

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 April 2022

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) Welcomes its 6th Executive Director

The ReCAAP ISC welcomes onboard its 6th Executive Director (ED), Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, who assumes his appointment today. Mr. Natarajan's tenure will be from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. Mr. Natarajan was chosen and appointed as the 6th ED by the Governing Council in accordance with the Rules and Procedures for the appointment of the ED of the ReCAAP ISC.

2. Mr. Natarajan was formerly the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard and he brings with him nearly four decades of experience in the area of combating transnational maritime crimes including piracy and armed robbery. "I am excited to be joining ReCAAP ISC as its 6th ED. I look forward to working closely with our Contracting Parties and all stakeholders in the maritime community to address the changing challenges posed to the shipping and maritime sector, particularly piracy and armed robbery in Asian waters".

3. Mr. Natarajan succeeds Mr. Masafumi Kuroki who had served two consecutive terms of Executive Director from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2022. The Centre thanks Mr. Kuroki for his dedicated work in ReCAAP ISC and the pivotal role that he has played in the Centre's activities with the 21 Member States of the ReCAAP in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Centre would like to wish Mr. Kuroki all the best in his future endeavours.

4. Mr. Natarajan's profile is attached in Annex.

– End of Release –

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Profile of Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan



In a career spanning 38 years, Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan is well-versed with the nuances of International Maritime Law and IMO Conventions aimed at ensuring Safe, Secure and Clean Seas.

As a former Coast Guard Officer, he brings with him nearly four decades of valuable experience in combating transnational maritime crimes especially Piracy, Armed Robbery, Drugs, Weapons & Human Trafficking.

Mr. Natarajan became the Director General of Indian Coast Guard in July 2019. With a focussed approach, he formulated plans for capability enhancement and capacity building by inducting state-of-the-art ships and aircraft.

He is a firm believer that the dynamic maritime challenges of present and future can be addressed effectively through a collaborative and cooperative approach. Under his leadership, new bridges of friendship and partnership have been established with Coast Guards/Maritime Agencies of Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific Regions.

As the Director General of Indian Coast Guard, he shouldered various responsibilities of national and international stature pertaining to maritime security, maritime safety and marine environment protection & preservation. He was the Chairman of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board and the Commander Coastal Command responsible for ensuring India's coastal security against seaborne terror attacks. He was also Chairman of National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and the Central Coordinating Authority for marine oil spill response in India.

In his former capacity as the Indian Governor to ReCAAP ISC since July 2019 Mr. Natarajan has a clear understanding of the functioning of ReCAAP ISC and the significant role it plays in combating Piracy and Armed Robbery in the Asian region. Under his guidance, the instrumental coordination with the stakeholders from port authorities and state marine police, resulted in the apprehension of perpetrators engaged in petty thefts in port limits. Mr. Natarajan participated in the 14th and 15th

Governing Council Meetings of the ReCAAP ISC and has been a strong advocate of consensus building in the decision-making process. As Governor, he supported the recent endeavours' of ReCAAP ISC and is of the view that ReCAAP ISC while focusing on its core competency areas may also continue analysing emerging maritime challenges which have a bearing on its functional areas so as to remain ready and relevant to tackle the future challenges.