

(For immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE

The 11th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

1 The 11th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was held on the 14-16 March 2017 in Singapore, hosted by the Singapore Government. Governors from the ReCAAP Contracting Parties¹ attended the Meeting. The Council reviewed the activities of the ReCAAP ISC in FY2016 and deliberated on its activities for FY2017 and beyond. On 16 March, the Open Session was held with External Participants from 2 countries and 14 organizations.

2 The Council commended the ReCAAP ISC on producing positive results of its activities in FY2016 under three pillars of its mission, viz, information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangement.

3. One of the highlights of the 11th Governing Council Meeting was on the Future of the ReCAAP ISC. The Working Group, established in June 2016, submitted a Report on the Future of the ReCAAP ISC to the 11th GC Meeting. The Council deliberated on the Roadmap covering the ensuing 10 years until 2026 with a goal for the ReCAAP ISC to become a “Centre of Excellence” for information sharing by 2020. The Council endorsed the Report as a basis for the activities of the ReCAAP ISC for the ensuing 10 years, and instructed the Secretariat to commence the implementation of the Road Map in the coming workyear.

4. Based on the Roadmap, the Council reviewed and endorsed the Work plan and the Budget for FY2017 proposed by the Secretariat. The focus of the Work plan for FY2017 is the improvement in the timeliness and accuracy of information sharing and analysis of incidents, reinforcement of the capability of Focal Points, further engagement with maritime community, and raising of the ReCAAP ISC’s profile with partner organisations and the media. The Council also considered a three-year Work plan which was prepared in close alignment with its Roadmap on the condition that sufficient budget will be secured by the voluntary contributions of the Contracting Parties.

5. The conferences to be organized by the ReCAAP ISC in FY2017 in Singapore will be the *Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference* and the *Nautical Forum* to be held on 27 April 2017 and 11 January 2018, respectively. The Capacity Building activities and bilateral visits are planned to be organized in Bangladesh, India, Japan, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam in FY2017. Furthermore, the ReCAAP ISC will continue close cooperation with all the stakeholders, in particular, the shipping associations, and participate actively in the international and regional meetings on piracy and sea robbery.

6. The expansion of ReCAAP membership from the original 14 States to the current 20 States demonstrates ReCAAP’s credibility and growing relevance among the international maritime community, and emphasises the importance of international cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. In this context, the Council recognised the importance of participation of all countries listed in Article 18(1) of the ReCAAP Agreement, and encourages those who have yet to sign and ratify the Agreement to do so in order to collectively address these maritime challenges. The Council welcomed other countries considering membership of the ReCAAP.

¹ The ReCAAP countries are listed in Annexe 1.

7. The Council noted the presentation made by the ReCAAP ISC on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2016. There were 85 incidents in 2016 which was the lowest number of incidents reported since 2007 and it was a decrease of 58% compared to 2015. The decrease was most apparent in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, and in incidents of oil cargo theft. The Council commended the ReCAAP ISC and all the stakeholders on their efforts for the significant reduction of the incidents and encouraged continuing efforts.

8. The Council, however, expressed its concern on the incidents of abduction of crew from ships transiting the Sulu-Celebes Sea, the Sibutu Passage, and the waters off Eastern Sabah and noted the efforts of the Philippine authorities and the neighbouring countries in addressing the situation. The Council instructed the ReCAAP ISC to continue to monitor the situation closely, issue timely warning and alerts when necessary, and to share the analysis of the situation with the shipping industry.

9. The Council noted that ReCAAP ISC had stepped up its outreach efforts and that its information and reports were frequently cited in the media and industry publications. There were 1,101 media reports in 2016 (ie. 3 reports per day) covering the ReCAAP ISC.

10. The Council welcomed the voluntary contributions pledged/paid by the ReCAAP Contracting Parties towards the work of the ReCAAP ISC for FY 2017² as follows:

Australia	AUD	100,000	
People's Republic of China	USD	80,000	
Republic of India	USD	75,000	
Japan	SGD	628,087	(tbc)
Republic of Korea	KRW	150 million	
Kingdom of the Netherlands	EUR	30,000	
Kingdom of Norway	USD	100,000	
Republic of Singapore	SGD	1.8 million	

The financial contribution is in addition to the secondment of staff from China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand, at the ReCAAP ISC.

11. At the Open Session on 16 March, the ReCAAP ISC shared with External Participants the information on its activities in FY 2016, its plan for FY 2017, the Roadmap for the future and the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The ReCAAP ISC also asked for their continuing cooperation. External Participants commended the achievements of the ReCAAP ISC and expressed their intention to further develop mutual cooperation.

12. The 12th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC is scheduled to be held in the week of 19-23 March 2018 in Singapore.

The ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
16 March 2017

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

² FY 2017: 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018

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 11th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

States

1. France
2. Germany

Organisations

1. International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
2. European Union Delegation to Singapore
3. Information Fusion Centre (IFC)
4. Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA)
5. Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Association (FASA)
6. Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)
7. The Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
8. The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO)
9. The International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO)
10. Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)
11. UK Chamber of Shipping
12. International Maritime Bureau (IMB)
13. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
14. Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)