

(for immediate release)

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**ReCAAP FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING 6/14**

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 ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (FPSOM) in Tokyo, Japan on 12-13 December 2014. The Meeting was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Japan and the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point for Japan.

2. Capacity Building, together with Information Sharing and Cooperative Arrangements, is one of the three pillars of the ReCAAP. In which, Focal Point Senior Officers' Meetings are conducted annually 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 aims of this Meeting were to build on the achievements of the previous FPSOMs held and to share best practices and the experiences of the ReCAAP Focal/Contact Points in responding to incidents of piracy and armed robbery.

3. This Meeting also saw a Dialogue Session between the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council and FPSOM 6/14 participants at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC. The main objective of the Dialogue was to promote mutual understanding between the Governors and the ReCAAP Focal Points, whereby to contribute to the strengthening and improving the ReCAAP information sharing system.

4. 29 senior officers from the ReCAAP Contracting Parties, one senior officer from Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), and three participants from the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) Signatory States<sup>1</sup> including the representative of DCoC Information Sharing Centre accompanied by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) had good exchanges at the Meeting. The strong participation signaled the continuous and strong collective commitment in crystallising the will, collectively addressing the challenges and charting the way ahead. Further, the face-to-face Meeting helped to enhance personal working relationship and understanding that were essential in establishing the "comfort zone".

5. Areas of discussion at the Meeting focused on the situation update on piracy and armed robbery in Asia including siphoning incidents, and sharing of experience and expertise in piracy and armed robbery countermeasures. The Representatives from the DCoC Signatory States also gave an update on DCoC Programme implementation and piracy and armed robbery situation in the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia.

6. The participants from the DCoC Signatory States found the Meeting useful in developing their capacity building programmes and in establishing contacts with their counterparts within the ReCAAP Contracting Parties.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

13 December 2014

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<sup>1</sup> The three DCoC Signatory States are Maldives, Mauritius and Yemen.



ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 6/14  
Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo, Japan  
12-13 December 2014