

(for immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE

ReCAAP FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING 5/13

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP), and China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre of the People's Republic of China, jointly organised the Fifth ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting in Guilin, China on 12-14 November 2013. Building upon the successful conduct of the previous four meetings held since 2008, the theme for the Meeting this year was "*Enhancing Information Management*".

2. Capacity Building, together with Information Sharing and Cooperative Arrangements, is one of the three pillars of the ReCAAP. In which, Senior Officers' Meetings are conducted to provide 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. The main objectives of this meeting were to share experiences of ReCAAP Focal Points and Contact Point on information management, reiterate their commitments on information sharing; and establish rapport and facilitate networking among the participants. Through the face-to-face meeting, the 23 senior officers from the 19 Contracting Parties of the ReCAAP, and one senior officer from Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), enhanced better personal working relationship and understanding that were essential in establishing the "comfort zone". 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.

3. Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr Yi Xianliang, Governor (China) of the ReCAAP Governing Council, and Mr Yoshihisa Endo, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, jointly led the participants of the ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting in expressing their condolences to the Government and the people of the Philippines, who is a member of the ReCAAP Contracting Parties on the loss of lives during the recent onslaught of the super typhoon *Haiyan*.

4. This was the third time the Meeting held outside Singapore where the ReCAAP ISC is based, following Thailand and South Korea in 2010 and 2011 respectively. In this Meeting, Mr Yi Xianliang, said in his welcome remarks that the Chinese government plays an active role and makes positive contribution to regional maritime safety cooperation along with other countries. He called for more work to be done in enhancing cooperation between shipowners and law enforcement, surveillance sectors, and other relevant governments while further arising awareness of safety and promoting capacity of self-protection among shipowners and their crew. Echoing the same sentiments, Mr Yoshihisa Endo highlighted in his opening

remarks that the strength of the ReCAAP mechanism lies in the high capability of ReCAAP Focal/Contact Points. He complimented the ReCAAP Focal Points personnel for the commendable efforts that resulted in a continuous decline in the number of piracy and armed robbery incidents in Asia since three years ago. He was however cautious of complacency and urged all to continue their efforts to further enhance and improve on areas such as information sharing.

5. As part of sharing of information, best practices, experiences and challenges, the Meeting incorporated ReCAAP ISC Research Department's presentation on Situation Update, and invited speakers from China Shipowner's Association and Guangxi Maritime Safety Administration to share their experience and knowledge in the suppression of piracy and armed robbery against ships. The modality of this meeting was also different from the previous meetings whereby senior officers broke in groups to discuss information management and work processes, highlight concerns and challenges, and share ideas on the way forward by Focal Points towards the objective of further improving the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

14 November 2013

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



ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 5/13
Sheraton Guilin Hotel, Guilin, China
12-14 November 2013

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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