



## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Maritime Regulatory and Law Enforcement Authorities Convene to Enhance Measures to Combat Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia**

*ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre organises first Virtual Capacity Building Workshop to share information on evolving maritime safety situation in Asia*

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) today held its annual Capacity Building Workshop virtually for the maritime regulatory and law enforcement authorities (also known as Focal Points) of its member countries. The participants were from Asia, Australia and Europe.

During the virtual Workshop, ReCAAP ISC and the participants shared the information and assessment of the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, in particular, in the areas of concern. They also discussed the way to further improve the accuracy and timeliness of incident reporting by Focal Points so as to provide the maritime community with useful information and analysis.

“We have seen an increase of piracy and sea robbery incidents in Asia during January to July this year with 58 incidents. This is an increase of more than 50% compared to the same period of last year (37 incidents)” said Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

“Regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic, the participants of CBW confirmed their continued efforts for the enhancement of the safety of maritime transport in Asia so that vessels can transit unimpeded as they deliver vital supplies to the region and beyond,” added Mr. Masafumi Kuroki.



Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre noted the rising number of piracy and sea robbery incidents in Asia, and urged maritime authorities to enhance patrol and law enforcement particularly in the areas of concern.



ReCAAP Focal Point officers from across Asia, Australia and Europe participated in the Capacity Building Workshop, which for the first time, was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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## **About ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP 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 against ships in Asia. The Agreement entered into force on 4 September 2006. The Information Sharing Centre was established on 29 November 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties of the Agreement. To date, 20 States (14 Asian countries, 4 European countries, Australia, and the U.S.A) have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. To fulfil its vision as the Information Hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, ReCAAP ISC enhances regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. At the 12<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting in 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP ISC has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea. For more information about ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>