



2017

Re  AAP

Information Sharing Centre

**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT 2017**



# 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

# GOAL

To be a "Centre of Excellence" for information sharing by 2020

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PREFACE

The year 2017 was the first year of the implementation of the Roadmap and I am pleased to report that ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) has made significant progress and purposeful strides in meeting the objectives stated in the Roadmap.

## **Background of the Roadmap for the Future of ReCAAP ISC**

Following the decision made at the 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC in March 2016, a Working Group was established to chart a course for ReCAAP ISC to become a "Centre of Excellence" for information sharing by 2020. After the discussions of the Working Group and consultations with the maritime community, the Working Group prepared a Report on the Future of ReCAAP ISC, including the Strategy Paper and Roadmap with Action Plan for the coming decade. The Report was endorsed by the Governors at the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting in March 2017.

Throughout 2017, the Centre focused much of its activities to make tangible progress on key objectives of the Roadmap; including embarking on the journey to incorporate data analytics to enhance our information sharing, expanding our capacity building efforts to help ReCAAP Focal Points and regional authorities deal with the evolving threat of piracy and sea robbery, deepening our international outreach through carefully selected forums and conferences, and strengthening our profiling and branding which included moving into digital platforms to reach new audiences.

## **Leveraging on Technology to Conduct Data Analytics**

ReCAAP ISC has collected the data of around 1,400 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia from 2007 to today. These data have enabled us to conduct deeper analysis on the nature of incidents in this region. As a new initiative of the Roadmap, ReCAAP ISC embarked on the Data Analytics Project in 2017 to leverage on technology in data analytics to enhance its capabilities in performing analysis, which supports its core information sharing role.



In the first phase of the Data Analytics Project, we have built the knowledge base to automate the data retrieval process from the Information Network (IFN) System database, which contains data for the past decade. This enables ReCAAP ISC to provide data visualisation of past incidents and to identify trends and correlations among key factors such as time and locations of incidents, type of victim ships, treatment of crew, type of weapons, etc. We have already started to use this tool for some analysis in our periodic reports (e.g. number of perpetrators vs. locations, treatment of crew vs. locations, type of victim ships vs. locations, etc) and we will conduct further analysis to provide stakeholders with useful information.

This analytical tool will be used as a basis to conduct predictive analytics in the second phase of the Project. This phase could eventually enable ReCAAP ISC to provide observations and patterns that serve as warnings to the maritime community.

With regard to this Data Analytics Project, I was particularly encouraged by the address of Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the IMO at the 30th Session of the IMO Assembly in November 2017, when he called on the maritime community to ride on the waves of digitalization, and exhorted IMO to leverage on technology that would allow it to perform "more detailed and deeper analysis of statistics and data so that we can really understand underlying trends and causal factors." While the Secretary General was referring to IMO's goal in reducing shipping casualties, the same principle applies to ReCAAP ISC's mission in reducing piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. IMO's clarion call to the maritime community to harness the tools of digitalization reaffirmed us that we are on the right track.

### **Building Regional Capacity**

A vital factor underpinning the reduction of piracy and sea robbery is building the capacity of ReCAAP Contracting Parties. 2017 saw numerous activities to support this objective, one of which was the launch of the inaugural Capacity Building Executive Program.

The first Capacity Building Executive Program was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore in cooperation with ReCAAP ISC, and was designed specially to build the capacity of ASEAN maritime enforcement agencies. It was conducted in Singapore and Japan from September 27 to October 6, 2017, and saw the participation of senior-level maritime enforcement personnel of ReCAAP Focal Points from ASEAN (Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) as well as representatives from Indonesia and Malaysia.

Another highlight in 2017 was the Capacity Building Workshop held in New Delhi, India, from December 10-13. The theme of the 2017 Capacity Building Workshop was "Striding over the Domestic Challenges," which aimed to enhance the capabilities of ReCAAP Focal Point officers and deepen their collaboration through the sharing of the latest situation and best practices, conducting table top exercise of reporting of incidents and networking activities.

### **Fostering Cooperative Arrangements**

Recognizing that combating piracy and armed robbery against ships is a shared responsibility, we continued to invest in efforts to promote cooperative arrangements in 2017.

To this end, we participated in a number of prominent international meetings and conferences to advance our cause to create safer and more secure Asian seas for all. These international platforms included the Council and Maritime Safety Committee meetings of the IMO, the International Seminar on Regional Cooperation for Safe and Secure Sea in February in Goa, India, the 9<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in February in Japan, and much more.

Two high-level meetings where ReCAAP ISC was able to share its experience as a model of regional cooperation were the inaugural Global Coast Guard Summit in September in Japan and the G7 High Level Meeting on Maritime Security in November in Italy.

To continue the efforts to foster dialogue and

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PREFACE

cooperation with the maritime industry, ReCAAP ISC organized the Nautical Forum 2017 in Singapore to release the Annual Report for 2016. Complementing the Nautical Forum was the ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017, which took place in Singapore in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week. These conferences once again underscored the importance of engaging diverse stakeholders including industry players and academic think tanks.

To further deepen ReCAAP ISC's partnership with the shipping industry, I was pleased to sign, in July 2017, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), the foremost authority on the safe and environmentally responsible operation of oil tankers, terminals and offshore support vessels, to advance our common interest.

## Profiling and Branding ReCAAP ISC

Recognizing the evolving trends in the media landscape as more audiences shift from traditional to digital platforms, ReCAAP ISC has established its presence on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Google. This enables us to amplify our reports and activities on new media channels and reach out to key audiences in fresh ways beyond traditional media.

Along with moving into social media, we have also embarked on a complete revision of our corporate website with new features to make it more social, searchable and useful as a tool to deliver information. The new website will also be integrated with the revised ReCAAP mobile app, allowing seamless updating of information across both channels.

Finally, to develop our own profiling assets, we have produced a new corporate video that tells the ReCAAP story in fresh, engaging ways. Complementing the new corporate video is a new corporate brochure that communicates who we are to our audiences.

## Situation of Piracy and Armed Robbery against

### **Ships in Asia: Increase in Number of Incidents but Fewer Incidents of the Most Severe Category in 2017**

To recap the overall situation in 2017, the total number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia was 101, which was an increase of 19 % compared to 85 incidents in 2016.

There were improvements in some countries such as India, Malaysia and Vietnam. The number of incidents of the most severe category (CAT 1) decreased from 13 incidents in 2016 to 6 incidents in 2017. In particular, the abduction of crew from ships in the Sulu-Celebes Seas decreased significantly from 10 incidents in 2016 to 3 incidents in 2017.

However, there were some areas of concern such as the increase of incidents in Bangladesh, the Philippines, South China Sea and the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. Oil cargo theft continued to occur although the number (3 incidents) was much lower than in 2014 and 2015. There is a need for continued high vigilance against the abduction of crew from ships in the Sulu-Celebes Seas.

## Concluding Remarks

2017 has been a busy and productive year for ReCAAP ISC. The Centre has carried out its activities with a deep sense of mission and in accordance with the Roadmap. The strides we have made would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our Governing Council and our Focal Points, as well as the larger maritime community and research institutions.

We will continue to go forward with the Roadmap to achieve the goal of becoming a Centre of Excellence, which will serve our long term goal of reducing the incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

## PART 1

# 11<sup>th</sup> GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ReCAAP ISC

## 1 OVERVIEW

The 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was held on March 14-16, 2017 at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel in Singapore.

The Governing Council commended ReCAAP ISC on producing positive results of its activities in FY2016 under three pillars of its mission, i.e. Information Sharing, Capacity Building, and Cooperative Arrangements.

A key highlight of the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting was on the Future of the ReCAAP ISC. The Working Group, established in June 2016, submitted a Report on the Future of the ReCAAP ISC to the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting. The Governing Council deliberated on the Roadmap covering the next 10 years until 2026, with a goal for ReCAAP ISC to become a "Centre of Excellence" for information sharing by 2020. The Governing Council endorsed the Report as a basis for the activities of ReCAAP ISC for the next 10 years, and instructed the Secretariat to commence the implementation of the Roadmap in the coming workyear.

The Open Session of the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting was held on March 16, 2017, with external participants from two countries and 14 organizations attending. At the Open Session, ReCAAP ISC shared with external participants information regarding its activities in FY 2016, its plan for FY 2017, the Roadmap for the Future, and the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The external participants commended the achievements of ReCAAP ISC and expressed their intention to further develop mutual cooperation.

## 2 VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Voluntary contributions towards the work of ReCAAP ISC were pledged by the Governors of Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, and the United States. As of December 31, 2017, ReCAAP ISC has received the following contributions:

	FY2017	
	SGD	Foreign Currency
Republic of Singapore	1,902,499	NA
Japan	628,087	JPY 50,246,960
Republic of Korea	184,237	KRW 150million
Kingdom of Norway	141,367	USD 100,000
People's Republic of China	111,792	USD 80,000
Republic of India	104,682	USD 75,000
United States of America	68,500	USD 50,000
Kingdom of the Netherlands	44,835	EURO 30,000
TOTAL	3,186,000	

(The voluntary contribution from Australia of SGD 100,790.00 (AUD 100,000) was received on 27 March 2018 for FY2017).

The Governing Council also expressed its appreciation to the Governments of China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand for sending their officials to ReCAAP ISC as secondees.

## PART 2

# INFORMATION SHARING

### 1 OVERVIEW

Information Sharing is the core of the three pillars of ReCAAP ISC comprising: Information Sharing, Capacity Building and Cooperative Arrangement.

The aim of information sharing at ReCAAP ISC is to provide timely and accurate information of the piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia, based on Incident Reports verified and sent by Focal Points of ReCAAP Contracting Parties. This process involves collection and verification of all data, collation and analysis of the data to produce reports that are useful for the shipping industry to have situation awareness and risk assessment, and for law enforcement agencies to deploy resources in enhancing safety and security at sea. ReCAAP ISC also issues Warning and Incident Alerts on serious incidents to give warning to shipping industry.

### 2 SITUATION OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA IN 2017

There was an increase of 19% in the number of incidents reported in 2017 compared to 2016. A total of 101 incidents (comprising 89 actual incidents and 12 attempted incidents) were reported in 2017 compared to 85 incidents in 2016. Chart 1 shows the number of incidents reported during 2008 – 2017. The increase in the number of incidents occurred in Bangladesh, Philippines, South China Sea and the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. However, there was a decrease in the number of incidents at ports and anchorages in India, Malaysia and Vietnam; and in incidents of the abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas in 2017 compared to 2016.

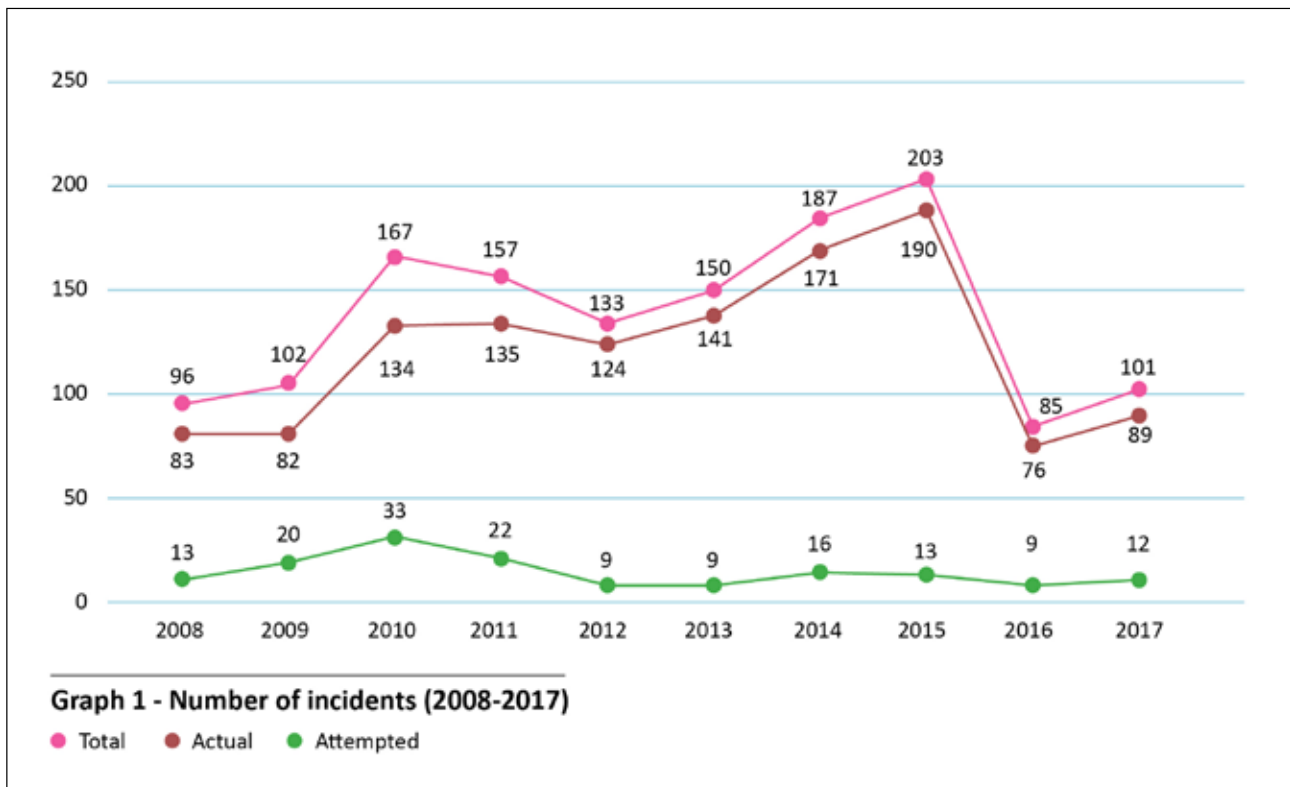


Chart 1: Number of incidents (2008-2017)



Of the 101 incidents, 16 were piracy incidents (16%) and 81 were armed robbery against ships (84%). Compared to the past two years (2015 and 2016), there was an increase in the number in the piracy

incidents in 2017. Most of these incidents occurred in the South China Sea and Sulu-Celebes Seas. Chart 2 shows the number of piracy vs armed robbery incidents during 2008-2017.

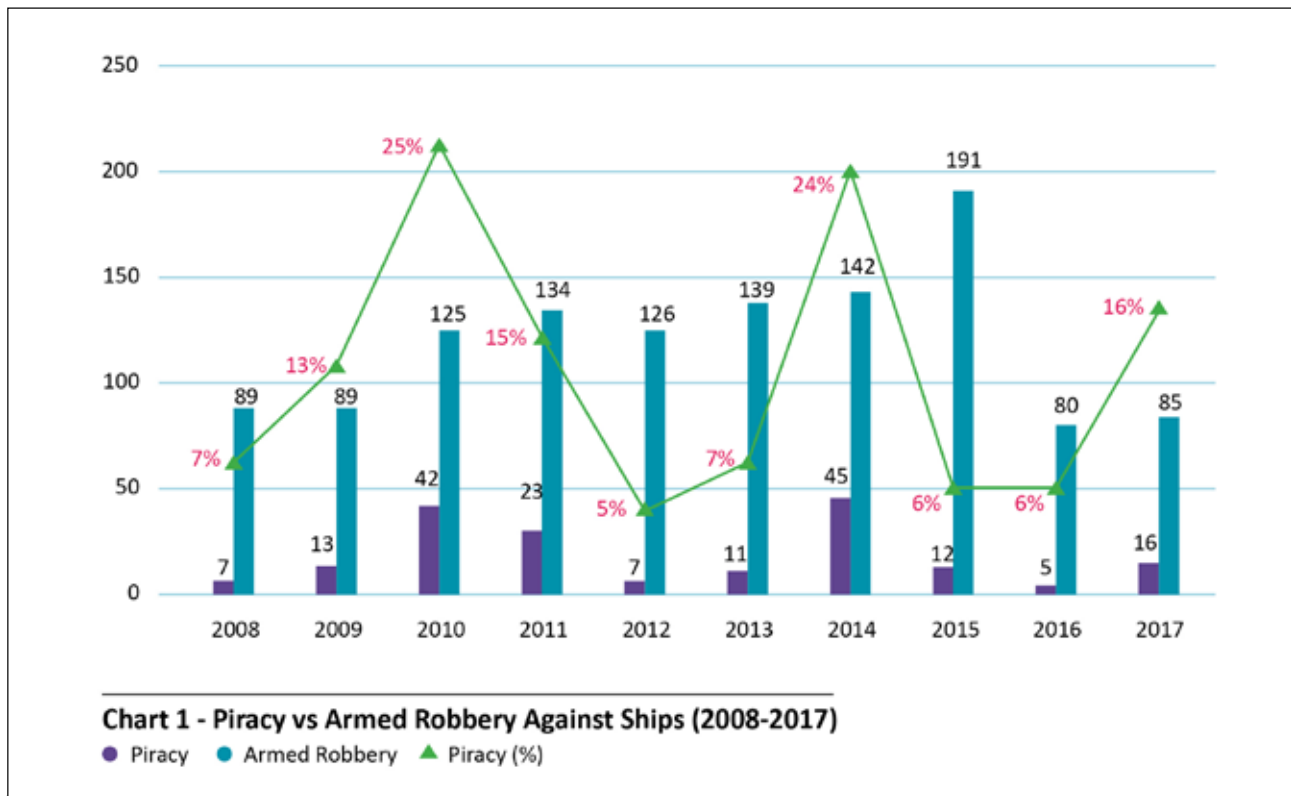


Chart 2: Piracy vs armed robbery against ships (2008-2017)

Chart 3 shows the significance level of incidents reported during 2008-2017. There was a decrease in the number of CAT 1 (the most severe) incidents in 2017 compared to the past three years (2014-2016). In 2017, the number of CAT 1 incidents has reduced by more than 50% compared to 2014-2016. In 2014 and 2015, the majority of CAT 1 incidents were hijacking of ships for theft of oil cargo. The situation changed in 2016 with a decline in the number of incidents of theft of oil cargo, but an increase in incidents of

abduction of crew for ransom. The situation in 2017 continued to improve with decline in both types of incidents. Of the six CAT 1 incidents reported in 2017, three were incidents of abduction of crew for ransom and three were incidents of hijacking of ships for theft of oil cargo. There was an increase in the number of CAT 3 and CAT 4 incidents in 2017 compared to 2016.

## PART 2

# INFORMATION SHARING

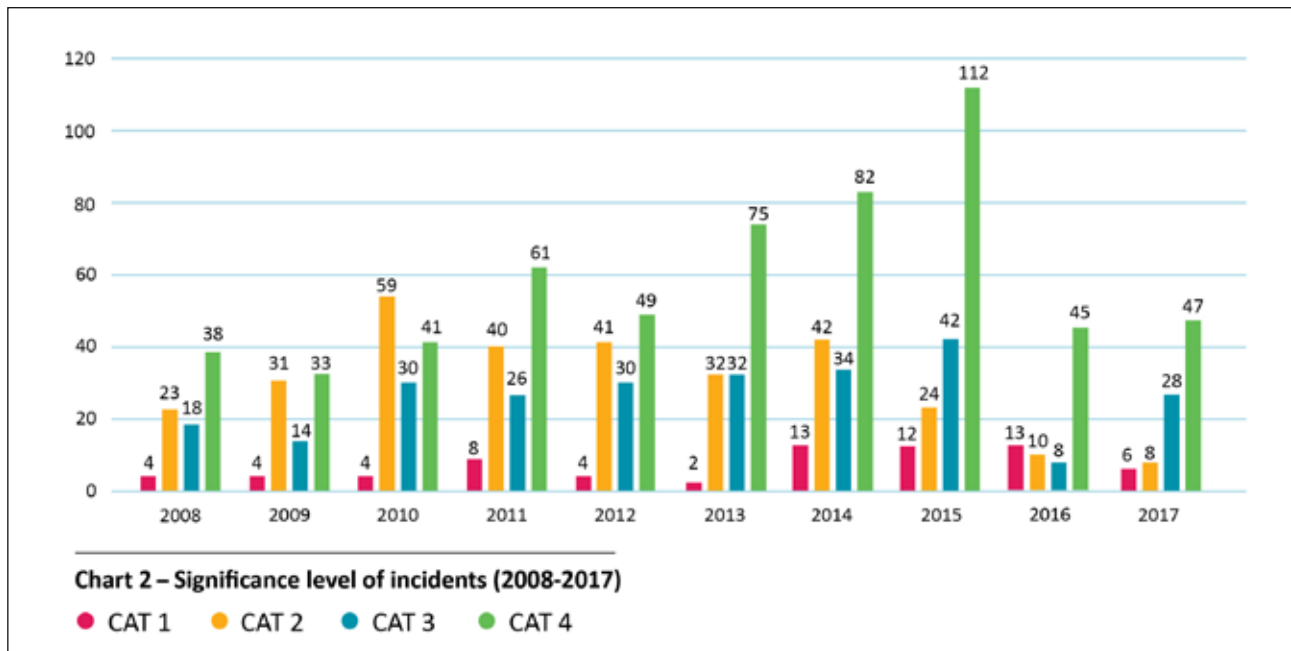


Chart 3: Significance level of incidents (2008-2017)

In 2017, the decrease of incidents of the abduction of crew for ransom, and at ports and anchorages in India, Malaysia and Vietnam demonstrates the effectiveness of the information sharing mechanism of ReCAAP and the close cooperation among ReCAAP ISC, ReCAAP Focal Points, regional authorities and the shipping industry. However, more need to be done in Bangladesh, the Philippines, South China Sea and Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

For more details of the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, please refer to the ReCAAP ISC Annual Report for 2017.

### 3 NEW ACTIONS UNDER THE ROADMAP FOR INFORMATION SHARING

At the 11<sup>th</sup> ReCAAP ISC Governing Council Meeting in March 2017, the Governing Council set the goal for ReCAAP ISC to be a “Centre of Excellence” for information sharing by 2020. One key attributes of a “Centre of Excellence” for ReCAAP ISC is to enhance its capability of timely and accurate information sharing by leveraging on technology to enable the ReCAAP ISC to conduct robust and rigorous analysis of the situation.

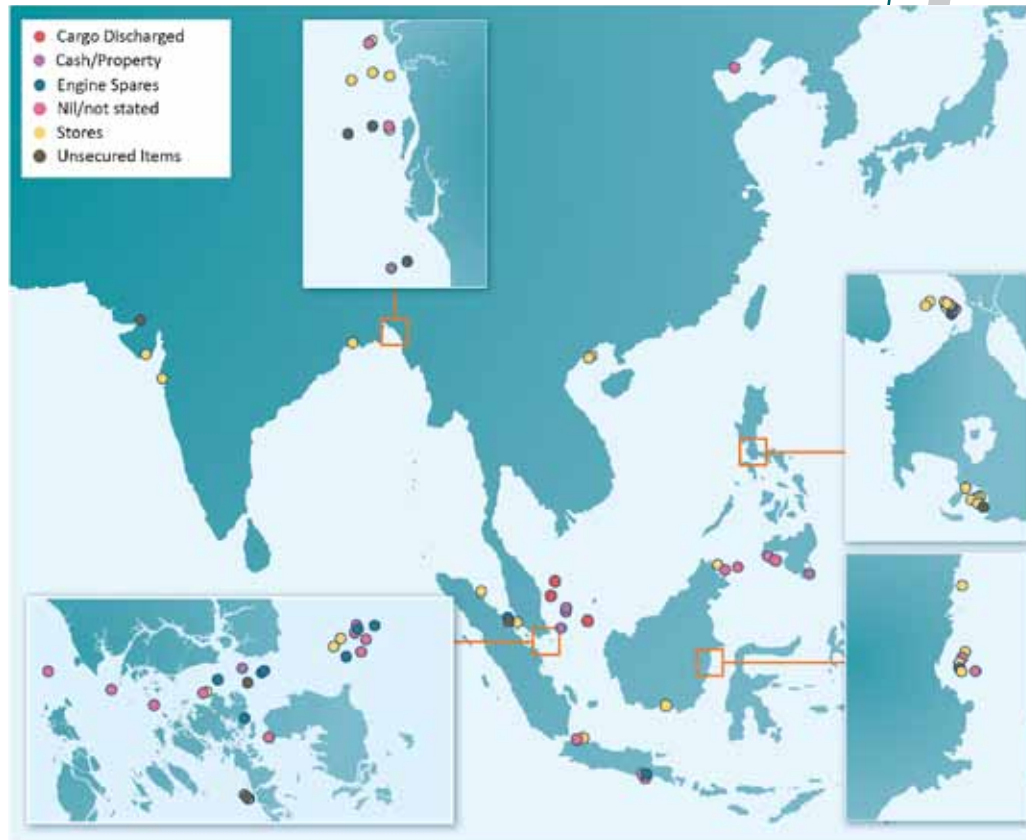
### Data Analytics Project

In 2017, ReCAAP ISC embarked on a Data Analytics Project to perform deeper analysis. There are two phases in the Data Analytics Project. Phase 1 is to build the knowledge base to automate the data retrieval process from the Information Network (IFN) System database, which contains data of incidents for the past decade, and to provide data visualisation of past incidents to identify trends and correlations among key factors.

Data visualisation enables ReCAAP ISC to monitor the overall situation, evaluate past trends, spot anomalies, and perform analysis, using a business intelligence tool developed by leading data visualisation software company, Tableau.

Two examples of the output of Phase 1 of the Data Analytics Project are as shown below:

Example 1



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Cargo Discharged</b>	4	15	11	2	3
<b>Cash/Property</b>	22	29	9	9	6
<b>Engine Spares</b>	11	20	19	8	9
<b>Hijack of Ship</b>	1	0	4	2	0
<b>Missing Ship</b>	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Nil/not stated</b>	35	61	80	22	24
<b>Stores</b>	63	39	67	32	35
<b>Unsecured items</b>	5	6	0	1	12

Chart 4: Example of an output from Data Analytics Project Phase 1

Chart 4 above shows the type of losses incurred over the years and the locations where these losses were reported. The Project enables ReCAAP ISC to build a dashboard providing a 3-dimensional display of past incidents on economic losses. The dashboard shows (1) types of losses, (2) period of time (years)

and (3) locations (on map). This visual display provides ReCAAP ISC with a better understanding of trends and patterns of types of losses over time and by location. (This chart is featured in ReCAAP ISC Annual Report for 2017 on 'Type of Losses' under the Economic Factor.)

# PART 2

## INFORMATION SHARING

Another example is the using of 'tree mapping' to depict the type of ships that were involved in incidents in 2017 and by locations (2-dimensional display) as shown in Chart 5.

Example 2:

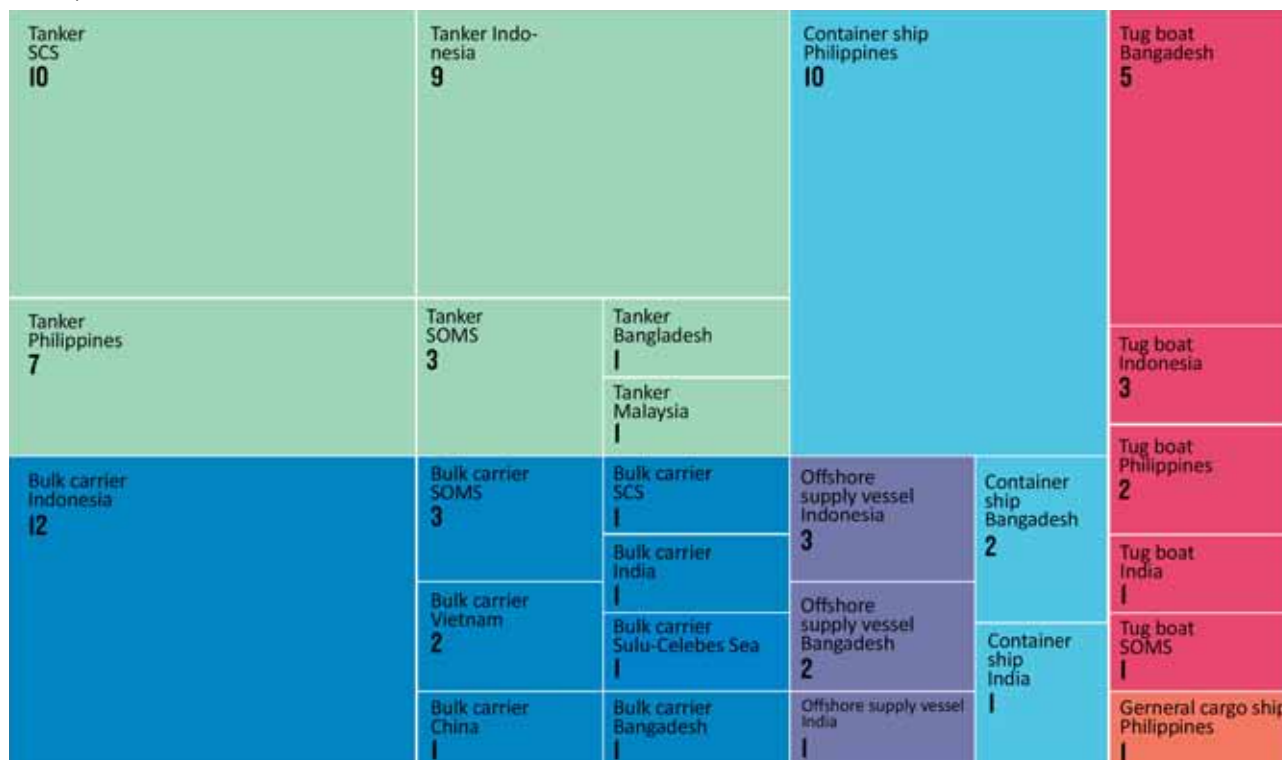


Chart 5: Use of 'tree mapping' to depict the type of ships that were involved in incidents in 2017 and by locations

The analytical tool developed in Phase 1 will be used as the basis to conduct predictive analytics, which will be in Phase 2 of the Data Analytics Project. In Phase 2, ReCAAP ISC will eventually be able to provide observations gathered from past trends and patterns that serve as warnings to the maritime community in their risk assessment.

### ReCAAP ISC Mobile App

The ReCAAP ISC Mobile App known as "**ReCAAP Focal Points**" was first launched in 2014. Since then, ReCAAP ISC has received positive feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Taking into account the feedback and riding on advances in mobile app technology, ReCAAP ISC worked on developing an enhanced version of the mobile app in 2017.

The **ReCAAP** app contains three primary modules, i.e. Directory (of ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point),

Publication and Reporting. It is more efficient in the dissemination of latest publications and reports; and is more user-friendly in manoeuvring from one module to another.

Leveraging on GPS-aided capability, the ReCAAP app includes new features of the Reporting Module. The report of an incident submitted by the ship master/owner to the ReCAAP ISC via the Reporting Module is automatically disseminated to the ReCAAP Focal Point of the sender, ReCAAP Focal Point of the Flag State, and the nearest Coastal State (if these States are ReCAAP member countries). With the new feature, information is disseminated seamlessly to the relevant ReCAAP Focal Points as quickly as possible.

The new mobile app, renamed "**ReCAAP**", is linked to the ReCAAP ISC Open Web, which was also renewed to improve utilisation and provide an integrated data flow with the mobile app.

The ReCAAP app is available for download in the App Store and Google Play Store. One can also download the Mobile App from the QR code (as shown).



#### 4 TIMELINESS IN INCIDENT REPORTING BY ReCAAP FOCAL POINTS

ReCAAP Focal Points are the primary sources of information for the ReCAAP information network. They are required to report to ReCAAP ISC via the IFN all incidents occurring within and outside their territorial waters based on reports submitted by the shipping company, internal governmental agencies, etc.

#### Sources of Reporting

The sources of the statistics of ReCAAP ISC are reports from ReCAAP Focal Points and others (e.g. IMO and regional authorities). Chart 6 shows the number of reports submitted by ReCAAP Focal Points versus other sources during the period from 2007 to 2017. The percentage of reports submitted by ReCAAP Focal Points vis-a-vis other sources has been increasing. It increased from 42% in 2007 to 92% in 2017. This increase in reporting by ReCAAP Focal Points demonstrates the enhancement of competency and effectiveness of the ReCAAP Focal Points in information collection, incident verification and incident reporting to the ReCAAP information network. It is also an indication of the growing confidence between the shipping industry and the Focal Points.

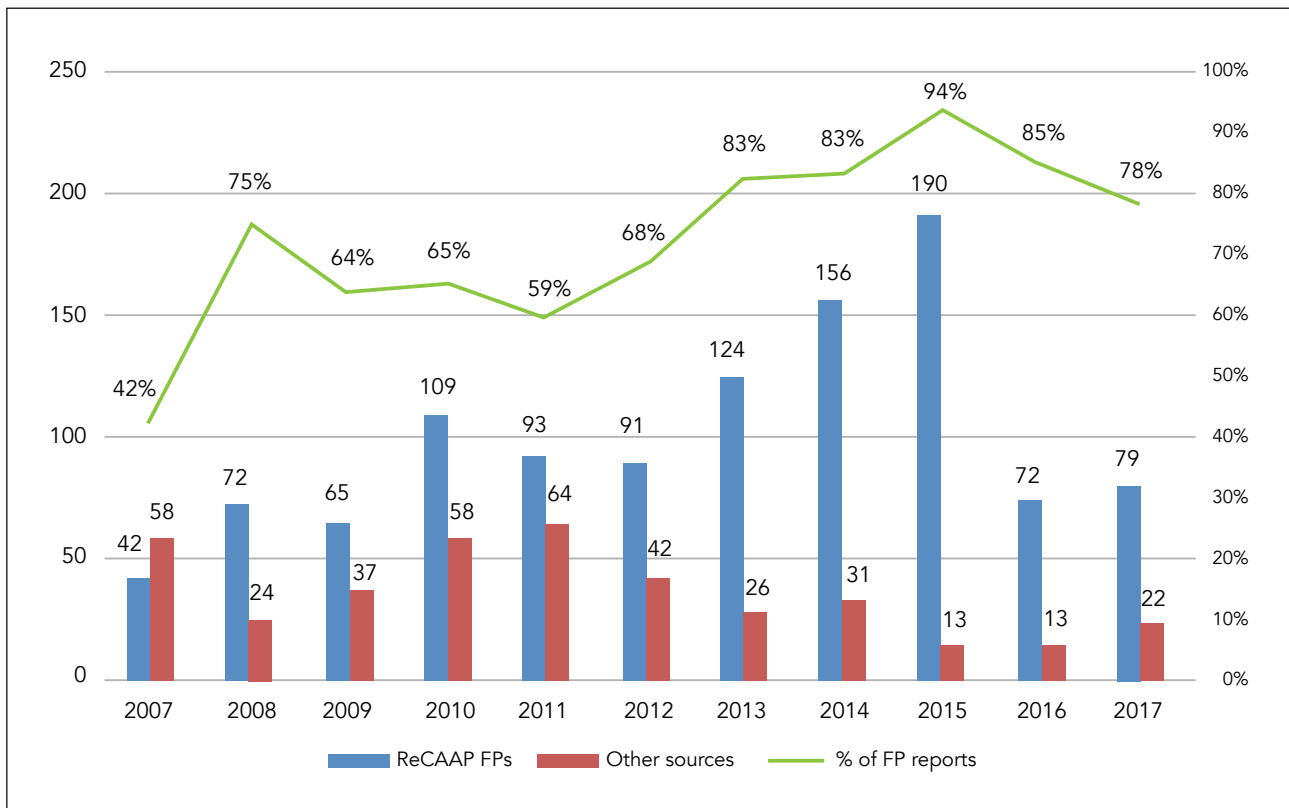


Chart 6: Incident Reported by ReCAAP Focal Point vs. Other Sources (2007-2017)

# PART 2

# INFORMATION SHARING

## Timeliness of Reporting

The timeliness of reporting by ReCAAP Focal Points can be measured by the duration between the time of the incident and the time of submission of the Incident Report (IR) by the Focal Point. Chart 7 shows the number of Incident Reports (IRs) submitted by Focal Points to the ReCAAP Information Network

System during 2013-2017. Of a total of 625 reports submitted by the Focal Points, 31% of the reports were submitted within 24 hours, 26% were submitted between 1 to 5 days and 43% took more than 6 days. There is room for more efforts by the Focal Points to increase the timeliness, quality and quantity of reporting.

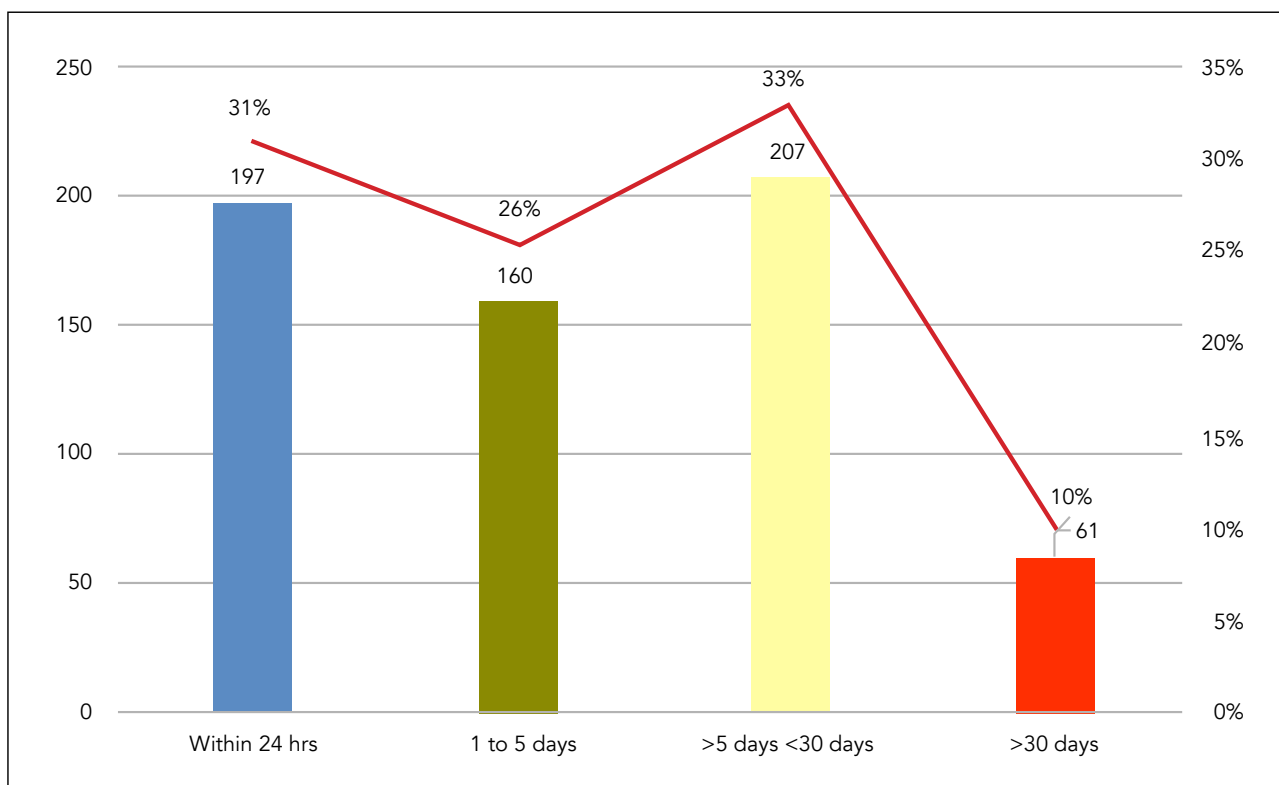


Chart 7: Timeliness of Incident Reports submitted by Focal Points (2013-2017)

## 5 DELIVERABLES OF ReCAAP ISC

In 2017, the ReCAAP ISC has continued to issue periodic reports on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Centre also issued Warning, Incident Alerts, Incident Updates, Special Reports when the situation warrants for it. All the reports are distributed via e-mail to the relevant stakeholders, and uploaded onto the ReCAAP ISC website and ReCAAP Mobile App. From the third quarter of 2017, all reports are also amplified on ReCAAP ISC's digital tools such as Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google.

## Periodic Reports

In 2017, ReCAAP ISC published Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Reports. The aim of these periodic reports is to update the latest situation, analyse the modus operandi of perpetrators, share best practices and lessons learned, and provide advisory to shipping industry, governmental agencies, law enforcement agencies and research institutes.



Image 1: Examples of ReCAAP ISC Weekly, Monthly and Annual Reports

## Warnings

Pending the outcome of verification by ReCAAP Focal Points, ReCAAP ISC has in 2017 started to issue Warning to provide heads-up and timely advice to mariners, when the incident is serious and requires quick alert.

ReCAAP ISC issued a Warning on 24 Mar 17 within 24 hours upon learning through media reporting and after receiving information from the Philippines Focal Point of a kidnap incident that had occurred on board ship MV Super Shuttle Roro 9 off Basilan, the Philippines. The Philippine Focal Point submitted the Incident Report subsequently.

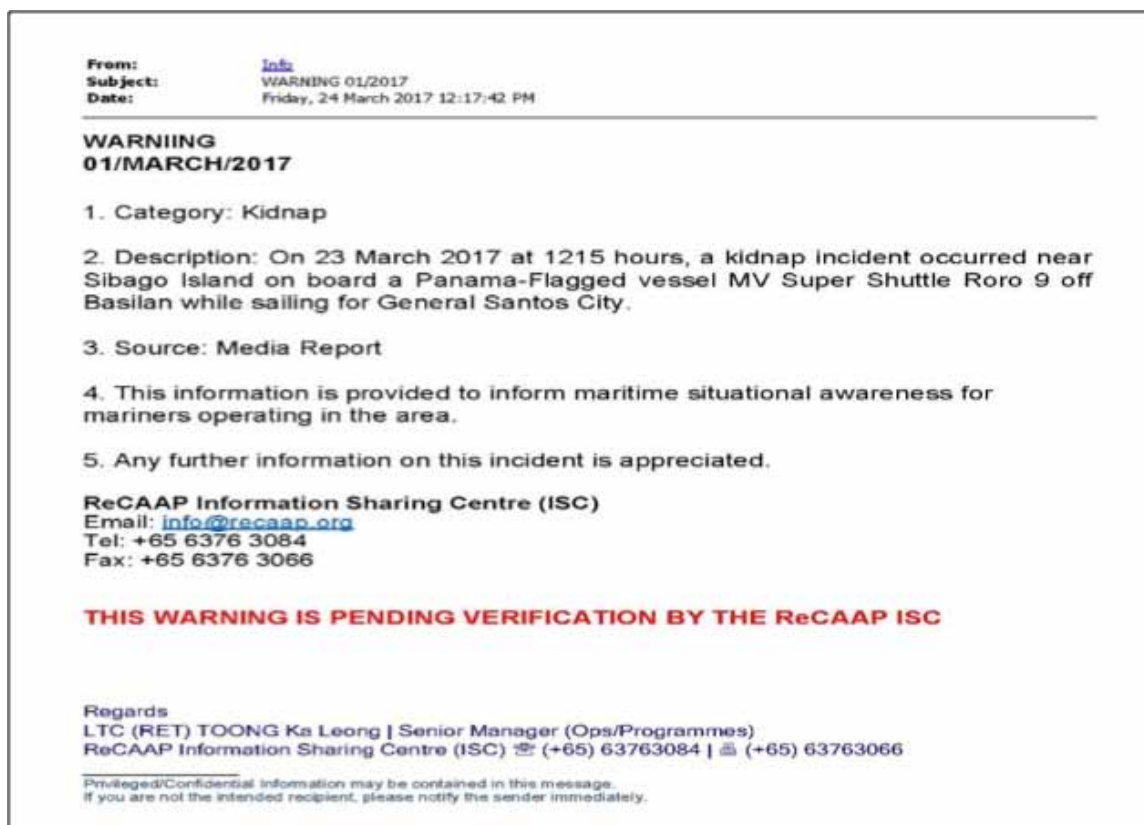


Image 2: ReCAAP ISC Warning dated 24 Mar 17

# PART 2 INFORMATION SHARING

## Incident Alerts

Incident Alerts are issued on serious incidents or emerging trends in a particular location after verification by ReCAAP Focal Point. The aim is to share the information on a timely basis in order to alert mariners in the vicinity to exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate countermeasures.

In 2017, the ReCAAP ISC issued four Incident Alerts

within 24 hours of the occurrence of the incident. The four Incident Alerts were:

- “Abduction of Crew of Giang Hai” issued on 20 Feb 17
- “Abduction of Crew of Super Shuttle Tug 1” on 24 Mar 17;
- “Theft of Oil Cargo of MGT 1” on 7 Sep 17; and
- “Robbery on board Tanker GP T2” on 30 Oct 17 (concerning an increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait)

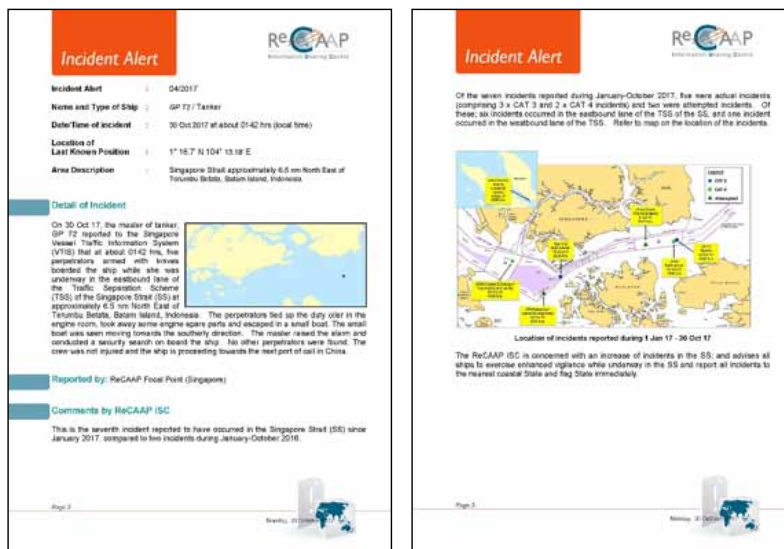


Image 3: ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated October 30, 2017

## Special Report

The ReCAAP ISC issued one Special Report on March 31, 2017 on “Abducting of crew from ships in the Sulu-Celebes Sea and waters off Eastern Sabah (Part III)”. This report was a follow up of two Special Reports on the same topic that were issued in 2016.

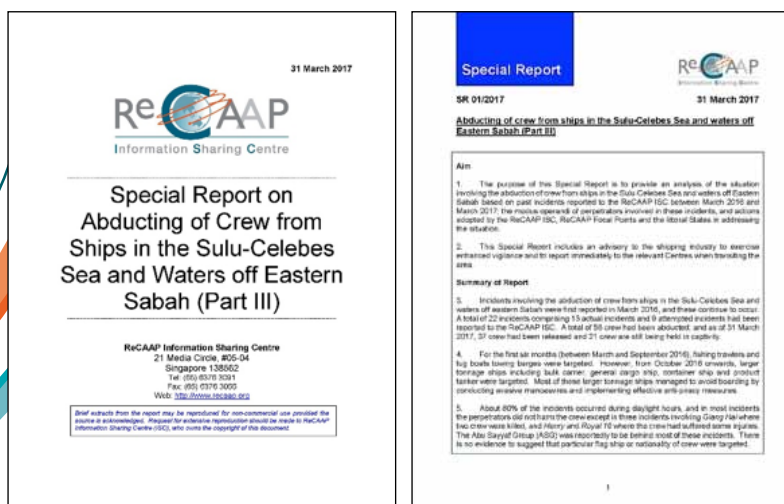


Image 4: ReCAAP ISC Special Report



## PART 3

# CAPACITY BUILDING

### 1 OVERVIEW

Capacity building is an integral pillar of ReCAAP ISC's three-pronged strategic focus, and 2017 has been an eventful year that saw new as well as existing programs to strengthen the capability and competency of ReCAAP Focal Points.

In addition to the annual capacity building meetings, the inaugural Capacity Building Executive Program was successfully conducted in Japan and Singapore with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore as the co-organizers of the inaugural edition in cooperation with ReCAAP ISC. The Capacity Building Executive Program 2017 was specially tailored to build the capacity of enforcement agencies of ASEAN member countries.

Another new program which started in 2017 was the Focal Point Training Program. This program was specially developed for new Focal Point staff to initiate them into the roles and functions of ReCAAP Focal Points.

The annual Capacity Building Workshop was held in New Delhi, India with the participation of officers/operators of ReCAAP Focal Points. The key objectives were to enhance the capabilities of the Focal Points in timely information sharing using scenario-based training on the Information Network (IFN) System and to strengthen cooperation among the Focal Points.

The other capacity building events organized in 2017 were Cluster Meetings in the Philippines and Vietnam with a view to enhance collaboration among the governmental agencies and actively engage the local shipping industry. One bilateral visit to

Myanmar Focal Point was conducted to appreciate the development of the Focal Point and better understand the challenges encountered.

### 2 CAPACITY BUILDING EXECUTIVE PROGRAM, SINGAPORE AND JAPAN (SEPTEMBER 27 to OCTOBER 6, 2017)

A major and new capacity building activity introduced in 2017 was the Capacity Building Executive Program. The inaugural program was co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore in cooperation with ReCAAP ISC.

Conducted in Singapore and Japan from September 27 to October 6, 2017, the inaugural program saw senior-level maritime enforcement personnel of ReCAAP Contracting Parties from ASEAN (Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), together with representatives from Indonesia and Malaysia, participate in the 10-day training spanning Singapore, Tokyo, Yokohama, and Kure. The program in 2017 was organized on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of ASEAN.

Designed to build capacity, enhance information sharing, and strengthen cooperation among the ASEAN enforcement authorities, the Capacity Building Executive Program covered key topics such as trends and developments in piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, best practices of information sharing and prosecution procedure, international laws and regulations, and emerging maritime threats such as cyber security and maritime terrorism.



Image 1: Launch of the Capacity Building Executive Program 2017 in Singapore

## PART 3

# CAPACITY BUILDING



Image 2: Participants of the Capacity Building Executive Program 2017 at a Tokyo reception hosted by Mr. Masahisa Sato, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

### 3 CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP, NEW DELHI, INDIA (DECEMBER 10-13, 2017)

ReCAAP ISC and India Coast Guard co-organized the Capacity Building Workshop in New Delhi, India on December 10-13, 2017, with 27 participants from ReCAAP Focal Points.

The theme of the 2017 Capacity Building Workshop was “Striding Over the Domestic Challenges,” which aimed to develop and enhance the capabilities of ReCAAP Focal Point representatives through the

sharing of best practices, experiences on piracy and armed robbery countermeasures, and to further enhance networking.

Over the course of the three-day workshop, participants deliberated case studies drawn from recent incidents of their respective countries and shared best practices of effectively dealing with the evolving patterns of piracy and sea robbery. One key component of the workshop was training on the IFN System as well as scenario-based Table-Top-Exercise to enhance the competency and confidence of the Focal Points in using the incident reporting tool.



Image 3: Officials and participants at the Capacity Building Workshop 2017 in New Delhi, India



Image 4: The 7<sup>th</sup> Cluster Meeting in Manila, Philippines in progress

#### 4 CLUSTER MEETING IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES (MAY 30-31, 2017)

ReCAAP ISC conducted the 7<sup>th</sup> Cluster Meeting in Manila, Philippines in May 30-31, 2017 with the cooperation of the Philippines Focal Point (the Philippine Coast Guard).

The aim of the meeting was to enhance cooperation and collaboration among the governmental maritime agencies, and foster closer cooperation between the governmental agencies and the shipping industry.

The Cluster Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC (ED-ISC) and then-Commodore Joel S. Garcia of the Philippine Coast Guard. The incidents of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas was one of the main topics of the discussion.

The ReCAAP ISC team took this opportunity to give lectures on ReCAAP, activities of the ISC, and the situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia to the young officers at Coast Guard Education and Training Centre and to the students at Maritime Academy of Asia and Pacific .

ReCAAP ISC conducted a Cluster Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam, from July 5-6, 2017 with the cooperation of the Vietnamese Focal Point (Vietnam Coast Guard). The aim of the meeting was to better understand the challenges, facilitate inter-agency information sharing, and to foster closer cooperation between the governmental agencies and local shipping industry.

The meeting was attended by officials from Vietnam Coast Guard, Vietnam Border Guard, Vietnam People’s Navy and Vietnam Maritime Administration, as well as representatives of the local shipping industry.

The Cluster Meeting allowed ReCAAP ISC to gain deeper understanding on the working relationship between the different agencies and their roles and responsibilities in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. During the session with local shipping industry, they expressed concern on the incidents of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas.

The ReCAAP ISC team took the opportunity to visit the Maritime Administration in Vung Tau, which provided further information on the countermeasures, leading to an improvement of the situation at Vung Tau port in 2017.

#### 5 CLUSTER MEETING IN HANOI, VIETNAM (JULY 5-6, 2017)



Image 5: The ReCAAP ISC team conducted a Cluster Meeting in Vietnam from July 5-6, 2017

# PART 3

## CAPACITY BUILDING

### 6 BILATERAL VISIT TO MYANMAR (JUNE 20-21, 2017)

The ReCAAP ISC team conducted a bilateral visit to ReCAAP Focal Point (Myanmar) in Yangon on June 20-21, 2017.

The visit allowed ReCAAP ISC to better appreciate the development of capabilities of Myanmar Focal Point and their challenges. The ReCAAP ISC team also had an opportunity to engage with other governmental agencies, such as the Department of Marine Administration, Department of Civil Aviation, Custom Department, Myanmar University, Coast Radio Station, and Myanmar Port Authority.

The ReCAAP ISC team visited Myanmar Maritime University to give a lecture to the students on ReCAAP, the activities of the ISC, and the situation of piracy and armed robbery in Asia.



Image 6: ReCAAP ISC had a fruitful exchange with Myanmar Focal Point officers

### 7 VISIT TO UNITED KINGDOM FOCAL POINT (JULY 24, 2017)

In conjunction with the attendance of the Council Meeting of the IMO in July 2017, ED-ISC paid a visit to the National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) on July 24, 2017, which is the ReCAAP Focal Point for United Kingdom and he was briefed on the setup and roles of the NMIC.



Image 7: ED-ISC with Mr. Phil Ponsford, Deputy Director of NMIC

### 8 FOCAL POINT TRAINING PROGRAM

The inaugural Focal Point Training Program was conducted on January 10-12, 2017 in Singapore.

This is an intensive training program which is designed specifically for new staff of Focal Points who are directly responsible for day-to-day operations of combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Focal Point staff of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vietnam participated in the first training program. The program initiated the participants into the activities of ReCAAP ISC as well as the roles and responsibilities of the Focal Points including cooperation with other governmental agencies and shipping industry, and the skill of reporting incidents through the IFN. The participants also attended the Anti-Piracy Workshop as well as Nautical Forum 2017, which took place in the same week.



Image 8: ReCAAP ISC staff and participants of the Focal Point Training Program in January 2017

## 9 TELECONFERENCING WITH FOCAL POINTS

With a view to enhancing interaction with ReCAAP Focal Points, ReCAAP ISC has started to conduct teleconferencing via Skype with Asian Focal Points. Four sessions were held in 2017. The teleconferencing is a good opportunity for ReCAAP ISC to maintain face-to-face contact with Focal Point staff, discuss issues, and coordinate upcoming activities.

## 10 COMBINED SURVEILLANCE AND COMMUNICATION EXERCISE

A Combined Surveillance and Communication Exercise between Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and ReCAAP ISC was held on May 13, 2017 in Manila, Philippines.

Vice Admiral Shuichi Iwanami of JCG, ED-ISC, and PCG Commodore Leopoldo V Laroya were on board a JCG aircraft to conduct air-to-sea exercise in the Sulu Sea area.

The operations included communications and surveillance exercise on a simulation of piracy attack on a cargo vessel between Mindoro and Jolo. The exercise enhanced understanding, working relationship, and interoperability among PCG, JCG and ReCAAP ISC.



Image 9: Vice Admiral Shuichi Iwanami of JCG, ReCAAP ISC Executive Director Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, and PCG Commodore Leopoldo V Laroya in front of a JCG aircraft

## 11 PCG-JCG-JICA AND ReCAAP ISC JOINT EXERCISE 2017 IN DAVAO, PHILIPPINES (JUNE 3, 2017)

ReCAAP ISC participated in a joint exercise in combating piracy with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), together with the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on June 3, 2017. The exercise was part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Combined Maritime Law Enforcement (MARLEN) Exercise, which was conducted in waters off Talikud Island, Davao del Norte, Philippines.

## PART 4

# COOPEATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

### 1 OVERVIEW

As an inclusive international organization, ReCAAP ISC continues to facilitate cooperative arrangements with Contracting Parties as well as with governmental and non-governmental organisations, shipping industries, and maritime and research institutes which share ReCAAP ISC's mission of enhancing regional cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The cooperative arrangements also take the form of activities to promote networking and deepen working relationships with key stakeholders. These activities include participating in international and regional conferences which contribute to the profiling ReCAAP ISC as a successful model of regional cooperation.

### 2 INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

#### Malaysia

ReCAAP ISC has continued to build on the good working relationship with Malaysia's government agencies and the shipping industry in 2017.

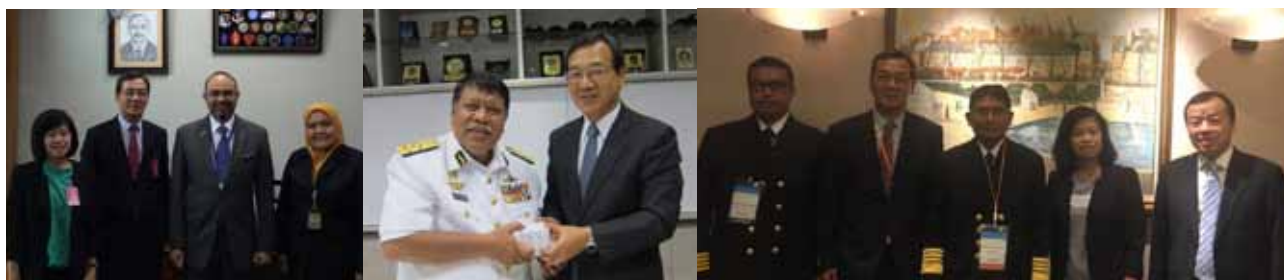
In addition to responding positively to ReCAAP ISC's invitations to capacity building events, there was also regular and swift information exchange with MMEA. Support and cordial exchanges were also forthcoming with MMEA representatives at regional meetings, such as the Head of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) and other forums.

The specific engagements included the following:

- ED-ISC called on Ms. Haznah Md. Hashim, Deputy DG, Department of Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Shakib bin Ahmad Shakir, Undersecretary, Maritime Security and Sovereignty

Division, National Security Council in Putra Jaya, Malaysia on January 25, 2017. The meetings were fruitful and enlightening with mutual sharing of views on the current situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, and discussions on possible areas of improvement for future cooperation.

- DG of MMEA, ADM Datok Ahmad Puzi Ab Kaha took the opportunity of his trip to Singapore to visit ReCAAP ISC on May 15, 2017. This was the first time a Head of MMEA visited ReCAAP ISC's office. His visit demonstrates the close cooperation between ReCAAP ISC and MMEA at the operational level. There was frank discussion and exchange of views on the latest situation.
- ED-ISC met the newly appointed MMEA Director General ADM Dato Indera Zulkifili Bin ABu Bakar at the inaugural Coast Guard Global Summit held on 14 September 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. There was a good exchange of information on the recent oil theft incident.
- ReCAAP ISC organized the Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum with Sabah and Sarawak Shipowners Association (SSSA) on September 12, 2017. Mr. Shaharuzzaman Baharum, General Manager of MASA attended the Forum.
- At the 13<sup>th</sup> Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) held on October 24-26, 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan, DD-ISC had an opportunity to interact with Deputy Director General (Operation) Vice Admiral Maritime Dato' Mohd Taha Bin Ibrahim. There was frank exchange of views on the piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia.
- An MMEA officer participated in the Nautical Forum 2017 on January 12, 2017 as one of the speakers.



Images 1-3: ReCAAP ISC and Malaysian Government Officials interacted at visits and forums throughout 2017

## Indonesia

There were fewer engagements with Indonesia in 2017, compared with Malaysia. The specific engagements included the following:

- Mr. Toong Ka Leong, Senior Manager (Operations/ Programs) of ReCAAP ISC visited the Indonesia Marine Police Headquarters on May 22, 2017, which was re-organized by a merger of the Sea and Air units and renamed as Indonesia Marine and Air Police Corps, headed by Inspector General M.Chairul Noor Alamsyah. Frank discussions were held on the latest piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia and on the possibility of strengthening cooperation at an operational level between ReCAAP ISC and Indonesian Marine Police.
- ED-ISC had an informal meeting with the Deputy Chief Executive of BAKAMLA, FADM Widianoro at the inaugural Coast Guard Global Summit held on September 14, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. There was a useful exchange of views on the current situation of piracy and armed robbery against ship in Asia and how operational cooperation could be enhanced.



Images 4-5: ReCAAP ISC and Indonesian Government Officials interacted at visits and forums throughout 2017

### 3 ENGAGEMENTS WITH MULTILATERAL REGIMES INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

#### International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council and Maritime Security Committee (MSC) Meetings

ED-ISC attended the 118<sup>th</sup> IMO Council Meeting in London from July 24-27, 2017 where he made an intervention as part of the Centre's effort in profiling

the Asian initiative. ED-ISC's intervention provided an overview of the situation in Asia that included a summary of the abduction of crew situation in the Sulu-Celebes Seas. ReCAAP ISC was also represented at the 98<sup>th</sup> MSC meetings on June 7-16, 2017, during which an information paper was tabled on the progress and achievements of ReCAAP ISC and again highlighted the concerns on the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and in the waters off eastern Sabah.



Image 6: ReCAAP ISC's contributions to IMO meetings were useful in bringing the attention of the participants to the trends and developments concerning piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia

## PART 4

# COOPEATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

### **Meeting of Anti-Piracy Contact Points and Workshop on Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships, Singapore (January 11-12, 2017)**

The Maritime Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and ReCAAP ISC co-organized the inaugural Meeting of Anti-Piracy Contact Points and Workshop on Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships from January 11-12, 2017 in Singapore.



Image 7: Participants of the inaugural Meeting of Anti-Piracy Contact Points and Workshop on Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships held in Singapore

### **International Seminar on Regional Cooperation for Safe and Secure Sea, Goa, India (February 8-10, 2017)**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) organised a commemorative event to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ICG and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ReCAAP. The event titled "International Seminar on Regional Co-operation for Safe and Secure Seas" was held in Goa, India on February 8-10, 2017.

The seminar was organized to promote awareness on the importance of regional and international cooperation towards ensuring safety of life and property at sea. It was inaugurated by Ms. Mridula Sinha, Honourable Governor of Goa, and saw the participation of more than 115 foreign delegates from ReCAAP Contracting Parties, Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) nations, and Middle East countries.

The three-day seminar provided a platform for discussions on maritime law enforcement, marine pollution response and maritime SAR. In addition to ReCAAP ISC, which was invited to make a presentation at the seminar, other speakers included representatives from World Maritime University, Indian National Ship Owner's Association, Indian Space Research Organization, national think tanks

The objectives of the meeting and workshop were to strengthen the relationship amongst anti-piracy contact points and international reporting centres so as to facilitate information exchanges, and to promote networking among them. The meeting and workshop involved participants from Africa, Asia and Europe as well as representatives from IMO and NATO Shipping Command.

and Coast Guards from the United States and Japan. Table-Top exercise on the scenarios of "Piracy and Armed Robbery, Search and Rescue and Pollution Response" was also conducted. The event included sea exercises off Goa on February 10, 2017, with the participation of Indian national stakeholders, ICG surface and air units, and Bangladesh Coast Guard Ship Tajuddin.



Image 8: ReCAAP ISC participated at the International Seminar on Regional Cooperation for Safe and Secure Sea in Goa, India



**9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security, Tokyo, Japan (February 8, 2017)**

The 9<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security was held on February 8, 2017 in Tokyo, Japan.

The meeting was attended by government officials, military/coast guard officials, and academics from 26 States and five International Organizations. Mr. Nicholas Teo, Deputy Director of ReCAAP ISC (DD-ISC) attended the meeting and made a presentation on “Enhancing Regional Cooperation.”



Image 9: Participants of the 9<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security in Tokyo

**ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments, Manila, Philippines (July 11-12, 2017)**

The ARF Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments was held in Manila, Philippines on July 11-12, 2017. A total of 39 delegates from 16 countries, ASEAN Secretariat, ReCAAP ISC, INTERPOL, and EU participated in the workshop.

The workshop provided a comprehensive overview of how a sense of shared responsibility among multiple stakeholders can contribute to maritime safety. ReCAAP ISC was invited to make a presentation as the subject-matter-expert on Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships, and a model for regional cooperation. The forum provided an opportunity to share the ReCAAP model, which has been widely recognized and acknowledged as a successful model of regional cooperation.



Image 10: ReCAAP ISC delivered a presentation at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on Best Practices in Implementing Safety of Navigation Instruments

## PART 4

# COOPEATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

### **Coast Guard Global Summit 2017, Tokyo, Japan (September 12-14, 2017)**

The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and the Nippon Foundation co-hosted the inaugural Coast Guard Global Summit 2017 on September 12-14 in Tokyo, Japan. The aim of the Summit was to promote

collaboration and cooperation among Coast Guard agencies worldwide in coping with new challenges, maritime disasters, maritime incidents and transnational maritime crimes. ED-ISC delivered a presentation on the ReCAAP Agreement and ISC as a model of regional cooperation.



Image 11: ED-ISC delivered a presentation on the ReCAAP Agreement and ISC as a model of regional cooperation at the Coast Guard Global Summit 2017 in Tokyo

### **13<sup>th</sup> Heads of ASIAN Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM), Islamabad, Pakistan (October 23-26, 2017)**

The 13<sup>th</sup> HACGAM was held on October 23-26, 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Chief Guest for the

event was the Prime Minister of Pakistan, H.E. Shahid Khagan Abbasi, who delivered the opening address. The plenary consisted a total of ten agenda items during which DD-ISC, made a presentation on the ten-year trend in Asia.



Image 12: DD-ISC made a presentation on the ten-year trend in Asia with a situation update at the 13<sup>th</sup> HACGAM in Islamabad

### **Galle Dialogue 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka (October 10-11, 2017)**

The Galle Dialogue 2017 was held on October 10-11, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The objective of this conference was to provide a common platform for national and international stakeholders to discuss maritime issues.

The theme of the conference was "Greater Maritime Visibility for Enhanced Maritime Security." The Guest-of-Honour was the former President, Mdm. Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumarathunga, and the Chief Guest was the Honourable State Minister of Defence, H.E. Ruwan Wijewardena, who delivered the keynote address. DD-ISC participated as speaker and presented a paper on "Suppression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia: A Shared Responsibility."

### **G7 High Level Meeting on Maritime Security, Rome, Italy (20 November 2017)**

ED-ISC attended the G7 High Level Meeting on Maritime Security which was held on 20 November 17 in Rome, Italy. Traditional threats to maritime security, technological innovations and the challenges posed by marine environmental degradation to international stability were the core agenda of the meeting. A special focus was dedicated to the next steps of maritime security, in particular the increasing technological sophistication of potential attackers and the integration of a cyber-security dimension in the maritime domain in terms of capabilities, research and technologies. ED-ISC made a presentation on ReCAAP as a model of regional cooperation to address maritime safety and the challenges in coordination and cooperation among stakeholders. Representatives from key African countries, International Organizations and NGOs provided their contributions on a broad range of issues.

### **Lecture at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Training Course for Maritime Law Enforcement in Asia and off Coast of Somalia, Tokyo, Japan (July 24, 2017)**

JICA and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) organized the Training Course for Maritime Law Enforcement in Asia and off coast of Somalia from July 10 to August 4, 2017. ReCAAP ISC was invited to deliver a presentation on ReCAAP and an update on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

### **Lecture and Engagement with World Maritime University (WMU)**

ReCAAP ISC delivered lectures at WMU in Sweden to profile the work of the Centre to the university's students, who are future seafarers and potential key maritime policy makers.

The ReCAAP ISC team visited WMU on June 5, 2017 and conducted three lectures to a class of 30 students from Ghana, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, and Yemen. The students were attending a Maritime Safety course focusing on SOLAS requirements and regulations and its implementation, and the three lectures focused on how the ReCAAP ISC activities were associated with these requirements.

During the IMO Council Meeting in July 2017 in London, ED-ISC had an opportunity to engage Dr. Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of WMU and they discussed the possibility of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WMU and ReCAAP ISC to formalize the cooperation.

### **Lecture at National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan (December 21, 2017)**

Since three years ago, the JCG and National Institute for Policy Studies has organized the Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program (Master course) for officers of maritime law enforcement agencies in Asia in Japan. In 2017, ReCAAP ISC was invited to give a lecture to the students of this program for the first time. The participants of the program were officers from Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Malaysia's Marine Department, Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Japan Coast Guard. ED-ISC delivered a lecture for the participants, explaining the main features and mechanisms of ReCAAP and updated situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

## **4 ENGAGEMENTS WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY**

### **Nautical Forum, Singapore (January 12, 2017)**

ReCAAP ISC organised the 8<sup>th</sup> Nautical Forum in cooperation with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Information Fusion Centre (IFC), and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) on January 12, 2017.

## PART 4

# COOPEATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The Nautical Forum was held with a total of 180 participants. The key objective of the Forum was to share the statistics and main findings of the piracy and sea robbery incidents in Asia for 2016. Presentations at the Nautical Forum included an update of the situation of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas by the Philippine Coast Guard and an update on Malaysia's efforts in combating piracy and armed robbery by MMEA.

The Nautical Forum is a platform for the various stakeholders to share and exchange views. For the first time, representatives from the Information Sharing/Reporting Centres of the African region attended the Forum. They were in Singapore to attend the Inaugural Meeting of Anti-Piracy Contact Points and Workshop on Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships jointly organised by MPA and ReCAAP ISC.



Image 13: The Nautical Forum 2016 saw 180 participants from the maritime industry

### ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017, Singapore (April 27, 2017)

ReCAAP ISC, BIMCO, INTERTANKO and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) jointly organized the ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017 on April 27 in Singapore during the Singapore Maritime Week 2017.

It was the ninth event in the series, and the theme was "Changing Trends of Maritime Piracy and Armed Robbery in Asia." The conference addressed the changing trends of piracy and sea robbery in Asia for the past 10 years, emerging and potential threats against ships such as the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, and the nexus between cyber security and piracy.

Distinguished guest speakers included representatives from the International Maritime Organization, the Philippine Coast Guard and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations. About 160 participants attended the Conference, which provided a useful platform for an exchange of perspectives and views among speakers and the audience at the panel discussion.



Images 14: Speakers and Co-Organizers of the ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2017 in Singapore

### MOU Signing between ReCAAP ISC and Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), London, UK (July 24, 2017)

ReCAAP ISC and Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 24, 2017 in London to further promote mutual cooperation.

The signing of the MOU was built on existing collaborative relationship between ReCAAP ISC and OCIMF that included cooperation in developing the "Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia." This was the sixth MOU that ReCAAP ISC has entered into, after MOUs with IMO, BIMCO, Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA), INTERTANKO and INTERPOL, underscoring ReCAAP ISC's continued commitment to work closely with the shipping industry to promote safer and more secure seas for all.



Images 15: ED-ISC and OCIMF Director Mr. Andrew Cassels at the signing of the MOU in London on July 24, 2017

**Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners' Association (SSSA) Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia (September 12, 2017)**

ReCAAP ISC and SSSA jointly organized an Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum on September 12, 2017 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The one-day forum with the theme of "Enhancing Cooperation between Government Agencies and Shipping Industry" was attended by more than 20 participants.

Besides presentations from ReCAAP ISC and SSSA, the Philippine Coast Guard also presented an update on the situation off Sulu-Celebes Seas. The participants of the forum also visited the Sabah Region Marine Department and Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency Sabah Region Office, both located in Kota Kinabalu.

The forum provided a useful platform for SSSA members to share information, be apprised of the latest situation, and establish networks and contacts with ReCAAP ISC and regional authorities.



Images 16: ReCAAP ISC at the Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners' Association (SSSA) Anti-Piracy and Sea Robbery Forum in Kota Kinabalu

**Engagement with UK Chamber of Shipping**

At the sidelines of the IMO Council Meeting in London, ED-ISC made a visit to the UK Chamber of Shipping on July 24, 2017. He met with Mr. Gavin Simmonds and Mr. David Balston, former and current Policy Director for Security and Commercial respectively. They exchanged views on the latest piracy situation in Asia and issues regarding maritime safety.

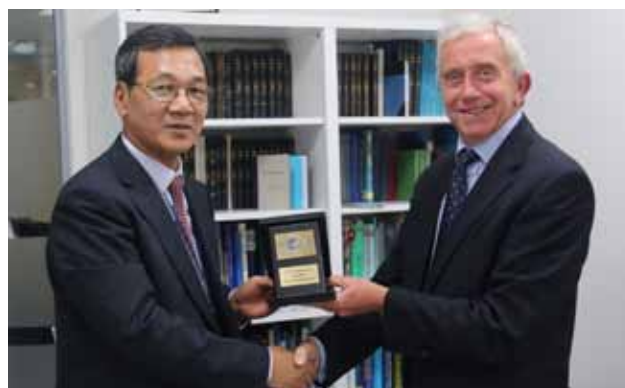


Image 17: ED-ISC with Mr. Gavin Simmonds of the UK Chamber of Shipping

**Visits by Maritime Stakeholders**

ReCAAP ISC hosted numerous visits by senior government officials, leading maritime industry stakeholders, and scholars on maritime safety/security in 2017,

Hosting such visits is vital to ReCAAP ISC's mission to share updated and accurate information to key audiences and to exchange views on evolving trends and emerging threats.

In 2017, visitors to ReCAAP ISC included senior officials from the following organizations:

**Governmental & International Organizations**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- Prime Minister's Office, Japan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore
- Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, South Korea
- State Department of the United States of America
- Japan Coast Guard
- Korean Coast Guard
- United States Coast Guard
- UK Royal Navy
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Industry**

- Shell
- Swire Shipping

**Academic Institutions**

- University of Amsterdam
- Waseda University
- World Maritime University

## PART 5

# PROFILING AND BRANDING ReCAAP ISC

### 1 OVERVIEW

2017 marked good progress and saw a number of highlights in the profiling and branding of ReCAAP ISC.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC in March 2017 adopted the Roadmap for the Future of ReCAAP ISC and the Action Plan, which included among others, the development of a blueprint for the profiling and branding of ReCAAP ISC. The Profiling and Branding Blueprint was made in August 2017 and its execution began immediately. While its implementation is at an early stage, the blueprint provides a framework to guide the publicity and branding efforts of ReCAAP ISC in a systematic, data-driven way for the next three years.

A specific highlight which was outlined in the blueprint was the need to move ReCAAP ISC's corporate communications efforts into digital platforms to leverage on new digital channels to amplify its messages and reach out to media and influencers beyond traditional methods. As a result, ReCAAP ISC is now on Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube as well as Google, and regularly amplifies its reports and activities on these platforms. ReCAAP ISC regularly monitors the performance of its social media channels, particularly Twitter, using analytics tools.

In addition to leveraging on social media, ReCAAP ISC also embarked on a total renewal of its website. Featuring new and enhanced functions, the new website is now more social, searchable, discoverable, and delivers an enhanced user experience. The new website is also integrated with the new ReCAAP mobile app, allowing seamless updating of information across both channels.

Links to these new digital channels were incorporated in a standardized e-mail signature used by all ReCAAP ISC staff to project a more professional and consistent image when communicating with external audiences. To replace a corporate video that was approaching four years old, ReCAAP ISC embarked on the

production of a new corporate video that utilized a contemporary and personal way of storytelling. Accompanying the new corporate video is a new corporate brochure.

Finally, on the media publicity front, 2017 saw a number of high-profile, high-impact media articles in top-tier publications, which further served to reinforce ReCAAP ISC as leading subject-matter expert in the area of combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

### 2 PROFILING AND BRANDING BLUEPRINT

The Profiling and Branding Blueprint recognized that while ReCAAP ISC has gained significant traction over the past decade in terms of building relationships with its Focal Points and shipping community through its periodic reports, capacity building activities and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, its profiling and branding efforts have largely focused traditional media publicity, relying on the media to carry its news and developments.

Recognizing that media consumption is increasingly shifting towards digital platforms, the blueprint called for ReCAAP ISC to ride on this trend to extend its reach to larger audiences for its profiling and branding efforts.

Based on this consideration, ReCAAP ISC has started to adopt an integrated communications approach and has started to invest in its digital capabilities while recognizing that traditional platforms continue to be important.

This begins with recognizing who ReCAAP ISC's primary target audiences are and by ensuring that its key messages remain consistent across digital and traditional communications:



### Contracting Parties

ReCAAP ISC is a trusted partner for timely & accurate information and capacity building



### Maritime Community

ReCAAP ISC provides timely, accurate & objective information on piracy & armed robbery against ships in Asia



### Maritime International Organizations

ReCAAP ISC provides a model of regional cooperation in information sharing

Diagram 1: ReCAAP ISC's Key Audiences & Messages

In communicating its fundamental messages and profiling its key activities to its audiences, ReCAAP ISC will adopt a holistic, integrated approach that invests in its owned media, earned media, and paid media to extend its reach:

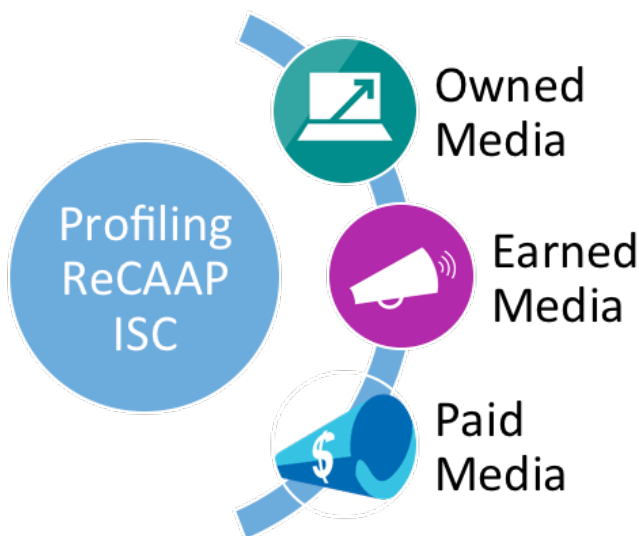


Diagram 2: Strengthening ReCAAP ISC's Profile through Owned-Earned-Paid Media

ReCAAP ISC's move into digital media, building up its own profiling assets such as a corporate video and corporate brochure, and strengthening relationships with key media editors/journalists, were initiatives discussed in the blueprint.

### 3 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Starting in the third and fourth quarters of 2017, ReCAAP ISC began establishing its presence on social media channels useful to its profiling objectives.

As of December 2017, ReCAAP ISC was on:



Diagram 3: Key Digital Platforms ReCAAP ISC is establishing a presence on

Twitter in particular, has been a useful tool to amplify ReCAAP ISC's reports and activities, as major governmental and international organizations, maritime media, academics and influencers are active on this platform.

Within 3-4 months, ReCAAP ISC was able to garner a small but growing list of followers including IMO, Oceans Beyond Piracy, Safe Seas Project, World Maritime News, Safety4Sea, Singapore Shipping Association, as well as companies offering maritime risk consultancy, marine insurance, and related services. Going forward, ReCAAP ISC will continue to invest in its digital platforms.

At the same time, ReCAAP ISC also improved its profile on Google. By leveraging on a new Google My Business tool, visitors searching for ReCAAP ISC on Google can see the latest content posted by the Centre.

## PART 5

# PROFILING AND BRANDING ReCAAP ISC



Image 1: ReCAAP ISC's official profile on Google includes latest happenings, links to reports, address, official hours, contact details, and interactive map

Work to completely renew the ReCAAP ISC corporate website also started in 2017. It is targeted to launch at the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting in March 2018. The new ReCAAP ISC website will be mobile-responsive, integrated with social sharing features to allow users to more easily share content, and searchable. A series of rotating banners on the landing page also allows ReCAAP ISC to more prominently feature key activities.



Image 2: A preview of the new ReCAAP ISC Corporate Website

## 4 ReCAAP ISC CORPORATE VIDEO AND BROCHURE

To project a more professional and contemporary image and to build its own profiling assets, ReCAAP ISC in the fourth quarter of 2017 commenced the production of a new corporate video to replace its existing version, which was approaching four years old.

The new corporate video will feature a contemporary approach to storytelling, and will incorporate soundbites from vital stakeholders including the Secretary General of the IMO and the President of the Singapore Shipping Association. Also being featured in the video are the Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, ReCAAP ISC Governors from Japan and Singapore, and ED-ISC.



Image 3: Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the IMO shares his perspectives on the contributions of ReCAAP ISC in the new corporate video



ReCAAP ISC also commenced production of its corporate brochure in the fourth quarter of 2017. The corporate brochure featured an innovative design that integrated “ever-green” information on ReCAAP ISC while allowing the latest reports and publications to be added as inserts.



Image 4: Front cover of new ReCAAP ISC Corporate Brochure

## 5 MEDIA PUBLICITY

Through ED-ISC’s engagements with selected but impactful media, the Centre was able to garner a series of thoughtful articles in high-profile publications.

These publications included:

- “We Are Tomodachi” the magazine of the Japanese Prime Minister’s Office – ED-ISC discussed the roles and contributions the Centre has been making in helping to create safer Asian waters.
- “The Business Times” – In an interview with Singapore’s flagship business newspaper, ED-ISC discussed the evolving nature of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and the multi-pronged approach that is needed to combat these maritime threats.
- “Jane’s Navy International” – ED-ISC gave a macro picture of the declining number of incidents in Asia but cautioned that vigilance is still needed as abduction risks remained.
- “Jane’s Navy International” – ED-ISC provided insights in an interview piece on the holistic approach that the Centre takes in tackling the

threat of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

- “Channel NewsAsia” – The regional broadcaster based out of Singapore attended ED-ISC’s Half-Yearly Media Briefing, and the evening news bulletins on Channel NewsAsia as well as Channel 5 carried highlights of the latest trends and numbers with an interview of ED-ISC.

In addition, ReCAAP ISC’s key announcements and reports remained well-covered by leading maritime media including IHS Fairplay, Seatrade Maritime, Lloyd’s List, Platts, Safety4Sea, Hellenic Shipping News, Bunkerspot, Maritime Executive, and more.



PART 5

# PROFILING AND BRANDING ReCAAP ISC



Images 5-7: Sample of ReCAAP ISC’s media articles in 2017

Between January 1 to December 31, 2017, ReCAAP ISC garnered a total of 1,318 media hits on traditional media. This represented a 20 percent increase over 2016 whose tally was 1,101. A five-year comparison is appended:

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF MEDIA HITS	PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE
2017	1,318	+20%
2016	1,101	-8%
2015	1,198	+52%
2014	789	+142%
2013	326	-36%

The following table compared the social media hits for ReCAAP ISC over the past two years:

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF MEDIA HITS	PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE
2017	1,751	+38%
2016	1,265	Not Available



[WWW.RECAAP.ORG](http://WWW.RECAAP.ORG)

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