Press Statement

The ReCAAP ISC conducts Cluster Meeting 2/11
in Dhaka/Chittagong, Bangladesh

1. The ReCAAP ISC had successfully conducted the Second Cluster Meeting, jointly organized with the ReCAAP Focal Point for Bangladesh on 11-13 October 2011 in Dhaka and Chittagong, Bangladesh.

2. Four of 17 ReCAAP Focal Points, namely the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Republic of India, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka who have common challenges in the same geographical areas also participated in the meeting. The Cluster Meeting is a new initiative undertaken by the ReCAAP ISC in 2011 that aims to better engage specific Focal Point and its government agencies, shipping industries and the neighbouring Focal Points to address the issue of piracy and armed robbery against ships and seek avenues for cooperation and collaboration collectively. The First Cluster Meeting was conducted in Hanoi, Vietnam on 24-27 May 2011.

3. During the meeting, the Deputy Director of the 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 and enhance confidence building for continuous information exchanges. Echoing his support, the Secretary, Ministry of Shipping of Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan Howlader, the Governor for Bangladesh of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, highlighted that the Cluster Meeting was a good platform to engage the various stakeholders to share their perspectives, challenges and ideas in enhancing cooperation. Sharing their sentiments, the Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority, Commodore Md. Anwaruls Islam reiterated the need for close coordination and cooperation between the port authority, enforcement agencies and shipping industries.

4. Representatives from the shipping industry at the Port of Chittagong also expressed their views on seafarers' challenges and proposed more avenues for information exchange processes.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Center (ISC)
14 October 2011

At the ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting 2/11
Dhaka / Port of Chittagong, Bangladesh
11-13 October 2011

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

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