

(for immediate release)

## PRESS RELEASE

### ***The 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)***

1 At the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC held on 16-19 March 2015 in Singapore hosted by the Singapore Government, Governors from the ReCAAP countries<sup>1</sup> commended the ReCAAP ISC on achieving further milestones in research and analysis, capacity building, engagement and co-operation with other organisations with interests in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. Partner Organisations from International Organisations and maritime industry, as well as External Participants also participated in the OPEN Session of the Meeting.

2 The expansion of ReCAAP membership from the original 14 States to 20 to-date demonstrates ReCAAP's credibility and growing relevance in the international maritime community, and further underscores the importance of international cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery effectively. In this light, the Council recognised the importance of full participation of all countries listed in Article 18(1) of the ReCAAP Agreement, and hoped that those who have yet to sign and ratify the Agreement would do so, to collectively address the issue of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Council also welcomed external participants<sup>2</sup> to attend part of its deliberation.

3 The Council continued to discuss the "Future of the ReCAAP ISC" with the goal of strengthening ReCAAP ISC's role and raise its stature as an internationally recognised centre of excellence within its purpose and mandate for information sharing, and affirmed the need to enhance its relevance.

4 The Council further commended the ReCAAP ISC on the release of its Annual Report 2014. It reported that there had been an increase in the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2014 compared to the past four years (2010-2013). A total of 183 incidents comprising 168 actual incidents and 15 attempted incidents were reported. On a year-on-year comparison, this represents an increase of 22% in the total number of incidents in 2014 compared to 2013. Of the 183 incidents, 13 (7%) were Category 1 (very significant) incidents, 41 (23%) were Category 2 (moderately significant) incidents and 114 (62%) were Category 3 (less significant) and petty theft (minimum significant) incidents.

5 In the area of capacity building, the Council welcomed the successful conduct of various ReCAAP ISC capacity building activities including the *ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop 7/14* on 15-17 July 2014 in Busan, Republic of Korea, with support from the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries, and *ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting 6/14* on 12-13 December 2014 in Tokyo, Japan, both funded by the Japan Government.

6 In addition, the Council was pleased to note the successful conduct of *Cluster Meeting 5/14* on 30 October 2014 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, co-organised with the Merchant Marine Department. The Meeting provided a platform in enhancing inter-

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<sup>1</sup> The ReCAAP countries are listed in Annexe 1.

<sup>2</sup> The list of external participants represented at the meeting is attached in Annexe 2.

ministry coordination, and an excellent ground to exchange views with the maritime stakeholders in Cambodia.

7 The Council noted that ReCAAP ISC's reports are now frequently cited in media and industry publications. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has also held up the ReCAAP initiative as a model of inter-governmental co-operation against piracy and armed robbery against ships that other regions could emulate. In addition, the ReCAAP ISC participated in several international conferences / forums on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

8 The Council was pleased to note the ReCAAP ISC's initiative in engaging the members of the shipping community by conducting the *ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2014* and the *Nautical Forum* in 2015. The Council looked forward to the conduct of ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2015, jointly organised with BIMCO<sup>3</sup>, INTERTANKO<sup>4</sup>, and RSIS<sup>5</sup> on 23 April 2015 in Singapore, with the main objective of engaging the shipping community. To this end, the Council urges ship masters to report incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the relevant authorities immediately, to enable a more effective response and encourage multi-channel reporting, as advocated by the IMO MSC Circ. 1333/1334.

9 The Council welcomed the voluntary contributions pledged/paid by the ReCAAP Contracting Parties towards the work of the ReCAAP ISC for FY 2015<sup>6</sup> as follows:

Kingdom of the Netherlands	EUR	30,000	
Kingdom of Denmark	SGD	50,000	
People's Republic of China	USD	50,000	
Republic of India	USD	50,000	
United Kingdom	GBP	50,000	
Kingdom of Norway	USD	100,000	
Republic of Korea	SGD	182,925	
Japan	SGD	366,000	(estimate)
Republic of Singapore	SGD	1,600,000	(estimate)

This assistance is in addition to the secondment of staff from China, India, the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand.

10 The Council unanimously supported the nominations of the Vice Chairperson by Governor for Sri Lanka, CAPT (N) SB Senarathne. The current Chairperson, Ambassador Dr Pornchai Danvivathana, was previously re-elected by the Governing Council at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Governing Council Meeting held on 13-14 December 2014 with unanimous support to continue another term. The term of their appointment is for 2015-2018 with effect from 20 March 2015. The Council expressed appreciation to the outgoing Vice-Chairperson, Governor for Bangladesh, Mr Nasir Arif Mahmud.

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<sup>3</sup> BIMCO: Baltic and International Maritime Council

<sup>4</sup> INTERTANKO: International Association of Independent Tanker Owners

<sup>5</sup> RSIS: S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies – a Graduate School of Nanyang Technological University of Singapore

<sup>6</sup> FY 2015: 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016

11 The Council took up the issue of the nomination of the next Executive Director and recognised that the nomination and appointment process will be conducted in accordance with the principle of fairness and transparency. The Council took note of the announcement made by Japan of its intention to put up a nomination.

12 The Council reiterated the importance of the ReCAAP ISC being the channel between the law enforcement agencies and the shipping agencies and called for greater cooperation among the like-minded agencies in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

13 The 10<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC is scheduled to be held during the month of March 2016 in Singapore with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Event to be held immediately following it.

The ReCAAP ISC Governing Council  
19 March 2015

(Please contact The ReCAAP ISC Secretariat, Ms Amy FANG at 6376 3091, for further enquiries.)

**Contracting Parties to the ReCAAP**

1. Australia
2. People's Republic of Bangladesh
3. Brunei Darussalam
4. Kingdom of Cambodia
5. People's Republic of China
6. Kingdom of Denmark
7. Republic of India
8. Japan
9. Republic of Korea
10. Lao People's Democratic Republic
11. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
12. Kingdom of the Netherlands
13. Kingdom of Norway
14. Republic of the Philippines
15. Republic of Singapore
16. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
17. Kingdom of Thailand
18. United Kingdom
19. United States
20. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**External Participants Represented at the 9<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre**

Organisations

1. European Commission (EC)
2. Information Fusion Centre (IFC)
3. INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation
4. Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF)
5. Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA)/Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)