

PRESS RELEASE
ReCAAP ISC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP 6/13

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) organised the Sixth Capacity Building Workshop in Singapore, on 15-16 August 2013. The theme for the Workshop was “*Enhancing Efficiency with Strengthening Cooperation*”.

2. Capacity Building, together with Information Sharing and Cooperative Arrangements, are the three pillars of the ReCAAP. In which, Capacity Building Workshops are conducted to enhance the ReCAAP Focal Points’ capability in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region and to bridge operational gaps among the Focal Points. The Workshop was designed for operational-level Officers from the ReCAAP Focal Points and other relevant agencies. There was a total of 32 Officers who participated at the Capacity Building Workshop 6/13. These included new participants, Officers from ReCAAP Focal Point (Australia) – Border Protection Command following Australia’s joining the ReCAAP on 3 August 2013.

3. The aims of the 2-day Workshop were to develop and enhance the capabilities of ReCAAP Focal Points representatives through sharing of best practices, experiences on piracy and armed robbery countermeasures, and to establish rapport and facilitate networking among the participants. The Workshop also included training / refreshing session on the Information Network System (IFN) aimed to strengthen the participants’ knowledge in the system, and an Information Exchange Exercise aimed to further enhance information sharing and information management among the ReCAAP Focal Points and with the ReCAAP ISC.

4. As part of sharing of information, best practices, experiences and challenges, the Workshop incorporated presentations on topics such as Situation Update, Information Exchange Concept, and sharing of in-country cooperation effort by some ReCAAP Focal Points. In addition, one of the presentations was provided by a guest speaker from Sarawak and Sabah Shipowners Association (SSSA) who shared on the organisation setup and challenges faced by its members.

5. Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, complimented the ReCAAP Focal Points personnel for their concerted efforts that resulted in a continuous decline in the number of piracy and armed robbery incidents in Asia over the past three years. He was however cautious of complacency and urged all to continue their efforts to further enhance and improve on areas such as information sharing.

6. The Representatives from diplomatic missions, private industry and the research institutes who were invited for the first time to observe the Workshop had gained good insight of the ReCAAP’s unique information-sharing mechanism, and

noted the positive efforts made by the governments of the ReCAAP Contracting Parties.

7. The Singapore Police Coast Guard supported the Workshop by hosting a visit to its Brani Base. Social events, such as a visit to the Singapore Maritime Gallery, were also held in conjunction with the Workshop to promote camaraderie among the participants.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

16 August 2013

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



ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop 6/13
Holiday Inn Atrium Hotel, Singapore
15-16 August 2013



Visit hosted by the Singapore Police Coast Guard in Brani Base

ReCAAP Factsheet

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, 19 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The nineteen Contracting Parties to ReCAAP are Australia, 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, the United Kingdom and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

“ReCAAP is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against 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

Vision

To be the information hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia

ReCAAP ISC Factsheet

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:

- **Information Sharing**

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;

- **Capacity Building**

Facilitate capacity building efforts that help improve the capability of member countries in combating piracy and armed robbery in the region; and

- **Cooperative Arrangements**

Cooperate with organisations 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>

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Focal Points and Contact Point

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