

(for immediate release)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The ReCAAP ISC conducts its fourth Cluster Meeting in Manila, the Philippines**

1. Jointly organised by the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) and the ReCAAP Focal Point for the Philippines – the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the fourth Cluster Meeting was held on 24-25 September 2013 in Manila, the Philippines, in conjunction with the National Maritime Week in the Philippines.
2. Cluster Meeting is an initiative started by the ReCAAP ISC in 2011 with several intertwined objectives that includes inter-ministries coordination, engagement of local shipping industry agencies with ReCAAP Focal Point, and if required, its neighbouring ReCAAP Focal Points, to localized challenges in the effort to suppress of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. This is recognising the reality that the effort of combating piracy and armed robbery cannot be the sole responsibility of an individual agency or country. The past three Cluster Meetings were held in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Thailand.
3. The 2-day Meeting included presentations on inter-agency cooperation, piracy and sea robbery situation update in Asia made by the ReCAAP ISC, and an introduction of the recent establishment of Coast Watch System in the Philippines spearheaded by the PCG. These were aimed to collectively address mechanisms to improve communications and to identify areas for mutual support.
4. In the keynote address delivered by Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, he applauded the PCG in person for their continuous effort and perseverance in addressing the challenges that resulted in some of the success stories in the hijacked tug / barges incidents. He also highlighted that although the situation in the region has steadily improved thanks to the efforts of the respective Contracting Parties, combined efforts to stamp the numbers of sea robbery especially in ports and anchorages were still much needed for as long as sea robbery remains as a threat to seafarers.
5. In the introductory remarks delivered by Rear Admiral Cecil R Chen PCG on behalf of Rear Admiral Rodolfo D Isorena, Commandant of the PCG, also the ex-Chairperson for the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council (2011-13), he accentuated the importance of enhanced information sharing and inter-agency cooperation between the law enforcement agencies and private stakeholders – factors which were essential in achieving success in the drive against piracy armed robbery.
6. The Meeting concluded with a visit to the PCG Action Centre located in the Ready Force Headquarters, and Maritime School.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

26 September 2013

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



**ReCAAP ISC Cluster Meeting 4/13  
24-25 September 2013**

(from left) Mr Yoshihisa Endo, ReCAAP ISC Executive Director  
Vice Admiral (Retd) Alexandra P Pama, Undersecretary, Office of the Executive Secretary, Office of the  
President of the Philippines, also the Head of Secretariat for the National Coast Watch System,  
LTC (Retd) Nicholas Teo, ReCAAP ISC Deputy Director

# 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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