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PRESS RELEASE
ReCAAP ISC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP 7/14

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) organised the Seventh Capacity Building Workshop in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 15-17 July 2014. This event was supported by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. The theme for the Workshop was "*Enhancing Cooperation between Government Agencies and Shipping Industry*".

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 29 Officers who participated at the Capacity Building Workshop 7/14.

3. The aims of the 2-day Workshop were to further develop and enhance the capabilities of ReCAAP Focal Points representatives through promoting dialogue, sharing of best practices, experiences on combating piracy and armed robbery, and to establish rapport and facilitate networking among the participants. Deliberation of contents of the '*Guide Book for the ReCAAP Focal Points*' was part of the discussions. The Workshop also included a training / refreshing session on the Information Network System (IFN), and a scenario-based 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 covering Situation Update, and sharing of experience and expertise in piracy and armed robbery countermeasures by some ReCAAP Focal Points. In addition, the respective guest speakers from Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), Malaysia Shipowners' Association (MASA) and P&I Club also shared their views at the Workshop.

5. One other highlight of the Workshop was the launch of '*ReCAAP FP App*'. The App, which is available for both Apple IOs and Android, provided ReCAAP Focal Points' contact details, latest publications, and allowed users to submit an incident report with an option to take a snapshot.

6. Mr Yoshihisa Endo, the Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC, reiterated the importance of enhancing the ReCAAP Focal Points' capabilities, and underlined the need for cooperation among the stakeholders. He said that "At the same time, we are now facing the challenges of how to address the recent development in piracy and armed robbery situation in certain parts of our region. In this regard as well, this event plays another important role for us to build confidence among the members in addressing the situation, and to further demonstrate our credibility as a successful model of regional cooperation." He also revealed that the ReCAAP has started preparations for its 10th anniversary in 2016, further aiming at becoming a globally recognised "Centre of Excellence" in another decade.

7. Representatives from eight Djibouti Code of Conduct Signatory States, namely, Djibouti, Jordan, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Tanzania and Yemen, participated the 2-day Workshop with a view to contributing to the enhancement of their capacity. This was an on-going effort in sharing ReCAAP's experience with the colleagues from the other region who were tasked with the similar mission. At the same time, it is expected that partnership between the two parties would be further developed for the mutual interests.

8. The participants visited *Hyundai Heavy Industries* to view advance shipbuilding capabilities and the latest array of ship designs aimed to aid the implementation of anti-piracy measures at sea. Separately, the participants visited *Bul Guk Sa Temple* to learn more of the Korean's history and culture. Social events of such helped to promote camaraderie among the participants.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

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QR Code for *ReCAAP FP Apps*



ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop 7/14
Visit hosted by Hyundai Heavy Industries
Busan, Republic of Korea