

(for immediate release)

Chairperson's Statement
The Third Special Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
13-14 December 2014, Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo, Japan

INTRODUCTION

The ReCAAP ISC Governing Council convened its Third Special Governing Council (3SGC) Meeting on 13-14 December 2014 in Tokyo, Japan. The main objective of holding this Meeting was for the Governors to accelerate their discussions on the future directions for the ReCAAP ISC and to make preparations for the successful conduct of the 10th Anniversary¹ of the ReCAAP.

DEVELOPMENTS

2. The Governing Council welcomed combating piracy and sea robbery issues being on a higher agenda in many international fora, as well as having the international community. The Governing Council welcomed the fact that the ReCAAP ISC is to be emulated by other regions.

3. The Governing Council also welcomed the good operational level cooperation with Indonesia and Malaysia during the past months. Recognising the importance of full participation of all countries listed in Article 18(1)² of the ReCAAP Agreement and in light of recent encouraging developments, the Governing Council recommends these two States to consider acceding to the ReCAAP as soon as possible to collectively address the issue of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia for the benefit of the Member States and industry.

4. The Governing Council further welcomed the accession of the United States to the ReCAAP with effect from 22 September 2014 and their participation at the 3SGC Meeting. The expansion of ReCAAP membership demonstrates ReCAAP's credibility and growing relevance in the international maritime community, and further underscores the importance of international cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery effectively.

MEETING DISCUSSIONS

5. The Governing Council deliberated in depth on the Agenda Item: *Future of the ReCAAP ISC*, on how to improve the performance of the ReCAAP ISC, as well as on the various issues relating to the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of ReCAAP.

¹ 10th Anniversary of the ReCAAP is to be celebrated in 2016

² Countries listed in Article 18(1) are People's Republic of Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

6. For the first time, the Governing Council conducted a dialogue with the ReCAAP Focal Points Senior Officers. The IMO and participants of Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) were invited to make a presentations to the Governing Council respectively.

7. The Governing Council recognised the concerns of the shipping community on siphoning cases, the Governing Council encouraged ReCAAP ISC to continue its efforts to provide more accurate assessments and timely information sharing to all stakeholders.

8. The Governor from Thailand, also the current Chairperson, Ambassador Dr Pornchai Danvivathana, was elected by the Governing Council with unanimous support to continue another term of three years from 2015 to 2018.

CONCLUSION

9. The Governing Council thanked the Japanese Government for hosting the Meeting. The 9th Governing Council Meeting will be held as originally scheduled in the week of 16-20 March 2015 to be held in Singapore.

Issued by: The Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
14 December 2014

(Please contact The ReCAAP ISC Secretariat, Ms Amy FANG at amy_fang@recaap.org, for enquiries.)

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, 20 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP.

The twenty 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, the United States of America 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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