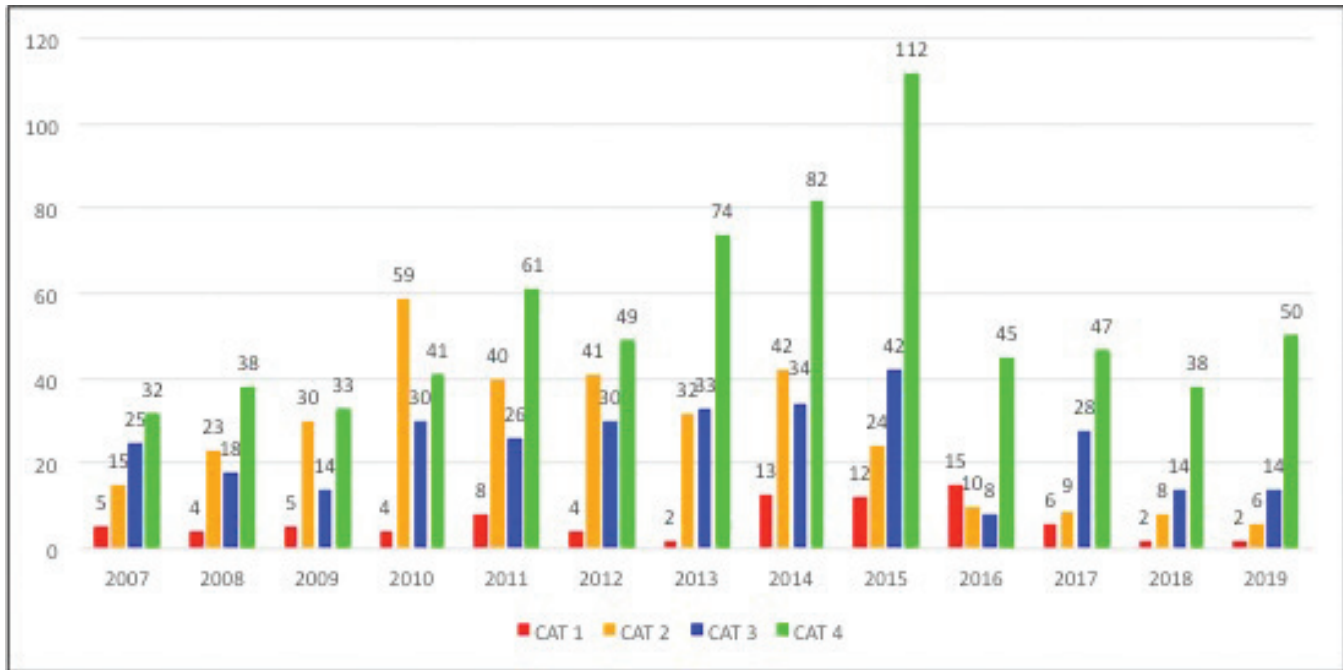


Chart 3: The significance level of incidents from 2007-2019

At Ports/Anchorages

Of the 83 incidents reported in 2019, 53% (44 incidents) occurred on board ships at ports/anchorages. Most of these incidents occurred during hours of darkness, particularly between 0000 hrs and 0559 hrs. Among the incidents reported at ports and anchorages are: Belawan, Indonesia (5), Bandar Penawar, Malaysia (5), Pulau Batam/Pulau Bintan (5) and Batangas, Philippines (4).

Ships while underway

In 2019, 47% (39 incidents) occurred on board ships while underway. The majority of the incidents took place during hours of darkness between 1800 hrs and 0559 hrs. Of the 39 incidents, 79% (31 incidents) occurred in the Singapore Strait.

Situation on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah

There was a decrease in the number of incidents of abduction of crew for ransom in 2019 compared to 2016-2018.

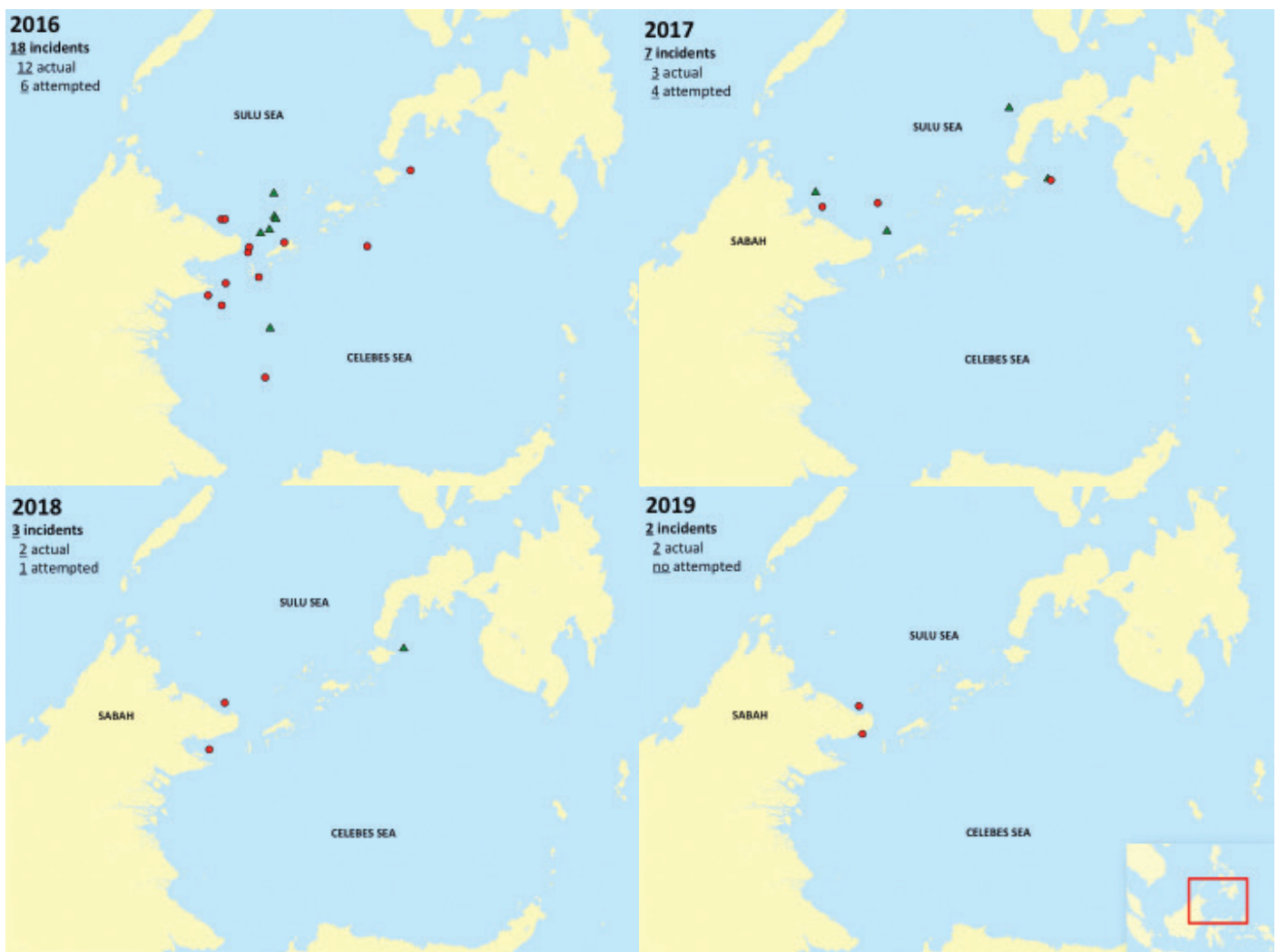
Two actual incidents of abduction of crew were reported in 2019, compared to three incidents (two actual and one attempted) in 2018, seven incidents (three actual and four attempted) in 2017, and 18 incidents (12 actual and six attempted) in 2016.

Map 1 shows the location of the incidents reported during 2016-2019.

Despite the decrease in the number of incidents, the abduction of crew for ransom remains a serious threat in the area.

The Centre maintains its advisory issued via ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to re-route from the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, 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 the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follow:



Map 1: Location of abduction incidents from 2016-2019



Map 3 - Contact details

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
 Tel: +63 998 585 7972
 +63 917 842 8446
 VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
 Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**
 Tel: +63 998 585 7941
 +63 917 842 8402
 VHF: Channel 16
 Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
 Tel: +63 955 714 0153
 VHF: Channel 16
 Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**
 Tel: +60 89863181/016
 Fax: +60 89863182
 VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
 Email: billkgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

For more information on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2019, please refer to the Annual Report 2019 of ReCAAP ISC at www.recaap.org.

2 DATA ANALYTICS PROJECT

Leveraging on technology, the Centre embarked on a data analytics project in 2017 to provide data visualisation of past incidents. There are two phases in the data analytics project.

Phase 1 of the project was to build the knowledge base to automate the data retrieval process from the Information Network System (IFN) database (which contains information of 1,628 incidents reported to the Centre from 2007 to 2019) in order to have data visualisation of past incidents, and to show trends and correlations among key factors of incidents. Data visualisation is a key interface to monitor overall situation, past trends, spot anomalies, and to perform analysis.

In 2018, the Centre explored Phase 1 of the project to provide insights on the modus operandi of perpetrators in various locations in Asia, focusing on the 'number of perpetrators', 'type of weapons carried by perpetrators', 'treatment of crew by perpetrators', 'items stolen from ships', 'type of ships boarded' and 'time of incident'.

Examples of dashboards developed for these factors include are as below.

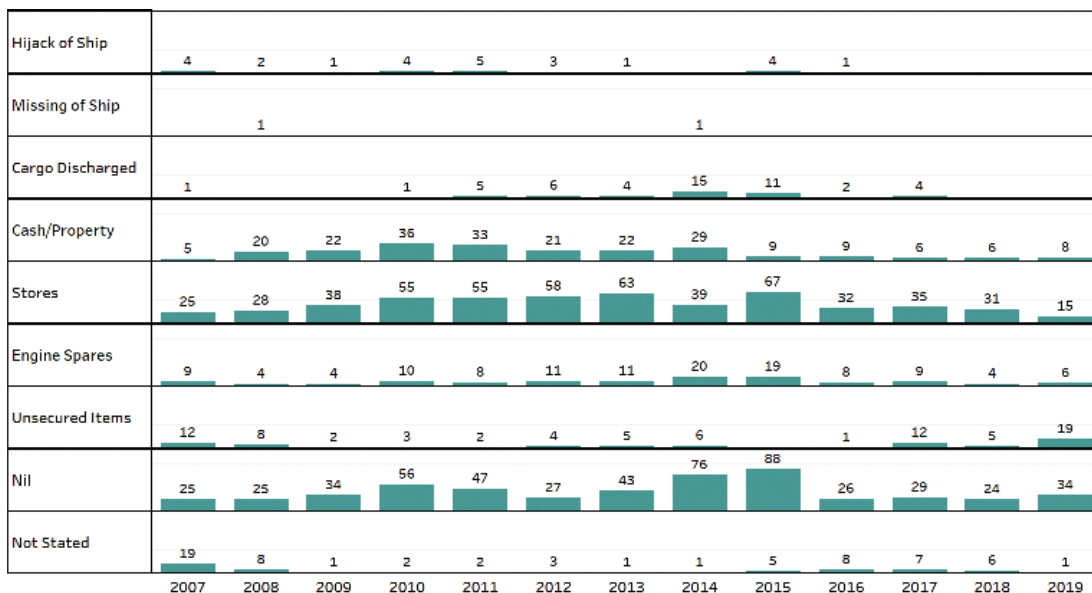


Image 1: Sample of 'Type of Stolen Items'

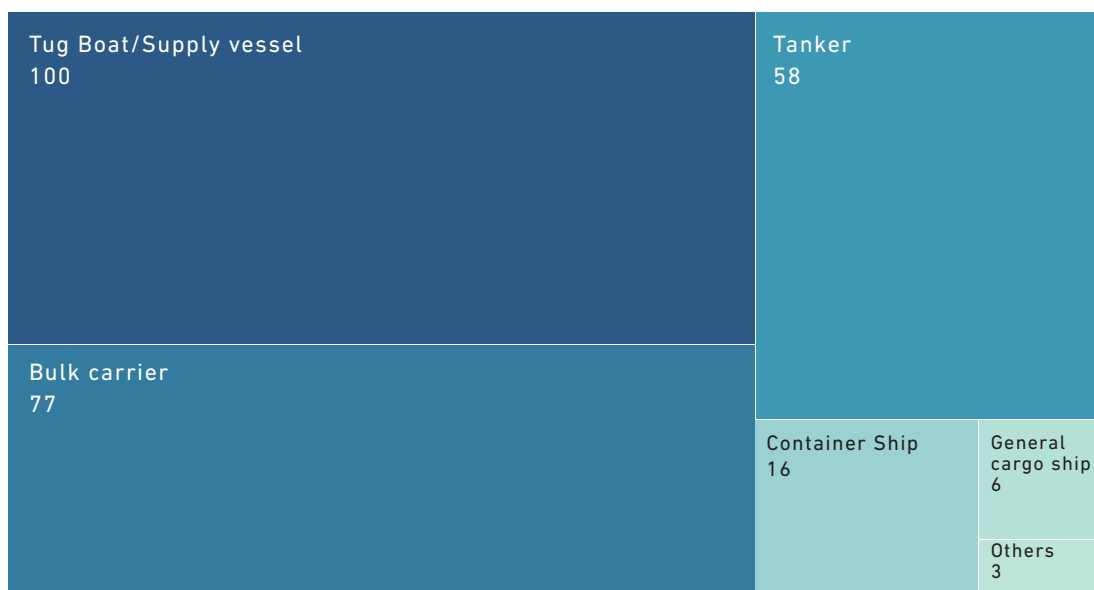


Image 2: Sample of 'Type of ships' boarded by perpetrators

Based on the dashboards of various factors, the overall analysis of the incidents for the last 13 years in Asia can be summarised as follows:

- The majority of incidents involved 4-6 perpetrators; and involved perpetrators armed with knives/machetes/others (such as rods and wooden poles)
- Knives/machetes/others were more commonly used to cut and remove ropes on board ships than to harm the crew
- About 80% of the incidents reported that the crew did not suffer any injuries or there was no information on the condition of the crew
- In 32% of the incidents, nothing was stolen since perpetrators escaped empty-handed when sighted by the crew
- Ship stores were mostly stolen items
- 63% of incidents occurred on board either tankers or bulk carriers
- Most of the incidents occurred during hours of darkness, with 60% of incidents occurred between 0000-0559 hours and 21% between 1800-2359 hours

The visual display enables the Centre to establish correlation between factors of incidents. For example, Image 3 shows the correlation between “types of ships vs. location of incident” at Singapore Strait. (Image 3).

Type of ship boarded

- Bulk carrier
- Tanker
- Container ship



Image 3: Correlation between types of ships vs location of incident (Singapore Strait)

In 2020, the Centre will further explore correlation among factors of incidents. Moving forward, the Centre hopes to include external factors such as weather conditions, sea state, etc. in order to perform broader analysis.

3 IMPROVING ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION SHARING

Accurate information

The primary source of information for Information Network System (IFN) of the Centre is the Incidents Reports (IR) of 20 Focal Points (FPs) of ReCAAP. FPs are required to send the IR to the Centre, via IFN, on all incidents within and outside their territorial waters, based on reporting by the ships, shipping companies, other governmental agencies, etc. The FPs are also required to verify the details of incidents for accurate information before sending IR.

The sources of information of the Centre are from FPs and others, such as IMO and other regional authorities. Chart 4 shows the number of reports submitted by FPs compared to other sources from 2007-2019. The percentage of the reports by FPs vis-à-vis other sources has been increasing from 88% in 2018 to 93% in 2019.

This indicates that there has been further improvement in the competency and effectiveness of FPs in collating information, verifying incidents and reporting through IFN. This increase of reports from FPs also demonstrates the confidence between the original sources of information (such as ships, shipping companies, governmental agencies, etc.) and FPs in sharing information.

Since the FPs verify the details of incidents before reporting to the Centre, the increasing rate of FPs' reports in the total incidents indicates the improvement of accuracy of information.

Timeliness of Reporting

Chart 5 shows the number of Incident Reports (IRs) submitted by FPs to the Centre during 2007-2019. The timeliness of reporting by FPs can be measured by the duration between the time of the incident and the time of the IR submitted by FPs.

Of a total of 1268 IRs submitted by FPs to the Centre, 29% were submitted within 24 hours, 25% submitted between 1 to 5 days, 46% took more than 5 days.

Although there has been improvement in the timeliness of reporting in 2019 compared to the previous 12 years, there is still room for further improvement.

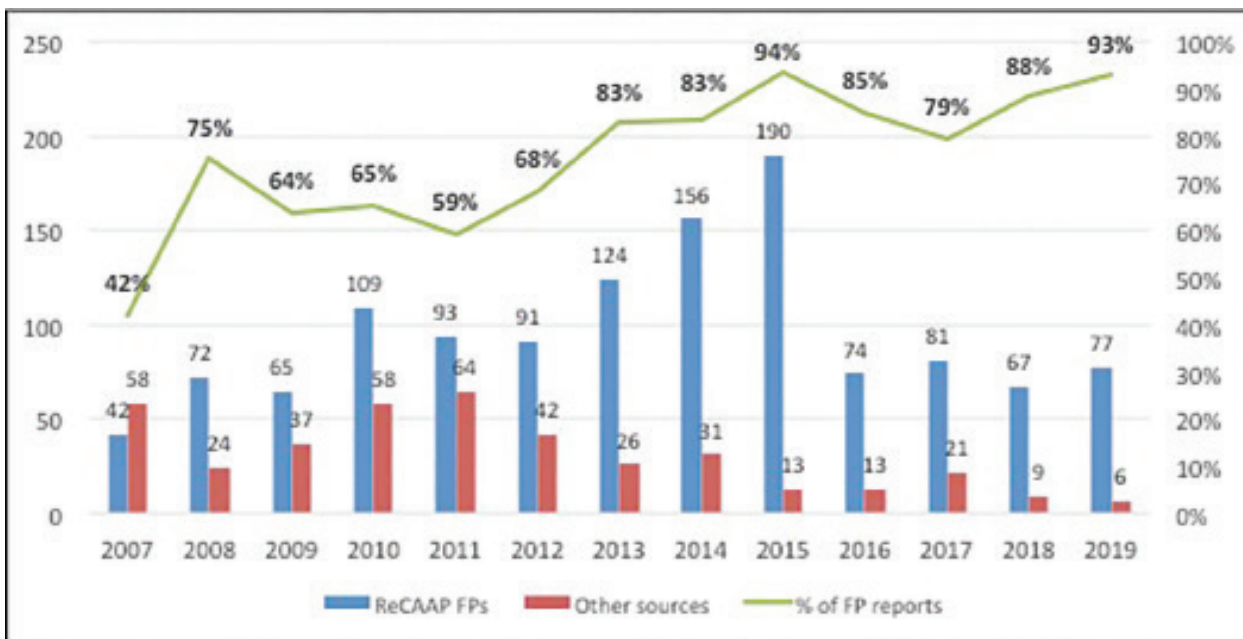


Chart 4: Number of reports submitted by FPs and other sources of information during 2007-2019

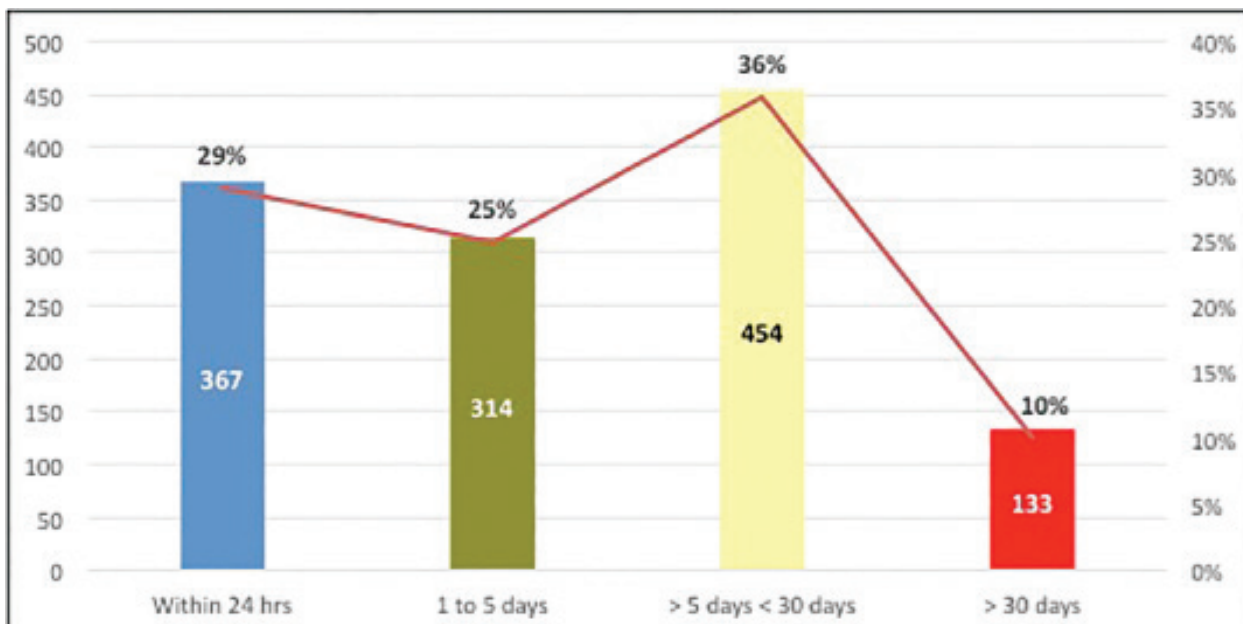


Chart 5: Number of Incident Reports (IRs) submitted by FPs to the Centre during 2007-2019

4 PRODUCTS OF ReCAAP ISC

The key deliverables of the Centre are composed of two; one on an ad hoc basis and the other on a periodic basis. When the situation warrants, in particular for serious incidents or a series of incidents, the Centre issues Warnings, Incident Alerts and Special Reports. The Centre also produces periodic reports with statistics and analysis on a weekly and monthly basis. All the products are disseminated by e-mail to the relevant stakeholders, and by the Centre's digital platforms such as its website, Mobile App, and socialmedia channels.

Since 2017, the Centre is sending hardcopies of the Annual Report and Half-Yearly Report to maritime universities, training academies and research institutes for their reading and retention in libraries.

Warning

The Centre issues a Warning to the maritime community to provide timely information and advice. As the timeliness is a key, a Warning is issued with validated information of Focal Point, while pending the formal Incident Report of FP.

In 2019, the Centre issued a Warning on 18 June on an abduction of crew incident that occurred off Semporna, Sabah, within 24 hours of the incident, after the Philippine FP had validated information of media reports.

WARNING

18/JUNE/2019

1. **Category:** Abduction of crew
2. **Description:** On 18 June 2019 at 0245 hours, an abduction of crew incident occurred off Semporna, Sabah on board two Malaysian Flag fishing boats. The two fishing boats accordingly were in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters and heading towards Semporna when they were hijacked by gunmen, believed to be heavily armed, in speedboats. Accordingly, the perpetrators have taken four of the six crew members in the first fishing boat and six of the 10 crew members in the second boat.
3. **Source:** Media Report
4. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the area.
5. Any further information on this incident is appreciated.

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

Email: info@recaap.org

Tel: +65 6376 3084

Fax: +65 6376 3066

THIS WARNING IS PENDING VERIFICATION BY THE ReCAAP ISC

Incident Alert

Incident Alert is issued on a serious incident or a series of incidents, based on the verified information of Incident Report by FP.

In 2019, ReCAAP ISC issued nine Incident Alerts. They are:

- "Incidents in Singapore Strait during January-April 2019" issued on 25 April
- "Abduction of Crew from two fishing boats" on 18 June
- "Piracy on board bulk carrier in South China Sea" on 23 July
- "Abduction of crew from Fishing Boat" on 26 September
- "Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait" on 23 October
- "Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part II)" on 29 November
- "Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part III)" on 21 December
- "Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part IV)" on 23 December
- "Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part V)" on 25 December

Image 4: Warning issued on 18 June 2019

29 November 2019



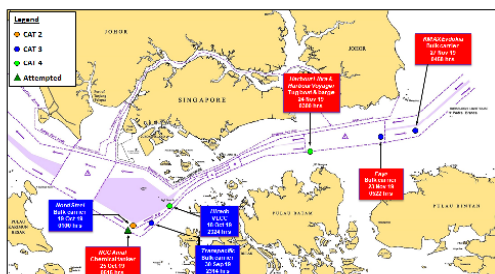
Incident Alert

Incidents involving ships while underway in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (Part II)

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
21 Media Circle, #05-04
Singapore 139562
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Fax : (65) 6376 3066
Web : <http://www.recaap.org>

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Incident Alert



Map 1 - Approximate location of the incidents in the eastbound lane of Singapore Strait (September - November 2019)

Observations

1. The modus operandi of the perpetrators in the four incidents reported in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait in October and November are summarized in table below.

Ship Name	Actual Incidents			Attempted Incident
	Faye	Harbour Libra & Harbour Voyager	KMAX Evdokia	NCC Amal
Date/Time (local time)	23 Nov at 0222 hrs	24 Nov at 0300 hrs	27 Nov at 0450 hrs	25 Oct at 0515 hrs
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Tug boat & barge	Bulk carrier	Chemical tanker
Gross tonnage	38,737	163	41,662	29,168
No. of perpetrators	5	2	5	4
Weapons carried	Long knives	Not stated	Knife	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No confrontation	No injuries	Duty officer was grabbed & had a knife pointed at him	No injuries
Items stolen	Nothing stolen	Towst lock & ropes	Nothing stolen	Nothing stolen

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Periodic Reports

The Centre issues Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Reports. These reports provide an updated situation including statistics, analysis on the modus operandi of perpetrators and recommendations.



Image 6: Examples of ReCAAP ISC Periodic Reports in 2019

5 ReCAAP ISC MOBILE APP

Launched in 2014 and enhanced in 2018, the ReCAAP app contains three modules, i.e. Directory (contacts of ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point), Publications and Incident Reporting module. The Incident Reporting module has a GPS-aided capability to enable an incident report from a ship to be automatically disseminated to the FPs of the sender and the Flag State, and the nearest Coastal State (if these States are ReCAAP Member Countries). The ReCAAP app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play Store.

One can also download it from the QR code (as shown):



Image 5: Incident Alert issued on 29 November 2019



PART 3:

CAPACITY BUILDING

1 OVERVIEW

FPs play an important role in combating piracy and sea robbery, particularly for information sharing of ReCAAP. The capacity building activities of the Centre are designed to enhance the capability of FPs in assuming their role and functions. Common objectives of these activities are (i) to raise awareness of the latest situation and to share best practices, (ii) to operate efficiently the ReCAAP Information Network (IFN) System for incident reporting, (iii) to enhance knowledge of maritime law enforcement, (iv) to strengthen FP network and (v) to promote inter-agency coordination and engagement with shipping industry.

The Centre organises various capacity building programmes which are differentiated in terms of the scope and depth of topics covered as well as the targeted participants so that they can meet the evolving needs of FPs officers across operators to senior officers.

Beyond addressing traditional challenges, the Centre has also continued to incorporate topical issues as well as evolving threats into its capacity building programmes. The topics covered in 2019 included international laws and codes relevant to piracy and sea robbery (UNCLOS, SUA Convention, Hostage Convention, ISPS Code, etc), domestic piracy legislation, the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah and maritime cybersecurity.

In 2019, the Centre organised the following programmes, in accordance with the "Guidelines on Capacity Building Activities" adopted at the 13th GC Meeting in March 2019.

2 12th CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP, NEW DELHI, INDIA (19 to 20 June 2019)

India Focal Point (Indian Coast Guard) hosted the 12th Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) from 19 to 20 June in New Delhi.

The Centre invited 2 officers from 20 Contracting Parties. A total of 32 officers of maritime law

enforcement and regulatory agencies from 17 Contracting Parties as well as Indonesia and Malaysia participated in CBW.

As the host country, India shared with participants its experiences (anti-piracy mechanism by India Coast Guard, investigation and prosecution procedures by DG Shipping, industry's perspective by Indian Shipowners' Association).

The focus of the programme was to enhance the capability of FPs for timely and accurate information sharing, including understanding of the role and functions of FP, table-top exercise on incident reporting through IFN and group discussion on the issues of timeliness of reporting. To promote the rule of law for maritime law enforcement, the programme included a lecture of international maritime laws and codes by an external legal expert.

3 3rd CAPACITY BUILDING EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME, SINGAPORE (8 to 13 September 2019)

The 3rd Capacity Building Executive Programme (CBEP) was co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore from 8 to 13 September in Singapore.

Launched in 2017, CBEP has been positioned as one of the Centre's flagship programmes inviting senior officers of FP from all 20 ReCAAP Contracting Parties as well as Indonesia and Malaysia.

In 2019, 21 senior officers from FP and Indonesia and Malaysia participated in the CBEP. During 5 days, the programme covered broad subjects; the situation of piracy in Asia and in Africa, sharing of experiences of Singapore (cooperation of MPA with ReCAAP, Cybersecurity Operation Centre), Japan (MDA, Somali piracy case), Philippines (advisory on Sulu-Celebes seas), Thailand (inter-agency coordination by Thai-MECC), Bangladesh (actions against petty thefts), Australia (various tasks and

multi-agency forces, MDA), Malaysia (case studies in Malaysian waters), and UNODC (initiatives in South-East Asia).

Two external legal experts from Singapore and Japan gave lectures on UNCLOS and international maritime codes and conducted scenario-based group discussion.

The participants also conducted an intensive and fruitful dialogue with shipping companies after the presentation of the companies on their concerns and requests related with piracy and sea robbery.

4 12th CAPACITY BUILDING SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING, HANOI, VIETNAM (9 to 12 December 2019)

The former Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (FPSOM) was renamed as the Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting (CBSOM) at the 13th Governor Council Meeting. In 2019, Senior Officers of 17 FPs as well as from Indonesia and Malaysia participated in CBSOM from 9 to 12 December in Hanoi.

As the host country, Vietnam shared its experiences (operational mechanism by Vietnam Coast Guard, maritime security and safety actions by Vinamarine, measures taken by shipping industry).

The presentations of other FPs were made by Korea ('Bluebell' incident), Philippines (Sulu-Celebes Seas), India (incidents at Kandla port), UK (situation in Gulf of Guinea), Indonesia (integrated information system) and Malaysia (incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore).

During the group discussion, the participants discussed on two topics; (i) how to improve engagement with shipping companies and inter-agency communication for timely reporting, (ii) introduction of "Post-incident Report" by FP on investigation, arrest and prosecution. FPs agreed to initiate "Post-incident Report" to follow up the Incident Report. Complementing the programme, a professor of the World Maritime University gave a lecture on international maritime laws and their applications with a scenario-based exercise.

5 10th CLUSTER MEETING, MANILA, PHILIPPINES (18 to 19 December 2019)

The Cluster Meeting is organised by the Centre to have discussions on specific issues in a sub-region to enhance the capability and cooperation of the FPs concerned.

Recognising that the situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remained a concern for the shipping industry, the Centre and Philippine Focal Point (the Philippine Coast Guard) co-organised a Cluster Meeting in Manila from 18 to 19 December to deepen cooperation among agencies in the Philippines and with other littoral States as well as to enhance maritime safety and security in the area.

The participants received comprehensive information on the measures (law enforcement, military, economic and social) taken by the Philippine authorities and various aspects of terrorist groups in Mindanao. The meeting also examined in-depth the possible linkage between piracy and terrorism, using the abduction of crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas as a case study, where most of the abductions of crew for ransom are claimed by the Abu Sayyaf Group, an Islamic terrorist group in the southern Philippines.

6 3RD FOCAL POINT TRAINING PROGRAMME, SINGAPORE (14 to 15 January 2019)

Following encouraging feedback from the 1st and 2nd Focal Point Training Programme (FPTP), the Centre conducted the 3rd FPTP from 14 to 15 January 2019 in Singapore.

The aim of the programme is to train new Focal Point staff who are responsible for the operations of the Focal Point in their countries. The participants were from the FP of Cambodia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam. The programme included the learning of the role and functions of FP and training of the incident reporting process via the IFN System. The programme also included the participation in the Nautical Forum organised by the Centre on 15 January, and a visit to the Port Operations Control Centre of Singapore.



A focus of the 12th CBW held in New Delhi, was to strengthen the knowledge of the functions of FP and table-top exercise of reporting



A highlight of the 3rd CBEP in Singapore was a highly interactive panel discussion with the shipping industry



The CBSOM in Hanoi shared case studies in various locations and discussed timely reporting and post-incident reporting



The Cluster Meeting in Manila tool stock of the progress made in Sulu-Celebes Seas and confirmed the importance regional cooperation.

7 BILATERAL VISITS TO FOCAL POINTS

The Centre has increased bilateral visits to FP in 2019 to better understand the operations and to discuss specific issues of individual FP. Three bilateral visits and three bilateral meetings on the occasion of other meetings were conducted.

Bilateral Visit to Bangladesh FP (18-19 February 2019)

The Centre made a bilateral visit to the Bangladesh FP (Department of Shipping) from 18 to 19 February.

The meeting allowed the Centre to better understand the development of the capabilities of the Bangladesh FP and its challenges such as inter-agency coordination. The Centre also engaged with other governmental agencies involved in maritime security and safety such as the Coast Guard, Navy, Chittagong Port, Mongla Port, as well as the Shipowners' Association in order to promote their coordination and cooperation.

During the visit, the Centre also visited the International Maritime Academy to give a lecture to the students on the ReCAAP, activities of the Centre, and situation of piracy and armed robbery in Asia.

Bilateral Visit to Brunei Darussalam FP (27 February 2019)

The Centre made a bilateral visit to the Brunei FP (Royal Brunei Police Force) on 27 February.

The visit allowed the Centre to enhance knowledge on conditions and challenges of FP, as well as to strengthen cooperation. The Centre also explained to the new staff of FP on ReCAAP structure, mechanism of incident reporting and updated situation in Asia.

Bilateral Meeting with Norway Focal Point in London (12 June 2019)

On the occasion of IMO meeting, the Centre had a bilateral meeting with the Governor from Norway and representatives of the Norwegian FP (Norwegian Maritime Authority).

The Centre briefed to the new Head of FP on the role and functions of FP, updated situation in Asia and the upcoming meetings for FPs organised by the Centre.

Bilateral Meeting with Indian FP (20 June 2019)

On the occasion of CBW in New Delhi, the Centre had a bilateral meeting with the Indian FP (Indian Coast Guard) on 20 June.

The Centre was updated by FP on the latest situation in India especially in the anchorages and port limits of the major ports. They also discussed

the efforts made by India to reduce petty thefts at ports and anchorages. The visit reinforced the strong cooperation between the Centre and the Indian FP.

**Bilateral Visit to Cambodian FP
(14 to 15 August 2019)**

The Centre conducted a bilateral visit to the Cambodia FP (Ministry of Public Works and Transport) from 14 to 15 August.

The visit allowed the Centre to deepen its knowledge on conditions and challenges of FP, as well as to strengthen cooperation. The Centre also explained to the new staff of FP on the ReCAAP, mechanism of incident reporting, and updated situation in Asia.

**Bilateral Meeting to Vietnam FP
(9 December 2019)**

On the occasion of CBSOM in Hanoi, the Centre had a bilateral meeting with the Vietnam FP (Vietnam Coast Guard) on 9 December.

The Centre commended the Vietnam FP for the progress made at Vung Tau port, and discussed the ways to further improve inter-agency coordination and engagement with shipping industry.



Bilateral visit to Indian FP: They discussed efforts made by India to reduce petty thefts at ports/anchorages



Bilateral visit to Vietnam FP: The Centre commended the progress made at Vung Tau port



Bilateral visit to Brunei FP: The visit allowed the Centre and the FP to strengthen cooperation



PART 4:

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

1 OVERVIEW

Cooperative arrangement is the third pillar of the Centre's mission. The Centre is promoting it for the following reasons.

Firstly, since shipping is global, and no single country or organisation alone can effectively fight maritime crimes, a holistic, cooperative approach is needed.

Secondly, as an International Organisation with 20 Member Countries whose FPs range from coast guards to navies and from port authorities to regulatory agencies, ReCAAP ISC is uniquely placed to bridge the gap between government agencies and the shipping industry.

Thirdly, being linked to the wider maritime community including international organisations/associations, shipping industry and academia helps the Centre and its FPs to be current on global and regional developments that may impact piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Lastly, engagement with external stakeholders allows the Centre to disseminate accurate information on the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia and profile the ReCAAP as a successful model of regional cooperation.

The cooperative arrangement activities of the Centre include organising and participating in regional and international conferences, and partnering with international organisations/associations and universities/think tanks that share common purpose.

2 ENGAGEMENTS WITH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

Malaysia

The Centre continued to engage Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and Malaysian shipping community in 2019. The specific engagements included the following:

- On 19 August, DD-ISC had contacts with Secretary-General of Malaysia Shipowners' Association on the occasion of the Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum 2019 organised by Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners Association.

- On 9 October, ED-ISC had a bilateral meeting with VADM M Ibrahim Bin Mohamad, Deputy Director-General (Operation) of MMEA on the occasion of 15th HACGAM. They discussed areas of operational cooperation such as exchange of information and participation in the capacity building activities of the Centre.
- On 20 November, ED-ISC met the newly appointed MMEA Director General, ADM Dato Mohd Zubil Bin Mat Som, on the occasion of 2nd Coast Guard Global Summit in Japan. They exchanged information on incidents in Malaysia waters and reaffirmed operational cooperation.

In 2019, Malaysia sent officers of NSC and MMEA to participate in the Centre's capacity building activities as attendees and/or speakers at the Capacity Building Workshop, Capacity Building Executive Programme and Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting. The Centre continued to engage Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and Malaysian shipping community in 2019. The specific engagements included the following:

Indonesia

The Centre continued engagements with Indonesian government agencies in 2019. The specific engagements included the following:

- On 31 January, ED-ISC called on Director for Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed the ways to enhance operational cooperation by inviting Indonesia maritime agencies to the capacity building activities and conferences organised by the Centre.
- On 9 October, ED-ISC met RADM Hutabarat, Deputy Operations and Training of Indonesian Coast Guard (BAKAMLA), on the occasion of the 15th HACGAM in Sri Lanka. ED-ISC encouraged the participation of BAKAMLA in the capacity building activities and conferences, and discussed incidents in Indonesia waters.
- On 20 November, ED-ISC had a bilateral meeting with RADM S. Irawan, Executive Secretary of BAKAMLA, on the occasion of the 2nd Coast Guard Global Summit. They had useful exchange

of views on the current incidents in Asia and the enhancement of operational cooperation.

In 2019, Indonesia sent officers from BAKAMLA to participate in the Centre's capacity building activities as attendees and/or speakers at Nautical Forum, Capacity Building Workshop, Capacity Building Executive Programme, Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting, and Cluster Meeting in the Philippines.



ED-ISC and MMEA Director General ADM Dato Mohd Zubil Bin Mat Som reaffirmed operational cooperation



ED-ISC and RADM S. Irawan, Executive Secretary of BAKAMLA exchanged views on the situation in Asia and operational cooperation

3 ENGAGEMENTS WITH MULTILATERAL REGIMES INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

2nd UNODC's Contact Group on Maritime Crime in the Sulu and Celebes Sea, Manila, Philippines (19 to 20 February 2019)

The 2nd meeting of the Contact Group was co-organised by UNODC and the Philippine National Coast Watch Center from 19 to 20 February. Based on the outcomes and recommendations of the 1st meeting, the national delegates of the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia presented the updates on maritime crime trends in Sulu-Celebes Seas, shared

responses undertaken, and prioritised actions to take forward.

The Centre was invited and made a presentation on its assessment of the abduction of crew and participated in the Working Group discussion.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop, Nha Trang, Vietnam (26 to 27 February 2019)

The ARF workshop, on the theme of enacting UNCLOS and other international instruments to address emerging maritime issues, was co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia from 26 to 27 February. Discussions covered wide range of topics, including challenges of traditional maritime security, emerging issues in the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, climate change and international cooperation.

The Centre was invited and DD-ISC made a presentation on the development of the Centre and the latest situation in Asia.

High-Level Workshop on the Implementation of the Jeddah Amendment to Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) 2017, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (23 to 25 April 2019)

The High-Level Workshop was hosted by the Saudi Border Guard from 23 to 25 April. Its main agenda was to discuss the implementation of agreed priorities, including a roadmap for operationalisation of National Maritime Information Centres and enhancement of information sharing network to fight against maritime crimes outlined in the Jeddah Amendment.

The Centre was invited and the meeting gave a good opportunity to the Centre to understand the latest development and challenges of the DCoC as well as to establish network with other international partners.

Maritime Information Sharing Exercise (MARISX) 2019, Singapore (13 to 15 May 2019)

Hosted by the Information Fusion Centre (IFC), the MARISX 2019 was held from 13 to 15 May in Changi Naval Base. The exercise involved navies and coast guards from 36 countries, representatives from the shipping industry as well as international organisations.

The main focus was the exercise on info-sharing process. The new IFC Real-time Information-Sharing System (IRIS) was launched and used in the exercise.

IMO 101st Session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) Meeting and 122nd Council Meeting, London, United Kingdom (5-14 June 2019 and 15-19 July 2019)

The Centre attended the 101st MSC Meeting held in June and 122nd IMO Council Meeting held in July, as an observer.

At the MSC Meeting, ED-ISC made an intervention to highlight the ReCAAP model of incident reporting and response in Asia which attributes the primary role to coastal States. The position of the Centre was supported by several ReCAAP Contracting Parties as well as other IMO Member Countries. The Centre also submitted an Information Paper to update the committee on the latest situation in Asia.

At the IMO Council Meeting in July, the Centre tabled an Information Paper, co-sponsored by ten Contracting Parties of ReCAAP. ED-ISC made a brief presentation of the Paper which highlighted the ReCAAP model of incident reporting and response in Asia as a framework which has produced positive results.

Lecture at World Maritime University (WMU), Malmo, Sweden (18 June 2019)

The Centre conducted a lecture at WMU on 18 June to the undergraduates on the ReCAAP reporting and response framework including the role of FP and shipping industry, activities of the Centre and the situation in Asia.

During the visit, a meeting was held with WMU professors to explore the scope of a joint research project.

Working Level Meeting for 15th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), Colombo, Sri Lanka (9 to 11 July 2019)

The WLM of the 15th HACGAM was hosted by Sri Lanka Coast Guard from 9 to 11 July. The WLM conducted intensive discussion in four Working Groups for the preparation of the High-Level Meeting. The Centre attended the meeting as Associate Member and used the opportunity to engage HACGAM members.

Lecture at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Training Course, Tokyo, Japan (10 July 2019)

The Centre was invited, as in the previous years, to make a presentation at the JICA Training Course for Maritime Law Enforcement in Asia and off coast

of Somalia. The Centre presented ReCAAP and the latest situation in Asia.

15th High Level Meeting of HACGAM, Colombo, Sri Lanka (8 to 10 October 2019)

The 15th HACGAM was hosted by Sri Lanka Coast Guard from 8 to 10 October and attended by 22 Member States/Region, ReCAAP ISC (Associate Member) and three Observers, namely France, Bali Process and UNODC.

ED-ISC made a presentation at the plenary on the role of the Centre for promoting regional cooperation and the latest situation in Asia.

Galle Dialogue 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka (21 to 22 October 2019)

The Galle Dialogue International Maritime Conference 2019, annually organised by the Sri Lanka Navy, was held from 21 to 22 October. The theme of the conference was "Refining Mindset to Address Transnational Maritime Threats: A Review of the Decade". Both local and international defence partners, security experts and analysts made presentations on a wide range of topics. The dialogue aimed to foster regional maritime cooperation and formulate a global strategy to face common maritime challenges. At the invitation, the Centre attended the meeting and engaged other participants.

Border Security Workshop on Piracy, Armed Robbery and Kidnap for Ransom, Semarang, Indonesia (4 to 8 November 2019)

The workshop was organised by the Maritime Border Command, Australia Border Force from 4 to 8 November at Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, Semarang, Indonesia. The workshop aimed to build inter-agency cooperation and promote information sharing. It was attended by officers of Coast Guard and Marine/National Police from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The Centre was invited to make a presentation on the latest piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia. The workshop has successfully paved the way for bridging the gap, to establish good working relationship and strengthen informal and formal information sharing.

2nd Coast Guard Global Summit 2019, Tokyo, Japan (19 to 22 November 2019)

The Japan Coast Guard and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the 2nd Coast Guard Global Summit 2019

from 19 to 22 November. The aim of the Summit was to promote collaboration and cooperation among coast guards worldwide in coping with maritime disasters, maritime incidents, transnational maritime crimes and new challenges. The main agenda items were Meeting Guidelines, information sharing method among Members and human resource development.

The Centre was invited to the meeting and ED-ISC made a presentation on the experience of ReCAAP in information sharing and capacity building in relation with the agenda items, and the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia.



ReCAAP ISC participated in the 15th HACGAM in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where ED-ISC addressed the delegates on the latest situation in Asia



ED-ISC delivered a presentation on ReCAAP's experience and the latest situation in Asia at the 2nd Coast Guard Global Summit, Tokyo, Japan

4 ENGAGEMENT WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY

10th Nautical Forum, Singapore (15 January 2019)

The Centre organised the 10th Nautical Forum, supported by Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore and the Singapore Shipping Association on 15 January in Singapore.

At the annually organised Forum, the Centre released the Annual Report 2018 and presented the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2018.

150 participants from the shipping industry, international and regional shipping associations, representatives of the Embassies (ReCAAP Member and other countries) in Singapore, regional authorities, academic, and other stakeholders attended the Forum.

11th ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2019, Singapore (9 April 2019)

The annual Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2019 was held on 9 April. The conference was organised by the Centre jointly with BIMCO, INTERTANKO and RSIS during the Singapore Maritime Week.

A highlight of the conference was the keynote address delivered by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, former Secretary General of the IMO. Mr Sekimizu reviewed the history of IMO's activities on maritime safety and piracy, covering the establishment of ReCAAP, Contact Group on Somali piracy, Djibouti Code of Conduct and Best Management Practices, from his wide experience in the context of Maritime Governance by IMO.

The Conference, attended by some 150 participants, provided a forum for international and regional shipping associations, shipping companies, enforcement agencies and academic experts to share views and best practices in dealing with piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and beyond.

20th Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHoMSA) Forum, Seoul, Korea (14 to 17 April 2019)

The 20th Session of the APHoMSA Forum was held from 14 to 17 April, during the Korean Maritime Week. Twenty-two Members Agencies attended the meeting, including IMO, ReCAAP ISC, IALA, Tokyo MOU and SPC.

The Centre presented the updated situation in Asia and have a meeting with Korean FP and the Korean Shipping Association.

28th Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) Annual General Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand (27 to 29 May 2019)

The Centre attended the Shipping Forum of the 28th ASA Meeting held from 27 to 29 May in Bangkok, Thailand.

ED-ISC made a presentation on the latest situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia and shared the efforts of the Centre and FPs.

Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners Association (SSSA) Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum (19 to 20 August 2019)

The SSSA organised the Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum 2019 on 19 August in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia.

As a guest speaker, the Centre presented the latest piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia with focus on the abduction of crew for ransom off Eastern Sabah. The Centre distributed the "Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah" to the members of SSSA.

Safety4Sea Singapore Forum, Singapore (14 November 2019)

The Safety4Sea (Greek maritime media) organised Singapore Forum on 14 November with the participation of more than 100 members of the shipping industry based in Singapore.

ED-ISC was invited to deliver a presentation on the ReCAAP and the latest situation in Asia. Since Safety4Sea is one of the leading medias in maritime affairs, it was a good opportunity to profile the ReCAAP.



150 participants from the shipping industry, law enforcement agencies, diplomatic community, and academic attended the 10th Nautical Forum



Chairperson of ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, Admiral Joel S. Garcia, opened the Piracy & Sea Robbery Conference



A highlight of the Piracy & Sea Robbery Conference 2019 was the keynote address by Mr. Koji Sekimizu, former IMO Secretary General



The Nautical Forum is ReCAAP ISC's main event to launch the Annual Report detailing the piracy and sea robbery situation of the previous year

5 VISITS BY MARITIME STAKEHOLDERS

10th Nautical Forum, Singapore (15 January 2019)

Hosting visits of stakeholders from governmental agencies, shipping industry and academia is an integral part of the Centre's mission to share updated and accurate information on the situation in Asia, and to promote better understanding on the ReCAAP model of regional cooperation.

In 2019, the visitors to the Centre included senior officials from the following organisations:

Governmental & International Organisations

- Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore
- Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Australia Maritime Border Command
- Japan Coast Guard
- Korea Coast Guard
- Norwegian Maritime Authority
- United States Coast Guard
- Information Fusion Centre (IFC)
- INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation

Industry and Academic Institutions

- International Association of Independent Tanker Owner (INTERTANKO)
- Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)
- Norwegian Shipping Association
- NYK Shipmanagement Pte Ltd
- Centre for International Law – National University of Singapore
- S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

PART 5:

PROFILING AND BRANDING
ReCAAP ISC

In 2019, the Centre continued to invest in its digital presence as a prime channel of communication and information sharing, particularly its website.

1 DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

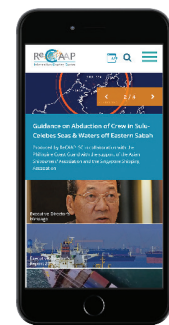
Through the tracking of visitors to the Centre's website and the feedback of shipping industry, it is clear the most frequently accessed content is the repository of information on incidents. Since the value of the Centre is timely and accurate information on incidents, the Centre has renewed its website in December 2019 to increase the visibility and accessibility of its information of incidents by displaying it on the front page of the website.

The following key changes are made on the front page of the website;

- A "live" counter of the number of incidents (actual, attempted, and categories of severity)
- A constantly updated list of incidents with the description of incidents (e.g. date and time, location, ship type, incident type, mode of attack, etc)
- Scrolling alerts on the latest incident and on the latest Incident Alert
- Slide summarising the latest situation, updated on a monthly basis
- Immediate access to all the latest periodic reports and guides of ReCAAP ISC
- Explanation on the categories of severity of incidents
- Explanation on the definition of piracy and armed robbery against ships, and the reporting framework of incidents

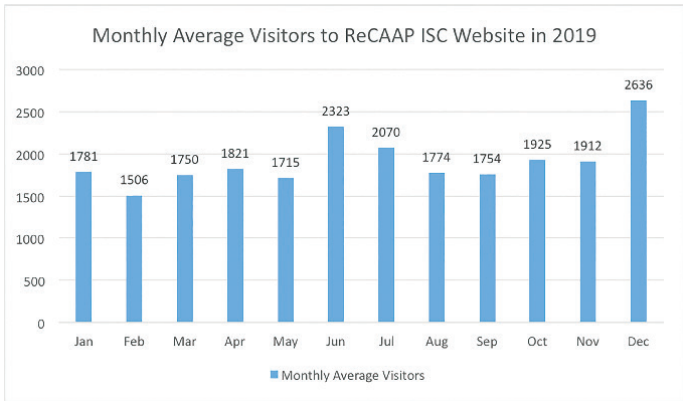
The renewed website will retain functions such as a rotating main banner to profile the latest activities of the Centre, Warning & Alerts, Interactive Incident Map and Incident Reports.

The renewed website is expected to be launched to the shipping industry at the Nautical Forum on 15 January 2020.



In 2019, the Centre made further efforts to improve the functionality of its website, by making the information of incidents more visible and accessible.

Meanwhile, the Centre's website continues to have good access. From an average of 1,300 unique visitors per month in 2018, the average monthly unique visitors in 2019 increased to 1,900.



On average, approximately 1,900 unique visitors use the ReCAAP ISC website each month

2 MEDIA REPORTS

In 2019, the Centre continued to work diligently to earn substantial coverage in influential and credible media publications as well as news broadcasts.

Some of these coverage are:

- ED-ISC held a media briefing session for Singapore-based local and international media twice in 2019; in January at the release of Annual Report 2018 and in July at the release of Half-Yearly Report. The content of the briefings was broadly covered in the following days.

- Channel NewsAsia – ED-ISC was invited on Channel NewsAsia’s flagship evening news programme Primetime Asia to provide an update on the latest situation in Asia.

- Safety4Sea – ED-ISC gave an interview to Safety4Sea, a Greece-based maritime publication dedicated to maritime safety and security on the situation in Asia, and how the Centre categorises incidents. As a result of the interview, Safety4Sea published a long article reporting the situation in Asia (“Numbers don’t say the full story”).

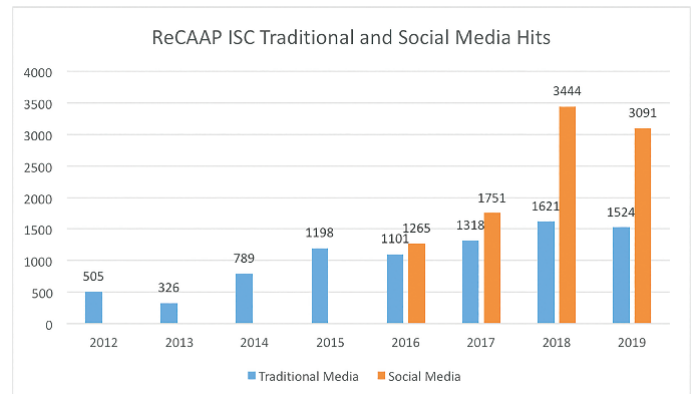
- Channel NewsAsia – Following the spike of incidents in the Singapore Strait, ED-ISC gave an interview to Channel NewsAsia on the patterns observed by the Centre and on the increased measures needed. The same evening, Channel NewsAsia published the report.

The key press releases, reports and activities of the Centre remained well covered regionally and internationally by the major maritime publications as well as by mainstream news publications including in Malaysia and Indonesia, reinforcing the credibility of the Centre as a Centre of Excellence for information sharing.



The reports of the Centre were featured regularly on regional broadcaster Channel NewsAsia in 2019

Between 1 January to 31 December 2019, the Centre earned a total of 1,524 media mentions on traditional media, and 3,091 mentions on social media. An eight-year comparison is appended below.



Eight-year comparison of traditional and social media mentions of ReCAAP ISC

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
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