



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ReCAAP INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE RELEASES HALF-YEARLY (JANUARY-JUNE 2017) REPORT:
LOWEST NUMBER OF PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY INCIDENTS SINCE 2007**

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) today released its Half-Yearly (January-June 2017) Report.

Highlights of the ReCAAP ISC Half-Yearly (January-June 2017) Report, whose information is verified by the respective government enforcement agencies, also known as Focal Points, and regional authorities, include:

- Incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia **continued to decline**, with 36 reported incidents reported by government enforcement agencies in the region. This represents the **lowest total number of incidents since 2007**.
- Of the 36 reported incidents, 27 were armed robbery against ships, two were piracy, seven were kidnaps for ransom. The number of incidents was a **22 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2016**, and **41 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2013**.
- The situation of **abduction of crew in Sulu-Celebes Sea has improved**, with no incidents reported in May and June 2017, but still remains an area of concern.
- Also of concern was the recurrence of the **hijacking of ships for theft of oil cargo**, and a **rise in the number of incidents reported at Bangladesh port or anchorages** as well.

The majority of the incidents occurred on board ships at anchor/berth, while others took place on board ships that were underway.

ReCAAP ISC reports are derived from verified data from its Focal Points and regional authorities. This due process increases the accuracy of information, allows incidents to be properly classified, and enables Coastal States to take ownership of the incidents.

“While the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia continued to decline, there is no room for complacency. ReCAAP ISC will continue our engagement with the enforcement authorities and shipping community in the region as we collectively work towards making seas in Asia safe and secure for all,” said Mr Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

– End of Release –

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ReCAAP ISC

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, 20 States (14 Asian countries, 4 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. For more information about ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>