

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE
Nautical Forum 2017

1. The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) organised the Eighth Nautical Forum supported by Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Republic of Singapore Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) on 12 January 2017 at PSA Auditorium, PSA Building, Singapore. Some 180 people participated in the Forum.

2. The main objective of the Forum was to share the findings of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia for 2016. It was also a platform for the various stakeholders to share and exchange views, and solicit feedback and recommendations from the maritime community and the ReCAAP ISC's stakeholders.

3. Mr Masafumi KUROKI, 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. Mr KUROKI in his Opening Remarks mentioned that there has been a 58% decrease in number of piracy and armed robbery incidents reported in 2016 compared to 2015; and this is a testimony of effective information sharing of all stakeholders, coordination of enforcement agencies and timely reporting and preventive measures by the shipping industry. A total of 85 incidents comprising 76 actual incidents and nine attempted incidents were reported in 2016 compared to 203 incidents in 2015. The number of incidents in 2016 is also historically the lowest since the ReCAAP ISC started to make statistics of incidents in 2007. The decrease in number of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and decrease of oil siphoning incidents were the two most evident improvements. However, since March 2016, incidents of abduction of crew from ships in the Sulu-Celebes Sea and waters off Eastern Sabah have become a serious concern. We cannot be complacent and should remain vigilant.

For the first time, representatives from the Information Sharing Centres in the African region also attended the Forum. They were in Singapore to attend the Inaugural Meeting of Anti-Piracy contact points Workshop organised by the MPA and the ReCAAP ISC

4. Assistant Director (Research) of the ReCAAP ISC, Ms LEE Yin Mui presented a detail analysis on the incidents reported in 2016. In which, she reported that the most outstanding improvement was the situation in Straits of Malacca and Singapore which saw a drop of number of incidents from 104 in 2015 to two in 2016; and number of incidents of oil siphoning incidents decrease from 12 in 2015 to three in 2016. There has also been a decrease in incidents at certain ports and anchorages in Asia.

5. Mr TAN Suan Jow, Director of Shipping Division from MPA, said "Maintaining vigilance and strengthening cooperation between all like-minded stakeholders are crucial to win the fight against piracy and sea robbery in Asia. On our part, MPA will

continue to partner enforcement agencies, regional governments, industry and ReCAAP ISC in addressing the threat posed by piracy and sea robbery in the region.”

6. Executive Director of SSA, Mr Michael PHOON said, “SSA appreciates the multilateral efforts of the littoral states of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore which saw the number of incidents slashed by over 60% compared to 2015 and we hope that the concerted effort backed by close cooperation and information sharing will continue in ensuring the safety and security of our waters in the region.

Whilst we are concerned at the developments in the Sulu Sea, we are appreciative of the cooperation on the part of the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia to combat the situation at hand.

For our part, SSA continues to encourage its members to ensure their crews continue to maintain vigilance and adhere closely to tried and tested industry best management practices. We also will continue to work closely with stakeholders such as other industry associations, ReCAAP and the Information Fusion Centre to ensure that these best practices remain relevant in the face of an ever-shifting maritime landscape.”

7. The guest speaker from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), gave an informative and insightful presentation focusing on their enforcement efforts in waters under their responsibility. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) shared latest information on the abduction of crew incidents in Sulu-Celebes Sea.

8. Noting the latest piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia in 2016, the Forum concluded with interactive, intensive and engaging Q&A between the eight-member panel led by the Deputy Director of the ReCAAP ISC, LTC (Retd) Nicholas TEO, and participants. The deliverables of Forum were practical suggestions and invaluable exchanges that further endorsed the need to cooperate closely based on shared responsibility.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

13 January 2017

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PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA (2016)

LOWEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS YEAR-ON-YEAR (2012-2016)

58% DROP in number of incidents compared to 2015

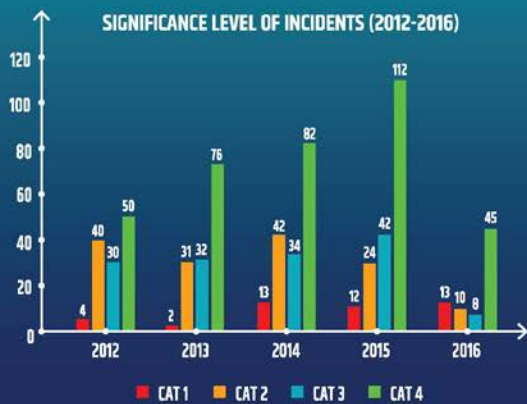
85 INCIDENTS, 5 ARE PIRACY AND 80 ARE ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS



SEVERITY OF INCIDENTS (ACTUAL INCIDENTS)

INCREASE
CAT 1 (most significant incident)
13 in 2016 (12 in 2015)
10 abduction of crew
3 theft of oil cargo

DECREASE
CAT 2, 3 and 4
incidents



IMPROVEMENTS



STRAITS OF MALACCA AND SINGAPORE (SOMS)

Most Drastic Decrease 104 cases in 2015 to 2 cases in 2016

- Arrest of perpetrators
- Joint coordinated patrol & surveillance by littoral States



HIJACKING OF SHIPS FOR THEFT OF OIL CARGO

Decrease 12 cases in 2015 to 3 cases in 2016

- Commitment by littoral States to clamp down crime
- Arrest of head of syndicates in 2015



PORTS/ANCHORAGES IN VIETNAM

Decrease 27 cases in 2015 to 9 cases in 2016

- Concerted efforts by Vietnamese authorities
- Vigilance by master and crew

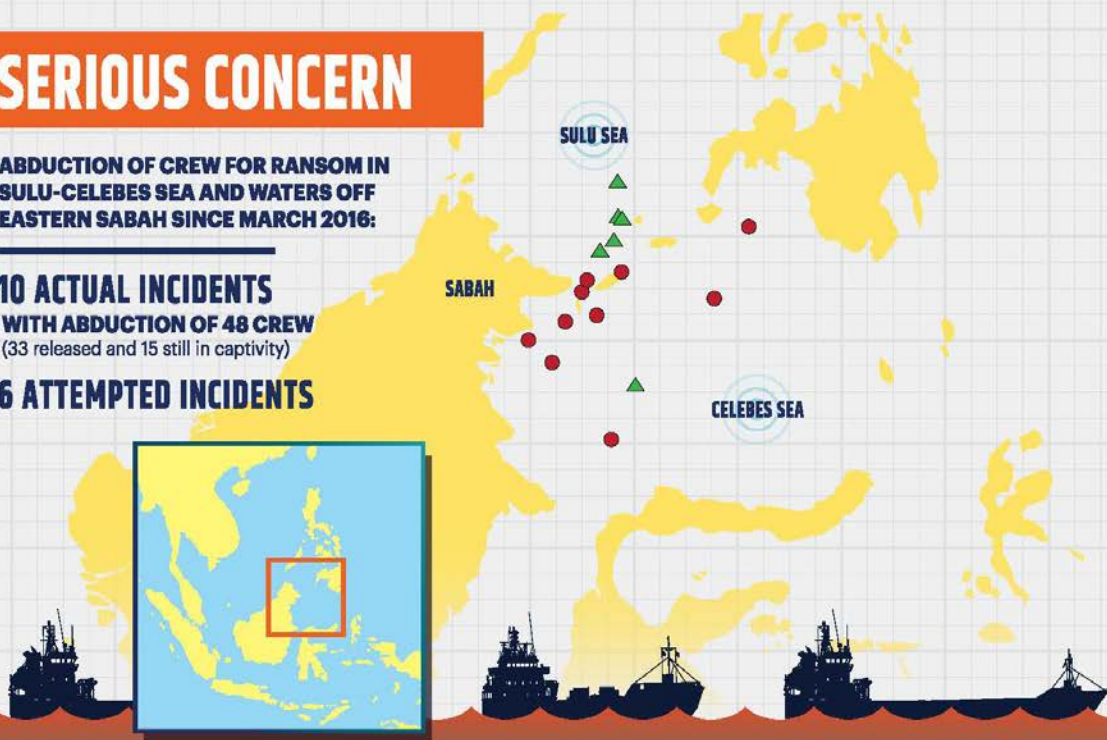


SERIOUS CONCERN

ABDUCTION OF CREW FOR RANSOM IN SULU-CELEBES SEA AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH SINCE MARCH 2016:

**10 ACTUAL INCIDENTS
WITH ABDUCTION OF 48 CREW**
(33 released and 15 still in captivity)

6 ATTEMPTED INCIDENTS



ACTIONS BY ReCAAP ISC

- Published 2 x Special Reports on modus operandi of abductors in consultation with Philippine Coast Guard, Focal Point for Philippines
- Issued **Incident Alert** dated 21 November 2016: advise industry to re-route (where possible), to report, to exercise extra vigilance, to adopt anti-piracy measures from Regional Guide for Asia

RESPONSES BY OTHERS

- Advisories issued by US Maritime Administration (MARAD), Japanese Foreign Ministry, MRCC (Mumbai) India Coast Guard, UK Department of Transport



CONCLUSION

- ◆ Lowest number of incidents in 2016 based on year-on-year for 5-year period (2012-2016).
- ◆ 58% decrease in number of incidents compared to 2015.
- ◆ No room for complacency.
 - Of serious concern are the incidents of abduction of crew in Sulu-Celebes Sea and waters off Eastern Sabah.
 - Incidents at certain ports and anchorages in Indonesia have increased.
- ◆ The ReCAAP ISC urges littoral States to step up surveillance, enhance patrols and initiate timely operational responses.
- ◆ The ReCAAP ISC also urges shipping industry to exercise enhanced vigilance, keep abreast of latest situation update by connecting to ReCAAP ISC website and reports, and adopt relevant anti-piracy measures as recommended in the Regional Guide for Asia.