Press Statement

The ReCAAP ISC conducts its Inaugural Cluster Meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam

1.   In ReCAAP ISC's continuous efforts in the suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, it organised its inaugural Cluster Meeting on 24-27 May 2011 in Hanoi, Vietnam with four of its 17 ReCAAP Focal Points from the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. This is a new initiative undertaken by the ReCAAP ISC in 2011 with the main objective to better engage a selected group of ReCAAP Focal Points which has common challenges in terms of geographical areas. Recognising that the effort of combating piracy and armed robbery cannot be the sole responsibility of individual agency or country, inter-ministries officials and local shipping industry representatives were gathered to address the issues at hand to seek avenues for better cooperation and collaboration. Collectively, the Meeting addressed mechanisms to improve communications and identified areas for mutual support.

2.   Jointly organised with the Vietnam Focal Point, Deputy Director of ReCAAP ISC, LTC(Retd) Nicholas Teo emphasised the importance of keeping the channels for communications open and maintaining the various linkages, in order to establish the "comfort zone" for continuous information exchanges and enhancing confidence building.   Echoing his support, Director of the International Relations Department, Vietnam Marine Police, Senior Colonel Phu Van Lam said that this Cluster Meeting was a good platform to engage the various stakeholders as resources are limited and all needs to work together. Representatives from Thailand and Laos also expressed their interests to organise Maritime Forums to reach out to the maritime industry and like-minded organisations to promote the ReCAAP's effort in suppressing Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia and to share with the shipping industry the many developments that have taken place.

3.   The Governor for Vietnam of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, Senior Colonel Nguyen Quang Dam, Deputy General Director / Chief of Staff of the Vietnam Marine Police, welcomed the new Cluster Meeting initiative and assured the ReCAAP ISC Team of his support to further develop the Vietnam Focal Point to enhance the regional effort in combating the maritime crime.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
27 May 2011

For more media enquiries, please contact the ReCAAP ISC Secretariat at (65) 6376 3091.

ReCAAP ISC Governor for Vietnam, Senior Colonel Nguyen Quang Dam and
ReCAAP ISC Deputy Director, LTC(Retd) Nicholas Teo
at the ReCAAP ISC Inaugural Cluster Meeting
Hanoi, Vietnam
24-27 May 2011

Background Information
About the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia. It was finalised on 11 November 2004 and entered into force on 4 September 2006. To date, 17 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The seventeen Contracting Parties to ReCAAP are the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) was established under the Agreement, and was officially launched in Singapore on 29 November 2006. It was formally recognised as an international organisation on 30 January 2007.

The roles of the ReCAAP ISC are to:
▪ serve as a platform for information exchange with the ReCAAP Focal Points via the Information Network System (IFN); facilitate communications and information exchange among participating governments to improve incident response by member countries; analyse and provide accurate statistics of the piracy and armed robbery incidents to foster better understanding of the situation in Asia;
▪ facilitate capacity building efforts that help improve the capability of member countries in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region; and
▪ cooperate with organizations and like-minded parties on joint exercises, information sharing, capacity building programme, or other forms of cooperation, as appropriate, and agreed upon among the Contracting Parties.

The ReCAAP ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network System (IFN). Through this network, the ReCAAP Focal Points are linked to each other as well as the ReCAAP ISC on a 24/7 basis, and are able to facilitate appropriate responses to incident. The agency receiving the incident report will manage the incident in accordance to its national policies and response procedures, and provide assistance to the victim ship where possible. The agency will in turn, inform their ReCAAP Focal Point which will submit an incident report to the ReCAAP ISC and its neighbouring Focal Points.

For more information about the ReCAAP and ReCAAP ISC, please visit http://www.recaap.org