

(for immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE

The 10th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

1 At the 10th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC held on 15-17 March 2016 in Singapore hosted by the Singapore Government, Governors from the ReCAAP countries¹ 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 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 participants² to attend part of its deliberations.

3 The Governing Council continued the discussion on the *Future of the ReCAAP ISC* and established a Working Group with its mandate to chart a Road Map for the ReCAAP ISC to become a *Centre of Excellence* for Information Sharing; covering a period of ten years (from 2016-2026) and beyond. The Governing Council also agreed to expedite this process by 2020.

4 The Council further noted the release of ReCAAP ISC's Annual Report 2015 which reported the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia which was a 7% increase compared to 2014. The Council welcome the improving situation on a monthly basis from August to December 2015 and no incidents of hijacking of tankers for theft of oil cargo since September 2015. While noting the overall situation in Asia was heading for improvement with efforts of various regional enforcement agencies, the Council advocated sustained coordinated efforts and collaboration among the ReCAAP Focal Points, shipping industry and regional authorities to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. To enable a more effective response and encourage multi-channel reporting, as advocated by the IMO MSC Circ. 1333/1334, the Council urges ship masters to report incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the relevant authorities immediately.

5 The Council applauded ReCAAP ISC's efforts in publishing the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia* with its like-minded organisations in February 2016 after the successful launch of the *Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia against Piracy and Armed Robbery involving Oil Cargo Theft* in November 2015 which clearly exhibited ReCAAP ISC's commitment to serve its stakeholders.

6 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* on 4-6 August 2015 in Singapore, and the *ReCAAP Focal Point Senior*

¹ The ReCAAP countries are listed in Annexe 1.

² The list of external participants represented at the meeting is attached in Annexe 2.

Officers' Meeting on 6-8 October 2015 in Sydney, Australia, with the support of Australia's Maritime Border Command.

7 The Council noted that ReCAAP ISC had stepped up its outreach efforts and its reports are now frequently cited in media and industry publications. In addition, the ReCAAP ISC participated in several international conferences and fora on combating piracy and armed robbery against ships to raise greater awareness.

8 The Council was pleased to note the ReCAAP ISC's initiative in engaging the members of the shipping community by, among others, conducting the *ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference 2015* and the *Nautical Forum* in 2016.

9 The Council welcomed the voluntary contributions pledged/paid by the ReCAAP Contracting Parties towards the work of the ReCAAP ISC for FY 2016³ as follows:

Kingdom of the Netherlands	EUR	30,000	
Kingdom of the Thailand	SGD	50,000	
Republic of India	USD	50,000	
United States of America	USD	50,000	
Australia	AUD	100,000	
People's Republic of China	USD	80,000	
Kingdom of Norway	USD	100,000	
Republic of Korea	KRW	150 million	
Japan	JPY	48.314 million	(tbc)
Republic of Singapore	SGD	1.6 million	

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 actively discussed the agenda items relating to the *10th Anniversary Event* scheduled for 18 March 2016. The Event will be attended by the High Level Representatives from ReCAAP's 20 Contracting Parties, more than half of them at Ministerial level. To this end, the Council has adopted the *Joint Statement* which will be introduced at the *10th Anniversary Event*.

11 The Council also appointed Mr Masafumi KUROKI as the next Executive Director for the period of three years from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019, and extended its appreciations to the current Executive Director, Mr Yoshihisa ENDO, for his exemplary leadership in raising the ReCAAP ISC to new heights during his six-year service.

12 The Council reiterated the importance of the ReCAAP ISC being a channel between the law enforcement agencies and the shipping industry, calling for greater cooperation among the like-minded agencies in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. The Council also commended the ReCAAP ISC in striving to become a Centre of Excellence in information sharing by 2020.

13 The 11th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC is scheduled to be held in the week 14-17 March 2017 in Singapore.

The ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
17 March 2016

(Please contact The ReCAAP ISC Secretariat, Ms Amy FANG at 6376 3091 or amy_fang@recaap.org, for further enquiries.)

³ FY 2016: 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

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 of America
20. Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

External Participants Represented at the 10th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

States

1. Sultanate of Oman
2. Federal Republic of Germany

Organisations

1. European Commission (EC)
2. INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation
3. Information Fusion Centre (IFC)
4. Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF)
5. Centre for International Law (CIL)
6. Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)
7. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
8. The International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)
9. Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA)
10. Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)