

For immediate release

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Nautical Forum 7/16**

1. The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) jointly organised the Seventh Nautical Forum on 12 January 2016 afternoon at Capital Tower's STI Auditorium, Singapore.

2. The main objective of this Forum was to bring together the ReCAAP ISC, MPA and members of the shipping industry to share on the findings of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia for 2015. It was also a platform set for the various stakeholders to share and exchanges views, and solicits feedback and recommendations from the maritime community and the ReCAAP ISC's stakeholders.

3. Mr Yoshihisa ENDO, Executive Director of the ReCAAP ISC warmly welcomed the regional and global maritime community audience which included shipping industries, law enforcement agencies and research institutes at the Forum. He said in his Opening Remarks the need to leverage all relevant resources, and to cooperate and collaborate also amongst the stakeholders in order to combat this crime efficiently. He was pleased to note the ratio of increase in the number of incident between 2014 and 2015 had largely reduced compared to previous years with an improving situation on a monthly basis since August to December and no incidents of hijacking of tankers for theft of oil cargo since September. He attributed the improvement to the enhanced vigilance by shipping industries and the stepped-up efforts by the law enforcement agencies. He further announced that the ReCAAP ISC has embarked on producing *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia* with its like-minded organisations after the successful launch of *Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia against Piracy and Armed Robbery involving Oil Cargo Theft* in November 2015. While in the start of ReCAAP ISC's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year in 2016, he reiterated ReCAAP ISC's commitment to serve its stakeholder, and sought continuous effort from all.

4. Assistant Director (Research) of the ReCAAP ISC, Ms LEE Yin Mui presented a detail analysis on the incidents reported in 2015. In which, she reported that the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia had increased to a total of 200 incidents (187 actual and 13 attempted) which was a 7% increase compared to 2014. On the situation of hijacking of tankers for theft of oil cargo, she reported that two incidents out of the 12 were foiled by the authorities, and no such incident was reported since September. Though situation at most ports and anchorages in Asia had improved (except Vietnam), more than 50% incidents were reported occurred in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore on board ships while underway.

5. While noting the overall situation in Asia is heading for improvement with efforts of various regional enforcement agencies, there is no room for complacency. The ReCAAP ISC strongly advocates 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. It also urged ship owners and masters to enhance vigilance, to report all incidents to the nearest coastal States timely, and to exercise anti-piracy watch activities while their ships are at ports and anchorages.

6. Captain M Segar, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) of MPA said, "The fight against piracy and sea robbery is a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. Over the past year, there have been stepped up efforts by regional authorities, ReCAAP ISC and the industry to tackle the situation. It is encouraging that in recent months since August 2015, the number of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore has decreased. I urge the industry to continue to provide timely and accurate information to the coastal authorities and to ReCAAP ISC to support counter-piracy efforts. Additionally, resources such as the recently released *Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia against Piracy and Armed Robbery involving Oil Cargo Theft* by ReCAAP ISC and its partner organisations are useful tools that the industry can adopt to deter attacks."

7. Executive Director of SSA, Mr Michael PHOON said, "Through events like the Nautical Forum where we can exchange information and ideas, I hope that ReCAAP ISC will continue to closely consult with stakeholders and take the lead in the development of practical and relevant guidance."

8. The guest speakers from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), the Republic of Singapore Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC), and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG), gave informative and insightful presentations.

9. Many speakers, in their speeches, touched up the important roles that the ReCAAP ISC had played since its inception in ensuring the safe navigation in our region. They also expressed their high expectation the ReCAAP could play in its evolution for another decade. Further, in the context of the situation of our region, they welcomed the various positive developments in the recent months, and commended all the stakeholders, including the ReCAAP, wished that the positive developments be further progressed in a sustainable direction.

10. Noting the latest piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia in 2015, the Forum concluded with interactive, intensive and engaging Q&A between the seven-member panel led by the Deputy Director of the ReCAAP ISC, LTC (Retd) Nicholas TEO, and over 230, largest ever, participants. The deliverables of Forum were the practical suggestions and invaluable exchanges that further endorsed the need to cooperate closely for it is a shared responsibility.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

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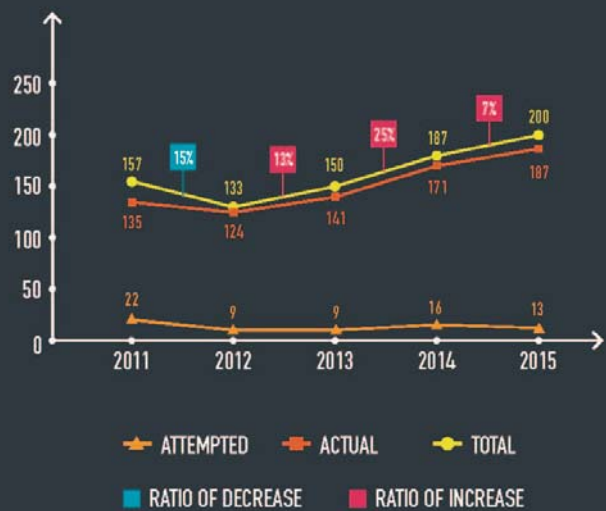
# PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA (2015)

## 7% INCREASE IN NUMBER IN 2015 COMPARED WITH 2014

Ratio of increase declined over 2012-2015



### 5 YEARS-OVERVIEW



## NO INCIDENT OF HIJACKING OF TANKERS FOR THEFT OF OIL CARGO SINCE SEPTEMBER 2015

12 incidents reported, of which 2 were foiled by authorities.

### ARRESTS AND PROSECUTION



Arrest of mastermind



Arrest of perpetrators



Found and detain ships used by perpetrators



Prosecution of perpetrators by MMEA



Produced 'Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia against Piracy and Armed Robbery Involving Oil Cargo Theft'







## LOCATIONS

### STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE

- More than 50% incidents reported in 2015 occurred in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore on board ships while underway
- Improvement with no actual incident reported since November 2015

### PORTS AND ANCHORAGES

- Situation at most ports and anchorages in Asia has improved in 2015 compared to 2014, except Vietnam

## WAY FORWARD

Collaboration among the ReCAAP ISC, shipping industry and authorities to:



Share timely updates and assessments



Ensure immediate assistance and responses to victim ships



Work in progress...ReCAAP ISC jointly producing '*Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*' with ASF, IFC, INTERTANKO, OCIMF, RSIS, SSA/FASA



## CONCLUSION

The efforts of various regional enforcement agencies in enhanced patrols and agility, had led to the quick apprehension of the perpetrators. With more perpetrators being put to task, the overall situation in Asia is heading for improvement.

However, there is no room for complacency. Cooperation and collaboration among the ReCAAP Focal Points, shipping industry and regional authorities are key towards combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.