

(for immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE
ReCAAP FOCAL POINT SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING 9/16

1. The Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP), organised the ninth ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting (FPSOM) in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 25-26 October 2016. The Meeting was supported by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Kingdom of Cambodia, which is also the agency appointed as the ReCAAP Focal Point for Cambodia.

2. This is an important platform for the ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point to come together with the aim to enhance the capabilities of the ReCAAP Focal Points by sharing knowledge on recent incidents, updated situation and best practices, strengthening the information sharing network, and deepening the understanding on issues such as international law on piracy and enforcement procedures. A roadmap on the Future of the ReCAAP ISC in becoming a "Centre of Excellence" in Information Sharing was discussed as well.

3. Delivering the Welcome Address, HE Leng Thun Yuthea, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, commended the ReCAAP ISC for promoting and enhancing cooperation against piracy and armed robbery in Asia over the past decade and has become a successful model and lessons learnt for other regions and the world. He quoted a Khmer proverb "Preventing is better than Cure"; and added that together we could make a safer and more secured place for shipping community which will eventually minimize shipping cost and time. Mr Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC in his opening remarks highlighted that the Meeting is designed to affirm the commitment of ReCAAP Focal Points on their roles and responsibilities, sharing experiences and best practices; and an opportunity for networking among all Focal Points. Noting that capacity building is a lengthy and gradual process, it remains the key to our operational ability in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships. As the ReCAAP ISC had celebrated its 10th anniversary, a Working Group has been established to prepare a Roadmap for the next 10 years with an objective of the ReCAAP ISC to become a Centre of Excellence. The high priority agenda of the Roadmap is, amongst others, to enhance further capability of the Focal Points towards timely and accurate information sharing. Recent improvement of the situation in Asia for the first nine months of 2016 is a testimonial of the cooperation among the Focal Points, shipping industry and our stakeholders.

4. Apart from the Focal Points, guest speakers from Indian Coast Guard, Indonesia Gadjah Mada University, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and Asia Shipowners' Association shared their views and knowledge on UNCLOS in relation to piracy and armed robbery; enforcement, prosecution and evidence preservations; thoughts on the past, present and future of ReCAAP; and concerns from Asian shipowners with regards to the latest piracy and armed robbery situation respectively.

5. Senior officers from the ReCAAP Contracting Parties had good exchanges and sharing at the Meeting. Their active participation signaled the continuous and strong commitment in collectively addressing the challenges and charting the way forward. Further, the face-to-face

Meeting helped to enhance personal working relationship and mutual understanding, which is essential in establishing the “comfort zone” and strengthening the information sharing network of ReCAAP.

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)

26 October 2016

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ReCAAP Focal Point Senior Officers' Meeting
Siem Reap, The Kingdom of Cambodia
25-26 October 2016