

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 January 2023

PRESS RELEASE
Nautical Forum 2023
[Theme]

1. The ReCAAP ISC has conducted the 14th Nautical Forum on 17 January 2023 at Hilton Orchard, Singapore. This forum is jointly organised by ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) (the Singapore Focal Point of ReCAAP) and Singapore Shipping Association (SSA).
2. The aim of the Nautical Forum is to provide a platform to engage the shipping industry, regional authorities, ReCAAP ISC's Focal Points (including those attending Focal Point Training), local representatives of foreign embassies and trade mission of the ReCAAP Member States, and the maritime community in sharing views, gathering feedbacks and making recommendations collectively towards combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia for 2023.
3. There are about 150 participants from ReCAAP Focal Points, enforcement authorities and agencies in the region, foreign missions, research institutes and including industry organizations and shipping companies attended the forum.
4. Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC (ED ISC) in his Opening Remarks expressed the need for collaborative and co-operative approach to deal with the piracy and armed robbery against ships which is a transboundary maritime crime as no single agency or nation can alone deal with. The area of concern remains to be the Singapore Straits which recorded 55 cases compared to 49 cases in 2021, and constituted 65% of the total cases in 2022. The incidents reported in the Singapore Strait are invariably the armed robbery/petty theft which are of opportunistic nature. He emphasized the need to continue step-up co-ordinated surveillance efforts by the law enforcement agencies of the littoral states of Singapore Strait to contain the situation against attacks on ships. The ReCAAP ISC continues to strongly advocate sustained, coordinated and collaborative efforts among the ReCAAP Focal Points, shipping industry and regional authorities to suppress piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. He urged the ship owners and masters to enhance vigilance, to report all incidents timely to the nearest coastal States, and to exercise anti-piracy watch while transiting the areas of concern and at ports and anchorages.
5. Assistant Director (Research) of the ReCAAP ISC, Ms LEE Yin Mui presented a detail analytics on the incidents reported in 2022. In which, she reported a total of 84 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships

occurred in Asia (comprising 80 actual and four attempted incidents) which was a 2% increase compared to 2021. Of the total incidents, 83 were armed robbery while there is one piracy incident involving a fishing boat in South China sea. Armed robberies are incidents occur within a State's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea while piracy occur at the high seas.

6. This year has witnessed the arrest of perpetrators by the law enforcement agencies due to timely reports by ship masters. This to an extent delivered the required deterrence to the perpetrators. The arrest of perpetrators took place in the Singapore Straits, Bangladesh and Vietnam.
7. Addressing the latest piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia in 2022, the Forum concluded with a panel discussion titled "Cooperation among littoral States and shipping industry to prevent sea robberies in the Singapore Strait". The panel comprises Capt. Akash Mitra, Director HSEQ of Teekay Tankers, Mr Lee Ting Wei, Head Operations & Security of Singapore Police Coast Guard and Capt Hudiansyah Is Nursal from BAKAMLA, Ms Lee Yin Mui, Assistant Director for Research from ReCAAP ISC and moderated by Ms. Sumathy Permal, Senior Fellow, Head Centre Maritime Security & Diplomacy, Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA). This was followed by an interactive and engaging discussions between the panel and the participants. The deliverables of Forum were the practical suggestions and invaluable exchanges that further endorsed the need to cooperate closely as combatting piracy and armed robbery is a shared responsibility.
8. In his remarks on the situation of sea robberies in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), Mr Vince Tan, Director, Operations Planning, Maritime and Port Authority emphasised the vital role played by the littoral States of the Straits, key information sharing bodies like the ReCAAP ISC and the Information Fusion Centre, and the shipping industry to address the situation. Mr Tan emphasised the need for timely reporting of incidents and the availability of commercial solutions to help crew develop better situational awareness for early warning. He said, "There are technological solutions such as night-capable CCTVs with video analytics for anomaly detection and automated triggering of responses, as well as radars capable of tracking suspicious small targets. We strongly encourage industry players to implement such solutions to deter sea robberies."
9. Mr Michael Phoon, Executive Director of the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) who also spoke at the event, highlighted that there are three essential elements for sustainable maritime safety and security in the Singapore Strait — strong industry-government partnerships, accurate reporting and staying vigilant. Explaining further, he said that "In the interest of ship and cargo owners, there is great importance for the shipping industry to work together with governments and navies to intercept and prevent piracy attacks and sea robberies. For instance, accurate reporting by ship Captains should remain a priority as it will help authorities better understand the problem and develop more effective strategies to combat it. In addition, shipping companies will be

able to take appropriate measures to protect their vessels and crews. I urge ship owners, operators, and crew to stay vigilant and remain aware of potential risks. With the SSA's Maritime Safety and Security Sub-Committee (MSS), we aim to continue the close co-operation with government agencies such as MPA, ReCAAP ISC, the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and the Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) to ensure that our shipping community is always prepared and equipped with the necessary knowledge and intelligence to prevent piracy attacks.



Caption 1: Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director ReCAAP ISC delivering the opening remark at Nautical Forum 2023



Caption 2: A member of the audience keenly engaging the discussion panel.



Caption 3: About 150 participants at the Nautical Forum 2023.

Attached:

1. Annual Report 2022
2. Single Sheet Summary

- End of Release -

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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 September 4, 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties, and the Information Sharing Centre was established on November 29, 2006. To date, 21 States (14 Asian countries, 5 European countries, Australia, the USA) 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 12th 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>