

PRESS RELEASE

Visit by Mr Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

1. The ReCAAP ISC was honoured to host a visit by Mr Koji Sekimizu, Secretary-General of the IMO, on 23 April 2012. Mr Sekimizu's visit was the latest of a series of engagement activities following the conclusion of an Agreement of Cooperation between the IMO and the ReCAAP ISC on 4 December 2007. The agreement paved the way for the two organisations to synergise their efforts and consult each other on issues related to combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

2. The Secretary-General commended the ReCAAP ISC on its remarkable achievements in areas of exchanging information among Contracting Parties on incidents of piracy and armed robbery, supporting capacity building efforts and facilitating cooperative arrangements since its inception on 29 November 2006. He was encouraged by the ongoing collaboration between the IMO and the ReCAAP ISC and added that the IMO welcomed the efforts of Asian countries in institutionalising regional anti-piracy co-operation, and has since emulated the ReCAAP model concerning the repression of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

3. These collaboration efforts included the signing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for communicating the exchange piracy related information between the three Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) information sharing centres (ISCs) and the ReCAAP ISC on 11 November 2011, and the training programme supported by the Singapore Government for the Officials of the three DCoC ISCs conducted in Singapore. He further welcomed the special financial contributions (for FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14) contributed by the Japan Government for the ReCAAP ISC in implementing programmes to aid the DCoC Contracting Parties.

4. ***“Under the ambit of cooperative arrangements, cooperation with the IMO has provided the opportunities to the ReCAAP ISC in reaching out and sharing information with more stakeholders. We are grateful for these avenues and look forward to having closer ties with the IMO”***, said Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC.

5. The Secretary-General said, ***“The ReCAAP ISC, in collaboration with the IMO, has a role to play in addressing the situation off the coast of Somalia, for instance in raising regional awareness, sharing its experience in Asia in promoting regional co-operation at the government-to-government level; and promoting regional capacity-building efforts, including the facilitation of technical assistance from regional governments.”*** Mr Sekimizu stressed that utmost considerations should be given to the seafarers transiting the area. He also expressed his deep concern on the trauma experienced by the seafarers which affect them for the rest for their lives.

The ReCAAP ISC looks forward to further strengthen cooperation with the IMO in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
23 April 2012

(Please contact The ReCAAP ISC Secretariat, Ms Amy Fang at 6376 3091, for further enquiries.)



Mr Koji Sekimizu (left) and LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo
at the visit by the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)
to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
on 23 April 2012

Further information on the ReCAAP and the ReCAAP ISC

FACT SHEET

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 Nam¹.

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>

¹ The United Kingdom will accede to the ReCAAP Agreement on 2 May 2012 becoming the 18th Contracting Party.