

PRESS STATEMENT
ReCAAP FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING 4/11
JOINTLY ORGANISED BY
THE ReCAAP ISC AND MINISTRY OF LAND, TRANSPORT AND MARITIME
AFFAIRS

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM) of the Republic of Korea jointly organised the Fourth ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting on 7-9 June 2011 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Building upon the successful conduct of the previous three meetings held since 2008, the theme for the meeting this year is *"Enhancing Information Exchange"*.

2. Meetings for senior officers are part of the ReCAAP ISC's Capacity Building Programmes in providing a platform for ReCAAP Focal Points and Contact Point to better understand, deliberate and coordinate measures in preventing and suppressing incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships. More importantly, the face-to-face meeting is aimed to establish better personal working relationship and understanding. To this end, the main objectives of this meeting were to share best practices and the experiences of ReCAAP Focal Points on piracy and armed robbery countermeasures, and to establish rapport and facilitate networking in order to establish the "comfort zone" among senior officers from ReCAAP Focal Points and the maritime industry.

3. Of significance, this was the second time the Meeting was held outside Singapore and participated by 14 Focal Points, one Contact Point, and attended by representatives from the Republic of Indonesia and Malaysia. The strong participation signaled the continuous and strong collective commitment to crystallizing the will in addressing challenges in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

4. On this note, Mr Sun Weon-Pyo, Governor (Republic of Korea) of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, said in his welcome remarks, "Streamline the inter-agency and intra-agency information flow and sharing within each ReCAAP Focal Point is utmost important. Emphasis must also be given to the continuous engagement between the ReCAAP Focal Point and their local maritime industry." Echoing the same sentiments, Mr Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, emphasized that combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea is a collective responsibility to be shared by all stakeholders – the governments, international organizations and maritime industry; and all must work together to make the waters safer for all.

5. The participants discussed engagement with the maritime industry, inter-governmental linkages and sharing of experience and best practices. The ReCAAP ISC also gave an update on the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct Programme – an effort in addressing the concerns over the piracy situation in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia, and appreciated the efforts made by the international community in addressing the problem.

6. The meeting concluded with a visit to the General Information Centre on Maritime Safety & Security (GICOMS) Centre located in Seoul.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
9 June 2011

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



(From left) Mr Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC and
Mr Sun Weon-Pyo, Governor for the Republic of Korea of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
at the ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 4/11
Seoul, Republic of Korea
7-9 June 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>