

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2022



VISION

To be the information hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

MISSION

To enhance regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

For information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships at sea.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD



MR. KRISHNASWAMY NATARAJAN
ED ReCAAP ISC
Former DG INDIAN COAST GUARD

In April 2022, I had the honour and privilege of taking over as the sixth Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC after four decades of service in Indian Coast Guard from Mr Masafumi Kuroki. On behalf of the ReCAAP member States, I would like to thank him for his excellent work at ReCAAP ISC to suppress the piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to bring out the report of our work in 2022 and to highlight what we have done to ensure “safe and secure seas” for the maritime community.

Globally, more than a million seafarers serving on board over 50,000 merchant ships that transport about 80% of the cargo trade through sea to and from ports around the world. These ships and their crew face threat of piracy and armed robbery whenever out at sea.

The ReCAAP ISC (the Centre) since its establishment in Nov 2006, has made significant progress in promoting regional cooperation and in bringing together the shipping industry, governments, maritime authorities and enforcement agencies, as the fight against the piracy and armed robbery against ships is a shared responsibility of all these stakeholders.

The Centre with the support of member States of ReCAAP, provides timely and accurate information with analytics of the situation of piracy and armed robbery, developing trends, modus operandi and preventive measures through producing value-added reports and publishing guidebooks and posters for the mariners.

The year gone by had witnessed 84 incidents of piracy and robbery against ships in Asia. The number of incidents though increased by 2% in comparison to the 82 incidents in the preceding year 2021, to an extent, the occurrence of the incident is largely contained. The Singapore Strait has however, continued to witness an increase in incidents and is of concern. The incidents of armed robbery or petty theft though occurred in the Singapore Strait,

but falls under the jurisdiction of one of the three coastal States namely Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. It is the onus responsibility of these States in accordance with the Trilateral Agreement to ensure the safe navigation, security and environment protection of ships transiting the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). There is an urgent need to collaborate more than ever before and enhance the enforcement presence to contain the prevailing situation in the Singapore Strait in providing safe passage of ships.

The incidents of piracy and armed robbery in other parts of Asia has reduced due to enhanced surveillance and patrol by the law enforcement agencies in the known areas of attack. No incident of abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas for the third consecutive year, since last reported in Jan 2020. This has been possible due to the concerted and focussed efforts by the Governments of the Philippines, Malaysian and Indonesian authorities and their law enforcement agencies. The threat assessment in the Sulu-Celebes Sea has been downgraded from "Potentially High" to "Moderate" which signifies that the incident may take place, but not severe in nature.

The ReCAAP ISC in Sep 2022, had issued an advisory to all ships to consider reroute from the area as an option or if transiting the area, to adopt appropriate precautionary measures.

Effective vigil and adherence of best watchkeeping practices and timely reporting of incident by the ship masters led to foiling of unauthorised boarding and in some cases arresting of perpetrators and recovery of stolen items. The Centre appreciates the efforts of shipping industry and the operational cooperation amongst the coastal States in the Asian Region which resulted in arrest and bringing to book the perpetrators inter alia the required deterrence. This momentum needs to be continued by all stakeholders in the ensuing year too.

The Centre has conducted all the Capacity Building Activities for the year 2022 as planned both virtually and in-person catering to the situation of COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre has also published Regional Guide 2 with information adopting on preventive measures, Guide Book on Identification of Fishing Boats in Asian Waters, Poster containing contact details of MRCCs and ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point in Asia for timely reporting of incidents by maritime community.

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the continued support of the member States, shipping industry and the law enforcement agencies in our endeavour to suppress piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and facilitating the seafarers for secured maritime trade and commerce bringing in economic growth for all in the region.

MR. KRISHNASWAMY NATARAJAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

16TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE ReCAAP ISC

1. OVERVIEW

The 16th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was held virtually from 15 to 16 March 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic with the participation of the Governors from the 21 ReCAAP Contracting Parties.

The Council reviewed the activities of the Centre in FY 2021 and deliberated on its activities planned for FY 2022.

The Council commended the Centre for conducting its planned activities virtually under the three main pillars of its mission - information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements amid the trying COVID-19 situation.

2. VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Centre welcomed the voluntary contributions by the ReCAAP Contracting Parties for FY 2022 (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023) as follows:

Contracting Parties	Singapore Dollars (SGD)	Contributions
Singapore	\$1,984,090.00	Received on 22 Sept 2022
Japan	\$219,830.00	Received on 28 Apr 2022
Republic of Korea	\$163,885.76	Received on 14 Mar 2022
India	\$134,452.50	Received USD 100,000 on 27 Apr 2022
Kingdom of Norway	\$133,564.20	Received USD 100,000 on 17 Feb 2022
Australia	\$97,536.50	Received AUD 100,000 on 29 Apr 2022
United States of America	\$69,200.00	Received USD 50,000 on 8 Dec 2022
China	\$68,000.00	Received USD 50,000 on 6 Jun 2022
Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$31,509.42	Received EUR 20,000 on 27 Aug 2021
Total	\$2,902,068.38	

INFORMATION SHARING

1. OVERALL SITUATION

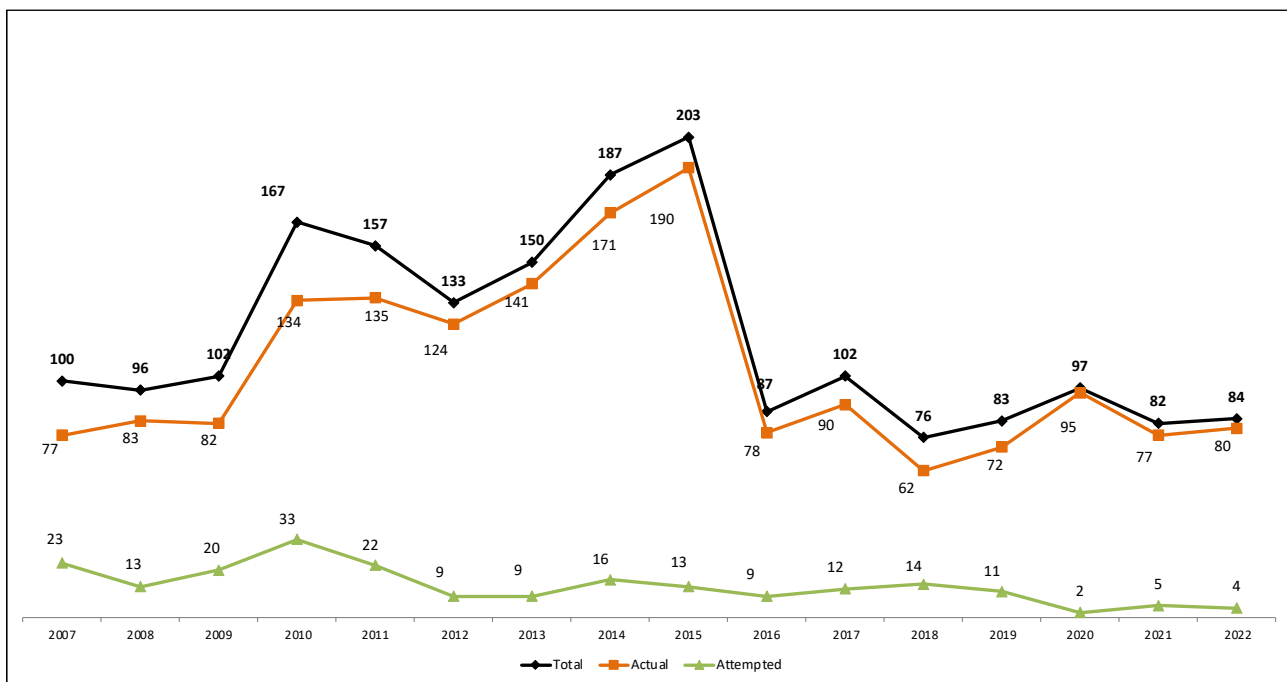
A total of 84 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships (80 actual and four attempted incidents) were reported in Asia in 2022. This accounts for a 2% increase in the total number of incidents in 2022 compared to 2021. A total of 82 incidents (77 actual and five attempted incidents) were reported in 2021. **Graph 1** shows the number of incidents reported in Asia for period 2007-2022.

There was an increase in number of incidents reported in 2022 compared to 2021 in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore Strait (SS) and South China Sea. In particular, the Centre is concerned with the situation in SS, where 55 incidents were reported in 2022 compared to 49 incidents reported in 2021. The total number of incidents reported in the SS has increased over the period 2018 to 2022; 7 incidents (2018), 31 incidents (2019), 34 incidents (2020), 49 incidents (2021)

and 55 incidents (2022). This represents a fifth consecutive year-on-year increase in the number of incidents that occurred in SS.

The ReCAAP ISC however, commends the efforts of the coastal States to have produced positive results in reducing the number of incidents in their Area of Responsibility. The **decrease** of incidents occurred in several locations in Asia, including Indonesia, the Philippines and Malacca Strait.

There was no incident of abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah in 2022. No abduction of crew incident in the area was reported since January 2020. While the situation has improved over the past three years, the threat of abduction of crew for ransom remains due to presence of the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in the Sulu and Tawi-Tawi areas.



Graph 1 – Number of incidents in Asia (2007-2022)

Piracy vs Armed Robbery

Of the 84 incidents reported in 2022, one was a piracy incident involving a fishing boat in the South China Sea and 83 were armed robbery/petty theft against ships.

Throughout the 16-year reporting period of 2007-2022, 11% were incidents of piracy and 89% were

incidents of armed robbery/petty theft against ships. Piracy takes place on the high seas under universal jurisdiction, while armed robbery/petty theft against ships takes place in internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea which falls under the jurisdiction of coastal States. **Chart 1** shows the number of incidents of piracy vs armed robbery against ships from 2007-2022.

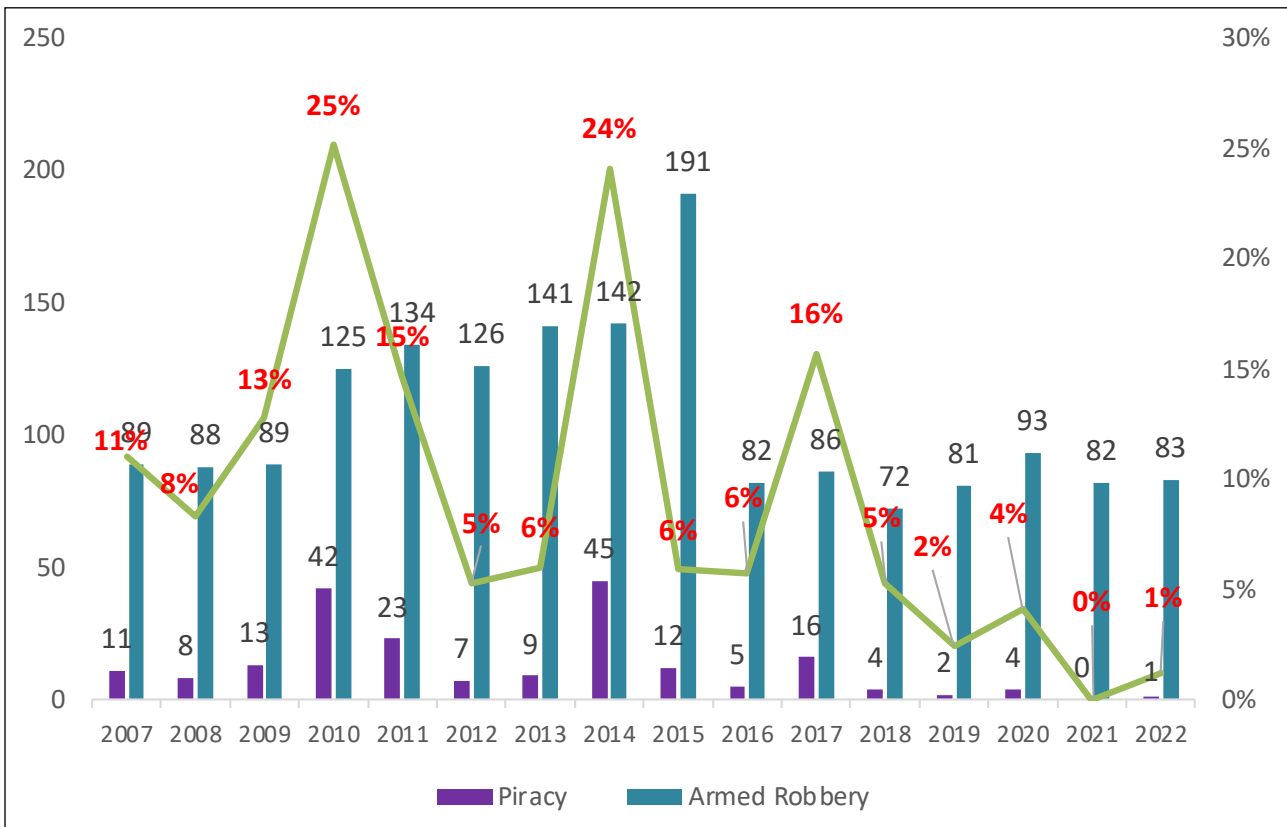


Chart 1 - Piracy vs armed robbery against ships (2007-2022)

Significance Level of Incidents

The 80 actual incidents reported in 2022 were: four CAT 2, 21 CAT 3 and 55 CAT 4 incidents. There was no CAT 1 incident in 2022. This is the second consecutive year where no CAT 1 incident was reported. There was a decrease in the number of CAT 2 incidents in 2022 compared to 2021, while the number of CAT 3 and CAT 4 incidents had increased. As in the past, the majority of the actual incidents (69%) were CAT 4 incidents, with

perpetrators not armed and no injury to the crew. **Chart 2** shows the significance level of incidents reported during 2007-2022.

Status of Ships

In 2022, 74% (62 incidents) occurred to ships while underway and 26% (22 incidents) to ships while at anchor/berth. Most of the incidents on board ships while underway occurred in the SS (55 of 84).

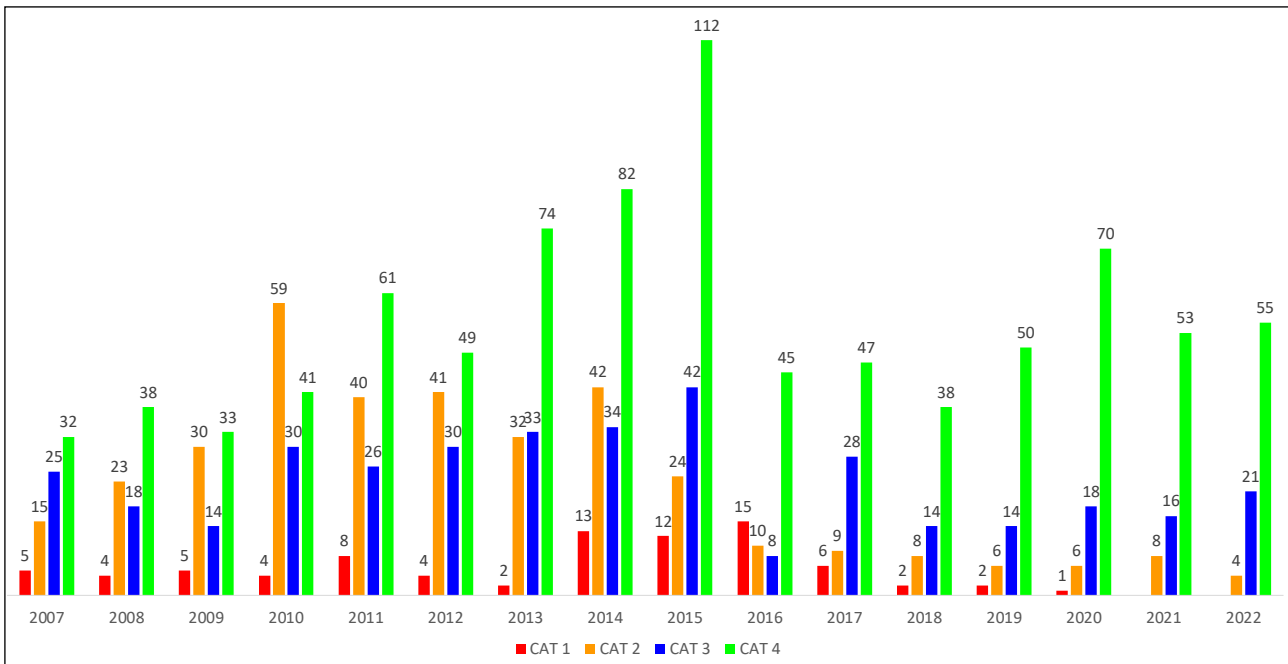


Chart 2 - Significance level of incidents (2007-2022)

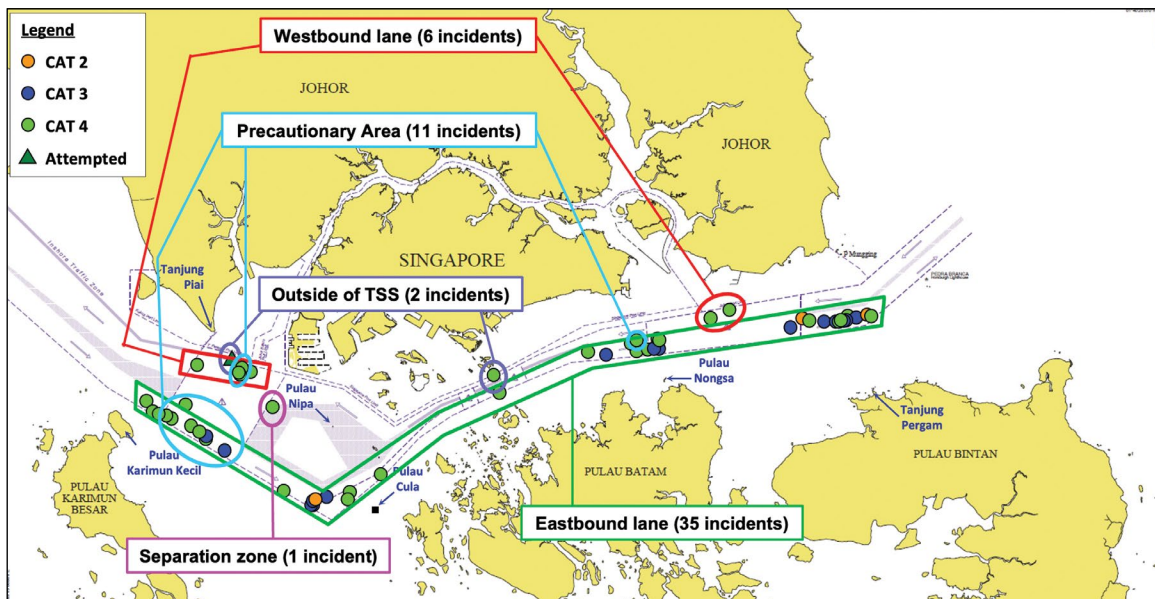
Situation in Singapore Strait

There was an increase of incidents in the SS in 2022. A total of 55 incidents were reported, and this accounts for 65% of the total number of incidents in 2022 (55 of 84). It is the second highest number of incidents reported in the SS since 2007.

Among the 55 incidents, 35 incidents occurred in eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), 11 incidents in precautionary area of the

TSS, six incidents in westbound lane of the TSS, two incidents outside of the TSS and one incident in separation zone of the TSS.

Of concern was the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS, in particular the cluster of incidents off Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan (Indonesia); off Pulau Karimun Kecil (Indonesia); off Nongsa, Pulau Batam (Indonesia) and in the Phillip Channel off Pulau Cula (Indonesia). **Map 1** shows the location of the incidents.



Map 1 – Location of incidents in SS in 2022

Abduction of Crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah and Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

No incident of abduction of crew by the ASG for ransom was reported in 2022. The last incident occurred in January 2020 and no crew is currently held in captivity by the ASG. However, the threat of abduction of crew for ransom in Sulu and Tawi-Tawi remains due to the presence of the remnants of the ASG in the areas. The Philippines, Malaysian and Indonesian authorities continued to conduct coordinated patrol to prevent incidents in Sulu-Celebes Seas.

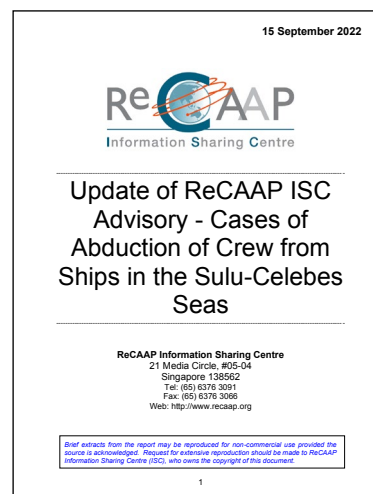
On consideration of inputs from stakeholders and counterparts with vital involvement in securing the Sulu-Celebes Seas maritime security measure, the PCG recommends to downgrade the threat of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to '**MODERATE**', which implies that '**Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature**'. This is based on the perception that despite presence of remnants of the terrorist group in the islands of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, the government's continued ground military operations have reduced the strength of the perpetrators to conduct atrocities at sea.

With the downgrading of the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, the Centre reviewed its Advisory that was issued on 21 Nov 2016¹. The Centre issued an updated Advisory on 15 Sep 2022 to **all ships to consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative**. For ship masters and crew who are transiting the area, they are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance and report immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia.

General Trends of Incidents Reported during Period 2007-2022

Of the 1,906 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia during the 16-year period, the general trends are summarised as follows:

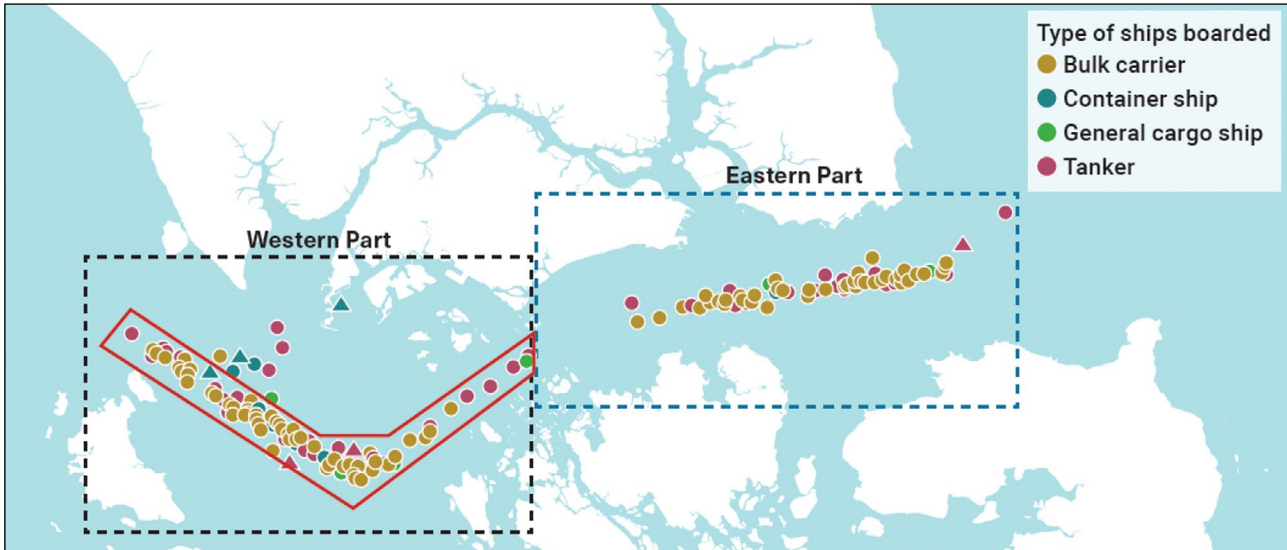
- **33%** incidents involved groups of 4-6 perpetrators and 27% involved 1-3 perpetrators.
- **58%** incidents reported perpetrators did not carry weapons or no information on weapons carried; while 32% armed with knives/machetes, and 10% armed with guns and knives.
- **80%** incidents reported crew not confronted by perpetrators or no information on crew treatment.
- **63%** incidents reported loss of items, 33% nothing was lost, 4% losses cannot be ascertained. Engine spares and Ship stores were mostly stolen.
- Tanker mostly boarded (**35%**), bulk carrier (29%), tug boat/supply vessel (15%), container ship (12%) and general cargo ship (6%).
- **81%** of incidents occurred during hours of darkness.



¹ The ReCAAP ISC, reiterates its advisory issued via ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to **all ships to re-route from the area, where possible**.

2. DATA ANALYTICS PROJECT - PROGRESS

The Centre embarked on the Data Analytics project (Phase I) in 2017. Phase I involved extraction of information on incidents from the Centre’s Information Sharing Network (IFN) database, and utilised a business intelligence tool to provide visualisation of trends and analysis of past incidents, which are featured in ReCAAP ISC periodic reports. **Map 2** shows the location of incidents on board the different type of ships in the Singapore Strait.



Map 2 - Location of incidents in Singapore Strait vis-a'-vis bigger ships

In 2022, the Centre implemented Data Analytics project (Phase II), which explores external factors such as wind speed, moon phases and economic data that may have linkages or impact on past incidents. **Chart 3** shows the linkages of moon phases on past incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. This is to enable the Centre to conduct deeper analysis and provide possible correlation and insights.

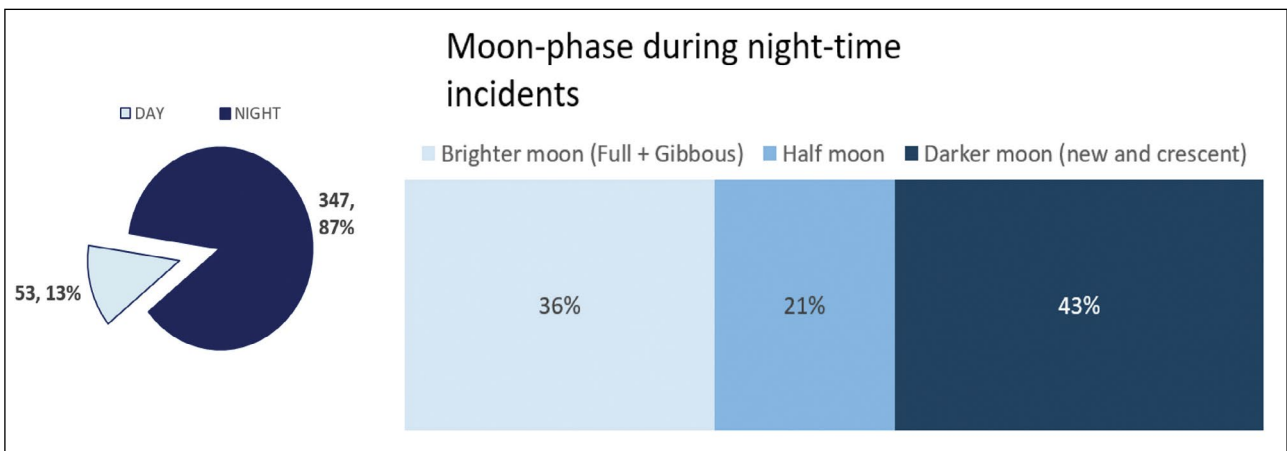


Chart 3 - The linkages of moon phases on past incidents

3. ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION SHARING AND INCIDENT REPORTING

Accurate Information

The primary source of information of the Centre is the Focal Points (FPs) and Contact Point (CP) of ReCAAP via the IFN system. The FPs/CP submit Incident Report (IR) on incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships occurred within and outside their territorial waters based on reports submitted to them by ship masters, shipping companies and local agents. Before the FPs/CP submit the IRs to the Centre, they are required to verify the detail and accuracy of the information.

Apart from the FPs/CP, the other sources of information of the Centre are the IMO and regional authorities. **Chart 4** shows the number of reports submitted by FPs/CP and other sources from 2007-2022. In 2022, 83 of 84 incidents were reported by FPs/CP, and one incident by the IMO. This indicates the competency and effectiveness of FPs/CP in collecting information, verifying and reporting incidents to the Centre. It also demonstrates the confidence between the sources of information and FPs/CP in sharing information.

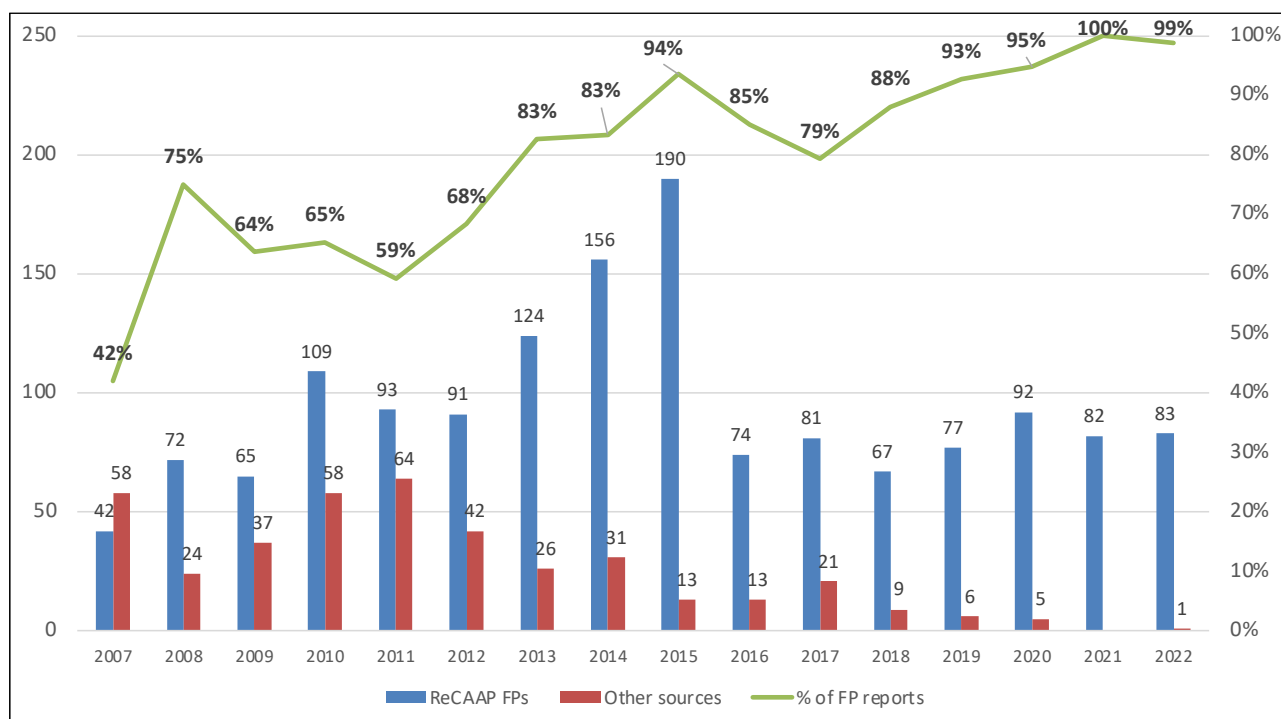


Chart 4 – Incidents reported by FPs and other sources (2007-2022)

Timeliness of Reporting

Chart 5 shows the number of IRs and timeliness of IRs submitted by FPs/CP to the Centre during 2007-2022. The timeliness of reporting is measured by the interval between the time of the incident and the time of the IR submitted by the FPs/CP. Of the 1,554 IRs submitted during 2007-2022, 31% of the IRs were submitted within 24 hours, 26% between 1 and 5 days and 43% submitted beyond 5 days. Overall, more than half (57%) of incidents were reported to ReCAAP ISC within 5 days. Delay in sending the IRs will affect the response and arrest of perpetrators by the law enforcement agencies.

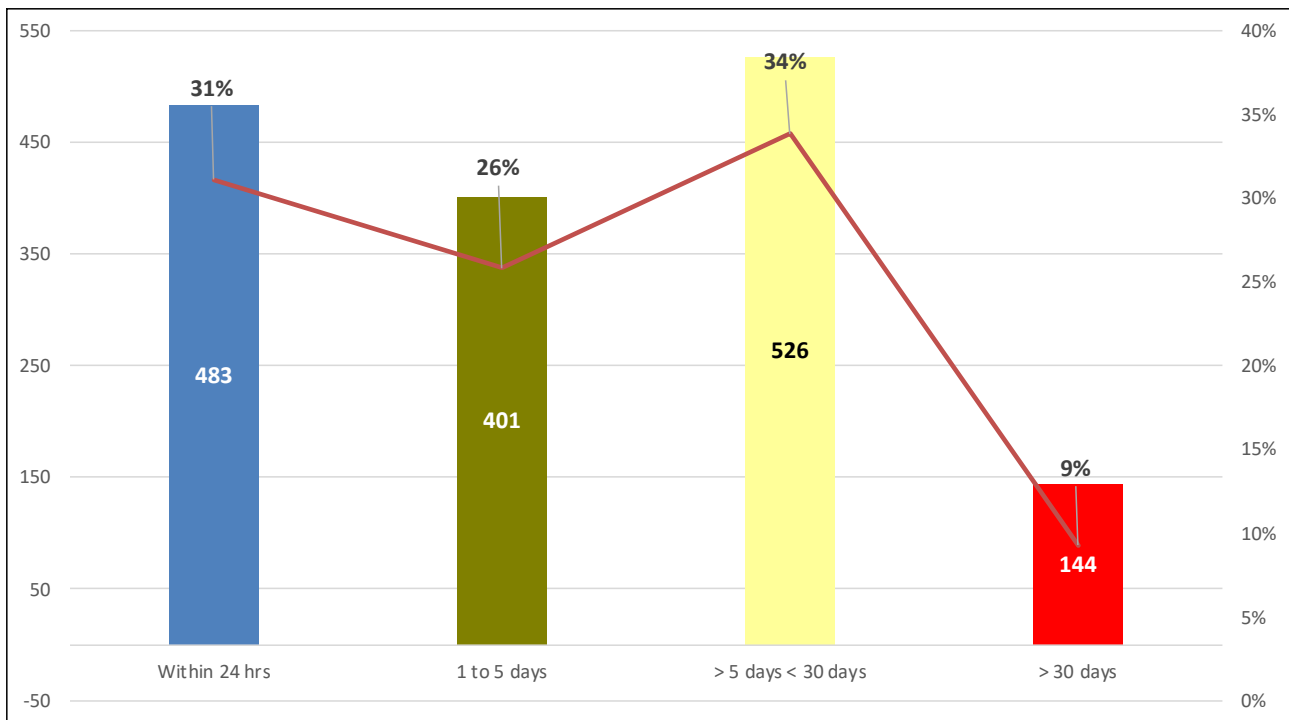


Chart 5 – Number of IRs and timeliness of IRs submitted by FPs/CP (2007-2022)

Chart 6 shows the timeliness of IRs submitted by FPs/CP by year during 2007-2022. In 2022, 51% of the IRs (46 of 91) were submitted within 24 hrs, which was an improvement over 2021 (39%). Of the 46 IRs submitted within 24 hrs in 2022, 45 were submitted by Singapore FP and one was submitted by Hong Kong Contact Point. There were two IRs (2%) that were submitted 30 days or more after an incident has occurred.

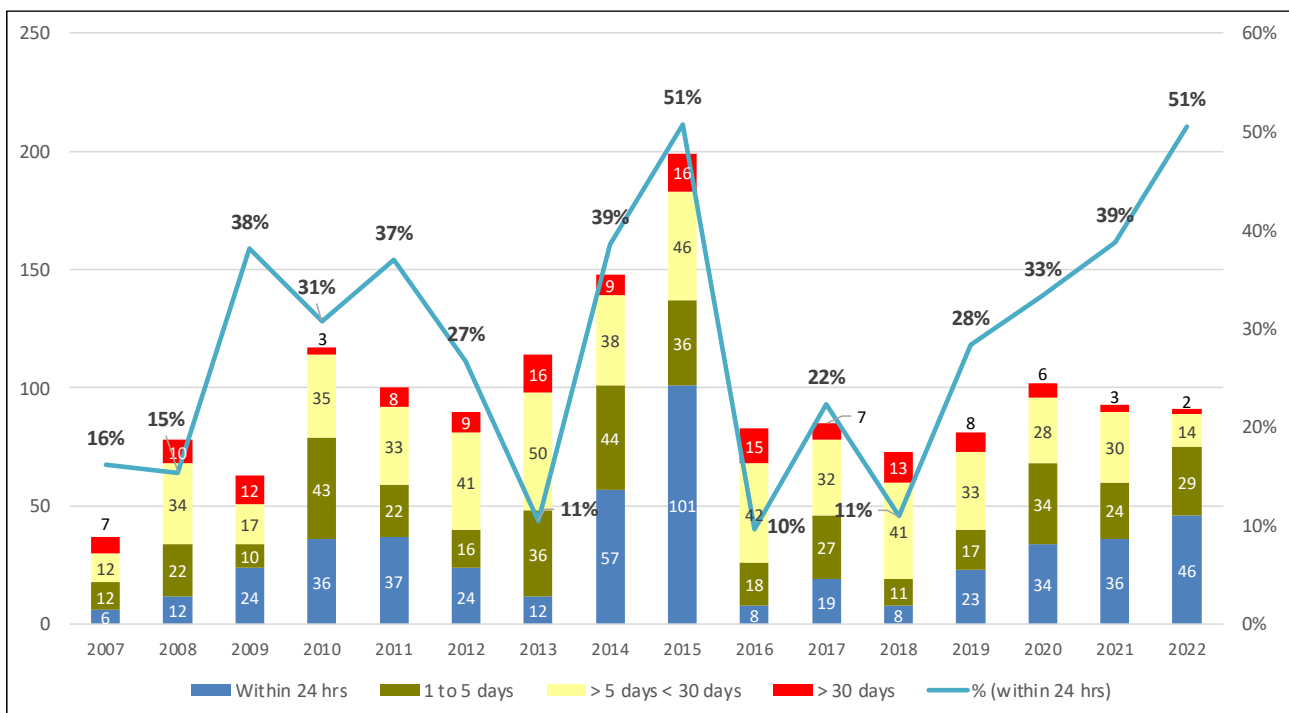


Chart 6 – Timeliness of submission of IRs by year (2007-2022)

4. PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS OF ReCAAP ISC

The information sharing products of the Centre are its periodic and adhoc reports. The periodic reports containing the statistics and analysis of the situation, are produced on a weekly and monthly basis. When the situation warrants for timely updates and alerts, in particular for serious incidents or successive incidents at the same location, the Centre issues Warnings, Incident Alerts, Advisories and Special Reports. The products are disseminated by email to relevant stakeholders and via the Centre's digital platforms such as its website, Mobile App, and social media channels.

Incident Alert

An Incident Alert (IA) is issued for a serious incident or successive incidents at the same location. It is based on verified information of the incident reported by FP.


In 2022, the Centre issued six Incident Alerts; of which five were issued to warn the maritime community of the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait. The shipping industry were advised to adopt appropriate preventive measures and the littoral States to increase patrols by the law enforcement, particularly in areas of concern.

Periodic Reports

The Centre issues Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Reports. These reports provide updates of the situation including the statistics, modus operandi of the perpetrators, trends of incidents, best practices and recommendations.

The information of incidents in the Weekly Reports is submitted to IMO for inclusion in its database known as the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

1 August 2022



Incident Alert

Sea Robbery Incidents in the Singapore Strait

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
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ReCAAP
Information Sharing Centre

Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
Weekly Report (11-17 October 2022)

Website: www.recaap.org Email: isc@recaap.org

OVERVIEW

Three incidents in Asia were reported: one was a piracy incident and two were armed robbery against ships incidents. The piracy incident, CAT 2 in nature, occurred on board a fishing trawler in the South China Sea, while the two armed robbery incidents, both CAT 4^a incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait (SS). Details of incidents are shown in table 2^b.



Incident	Geographical Area	Approximate Date	Approximate Location	Approximate Time	Approximate Category	Approximate Status
1	South China Sea	11 October 2022	10°N, 115°E	12:00 hrs	2	Armed Robbery
2	Singapore Strait	14 October 2022	1°N, 104°E	18:00 hrs	4	Armed Robbery
3	Singapore Strait	16 October 2022	1°N, 104°E	18:00 hrs	4	Armed Robbery

AREAS OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SS. With the two incidents, a total of 43 incidents were reported in the SS since January 2022.

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait and the Sub-Celebes Seas, and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.


SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULLU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Downgrading of threat level

- The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) after careful consideration of reports from stakeholders and cooperation with vital involvement in securing the Sub-Celebes Seas and surrounding waters, assessments the emerging threat of the threat on the Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sub-Celebes Seas from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to 'MODERATE'. The MODERATE threat level implies that incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature^a.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sub-Celebes Seas has diminished since January 2022 due to successful military operations and robust law enforcement initiatives, the ReCAAP ISC updates by delivery to all ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting the Sub-Celebes Seas and surrounding waters as an advisory based on its perspective.
- For ships transiting the area, the ship master and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance and report all incidents immediately to the Operator/Commander of the Ship, the nearest Coast Guard Station/Command (ERSCOM) of Malaysia, the Contact Details of the Operator/Commander of the Philippines and ERSCOM of Malaysia are shown in Picture 1.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia.

Shipmaster: Incident Reference:

Contact us: Email:

^a Table at <https://www.recaap.org/ReCAAP%20Annual%20Reports/2022%20Annual%20Report%202022.pdf> for details of the incidents.

^b CAT 2 (Category 2) incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

^c CAT 4 (Category 4) incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

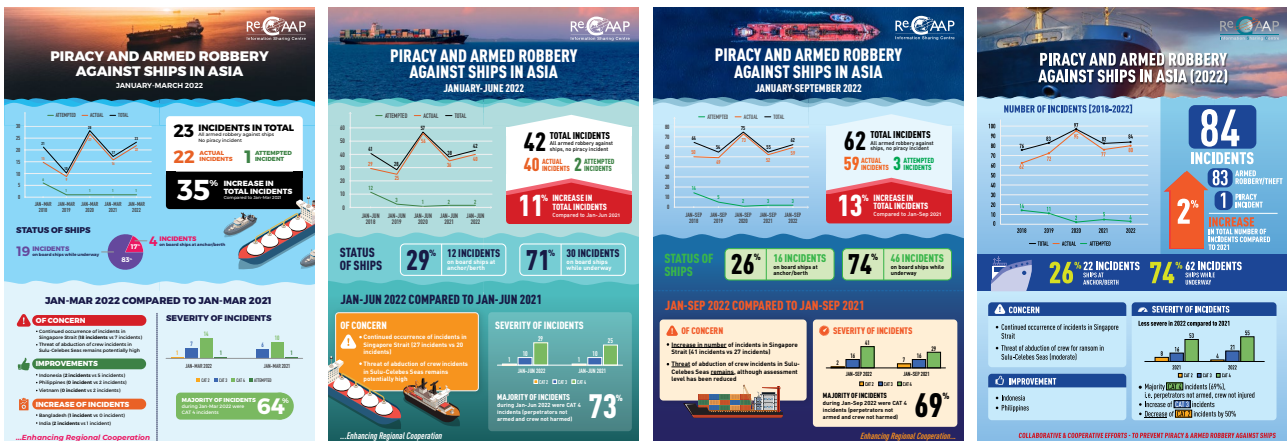
Enhancing Regional Cooperation...

Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships 27 Dec 2022 – 3 Jan 2023									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LST)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken	
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1. Bow Cedar Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 23220 9087013	26/12/22 2120 hrs	22° 47.8' N 70° 0' 78" E Kandla Anchorage, India	While anchored, the master reported to Kandla Tower on VHF that three perpetrators were sighted. Two near the starboard manifold and one hanging by the ship side. The perpetrators escaped in a small boat when the general alarm was raised. A search on board was conducted by the crew with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Spoil pieces were reported missing. The ship master was advised by Kandla tower to report the incident to Indian Coast Guard (ICG).	Drew was not harmed. Spoil pieces were reported missing.	Master reported incident to Kandla Signal Station and Indian Coast Guard. Master raised general alarm, mustered crew and conducted a search to locate the perpetrators.	Yes Kandla Signal Station and Indian Coast Guard.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP-Focal Point (India)	Indian Coast Guard referred to assist the merchant traffic in area so as to enhance vigilance and adherence to the standard norms of security / SOPs especially during night/dark hours to mitigate such incident in future. The local Marine Police, Port Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Kandla Anchorage patrols and Signal Station have been advised for follow up/ corrective actions.	



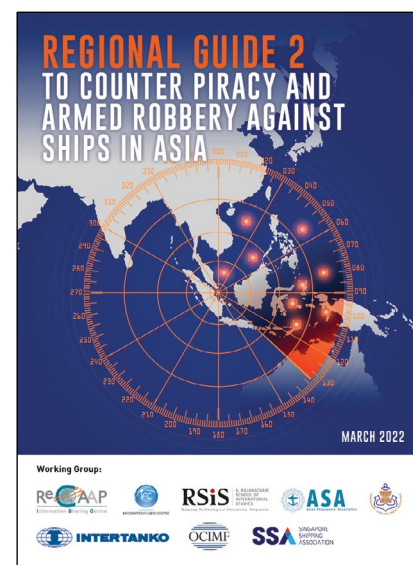
Single-sheet Summary

The single-sheet summary is in the form of an info-graphics showing the key highlights of the situation. It is based on the ReCAAP ISC's Quarterly Reports with the inclusion of graphs, charts and maps to provide a quick overview of the situation.



Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

The Centre launched on 4 March 2022, the updated version “Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia”. The Regional Guide 2, provides shipping community with information on the types of piracy and armed robbery against ships incidents that occurred in Asia, including validated recommendations on risk/threat assessment and preventive measures, as well as updated contact details of the relevant authorities. The guide is designed to assist ship owner/operator/master and crew operating in Asia to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, deter or delay attacks, and prevent unauthorised boarding.



The Regional Guide 2 was produced by the Centre in collaboration with the Working Group comprising representatives from the Asian Shipowners’ Association (ASA), Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), INTERTANKO, Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), Information Fusion Centre (IFC) and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

Poster on Contact Details of Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres (MRCCs) and ReCAAP Focal Points in Asia

On 20 July 2022, the Centre published and disseminated during the first dialogue session with the Shipping Industry the Poster containing

the contact details of MRCCs and ReCAAP Focal Points in Asia as part of efforts to encourage ship master and crew to report incidents to the appropriate local coastal State authority for timely response by the enforcement agencies.

Piracy & Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Reporting of Incidents - Contact Details

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

Guidance to shipowner & ship operator, ship master & crew on preventing & suppressing acts of piracy & armed robbery against ships
issued by IMO Circular MSC.1/Circ. 1334 requires ship master should report all actual or attempted attacks or threats thereof, to:

- nearest **RCC** or **regional piracy focal point** where applicable (e.g. ReCAAP Focal Point in the Asian region)
- flag State

Contact details of respective MRCC (<https://sarcontacts.info/>) & ReCAAP Focal Points (<https://www.recaap.org/focal-points>) are depicted on map (on right).

Regional Guide 2 to counter piracy & armed robbery against ships in Asia issued by ReCAAP ISC (<https://www.recaap.org>), suggests shipowner, operator, master & crew to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, deter or delay attacks & unauthorised boarding.

In the event of unauthorised boarding:

- Do not engage in confrontation with perpetrators.
- Remain calm. Stay positive.
- Follow perpetrator's orders. Crew's movements should be calm, slow & very deliberate.
- Do not resist when perpetrators reach the bridge. Compliance with perpetrators essential once ship has been taken.
- Crew should keep their hands visible at all times.
- Do not attempt to take photographs.
- Bridge/engine room if to be evacuated, main engine should be stopped and all way taken off the ship if possible (and if navigationally safe to do so).
- Keep all CCTV & VDR devices running.

Supported by: ASA, SSA, SINGAPORE SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

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Guide Book on Identification of Fishing Boats in Asian Waters

On 28 October 2022, the Centre published and distributed the **"Guide Book on Identification of Fishing Boats in Asian Waters"** during the second dialogue session with the Shipping Industry. The guide book contains images of fishing boats/vessels in Asia and the aim is to assist ship masters and crew to identify and familiarise with the characteristics and images of these boats in their vicinity; so that they can be alerted when sighting boats that appears out of the norm.

GUIDE BOOK ON IDENTIFICATION OF FISHING BOATS IN ASIAN WATERS

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION...

CAPACITY BUILDING

1. OVERVIEW

With the uncertainty of COVID-19 pandemic situation, the Centre continued to organise its Capacity Building activities in 2022 in virtual mode, with a provision where possible to conduct event in-person.

In 2022, the Centre organised three main Capacity Building meetings for all Focal Points/Contact Points namely, Capacity Building Workshop and Capacity Building Executive Programme and Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting, the first two being held virtually whilst the latter was held physically at Manila, the Philippines. A virtual table-top exercise of Incident Reporting through IFN system and a Focal Point Training Programme in January 2023 for new FP officers was held physically in Singapore.

The Centre also organised two Capacity Building Virtual Lectures by external experts. All capacity building activities except the Cluster Meeting in Sri Lanka, was conducted as planned.

2. VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING (CBSOM) 2021

The Centre held virtual CBSOM 2021 on 27 January 2022, with the participation of senior officers from 19 Contracting Parties.

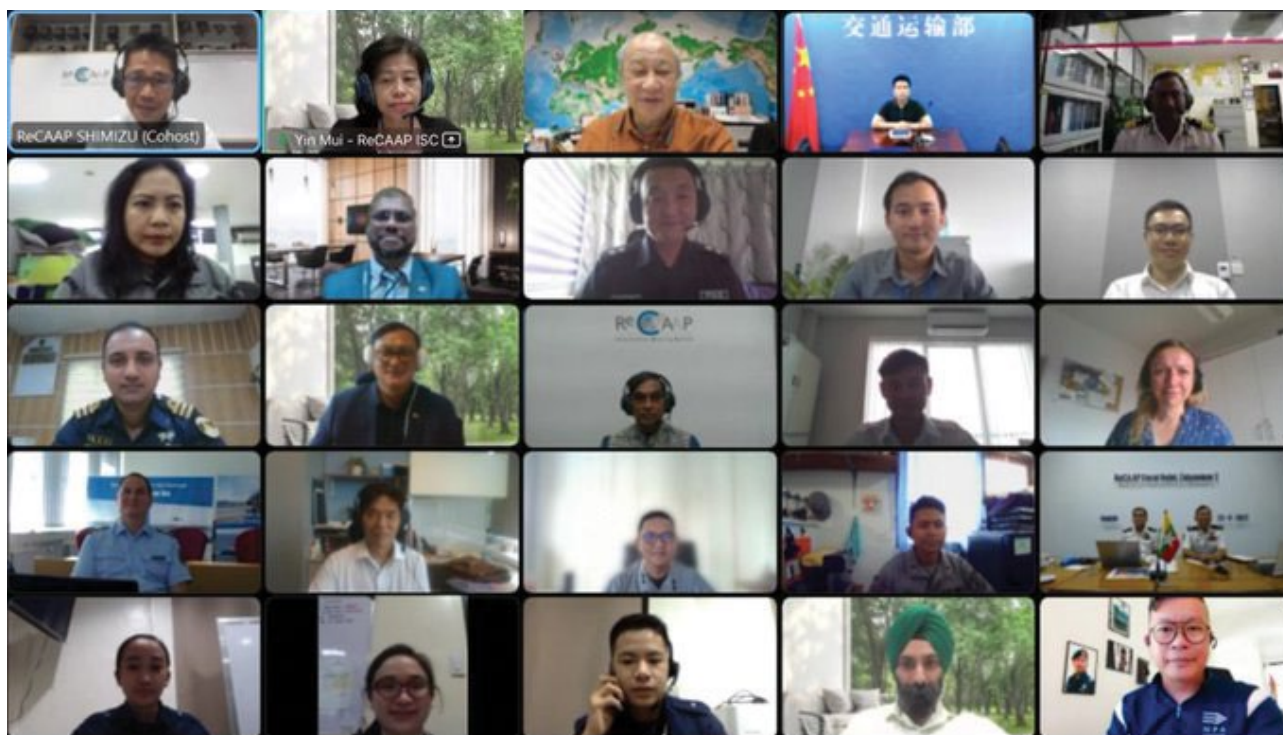
During the meeting, the participants shared the latest information and assessment of the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia together with the best practices on combating piracy and armed robbery. In addition, the participants deepened their understanding through a panel discussion on the mechanism of sharing of information/intelligence on maritime safety and security as well as coordination of operation among national agencies and with neighbouring countries.



3. VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP (CBW) 2022

On 23 June 2022, ReCAAP ISC held virtual CBW with the participation of 50 officers from 18 Contracting Parties as well as from Indonesia and Malaysia.

In addition to sharing the latest information and analysis of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia, the participants also reviewed their roles and functions as ReCAAP Focal Point/Contact Point, and shared best practices to enhance their law enforcement expertise.



ReCAAP ISC Virtual Capacity Building Workshop 2022

4. VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME (CBEP) 2022

The Centre held virtual CBEP from 27-28 September 2022, with the participation of 51 officers from 19 Contracting Parties as well as from Indonesia and Malaysia, with the theme “Mechanism of engagement with local stakeholders and International Agencies to suppress Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in respective Area of Responsibility (AoR)”.

The Programme focused on topics including “Efforts to enhance engagement with local stakeholders and International Agencies” and “Legal framework to address Piracy/Sea Robbery”.

5. CAPACITY BUILDING SENIOR OFFICERS’ MEETING (CBSOM) 2022

The Centre co-organised CBSOM 2022 along with the Philippines Focal Point, from 13-16 December 2022, in Manila, the Philippines, first physical Capacity Building Activity since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, with the participation of senior officers from 14 Contracting Parties as well as Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA).

During the meeting, the participants shared the latest information and assessment of the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and experiences in their efforts to establish timely and accurate reporting of piracy incidents. Several issues were also discussed that could help the Centre/FPs/CP enhance the relationship with local shipping industry, and consider the way ahead of the capacity building activities.



ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting 2022 in Manila, the Philippines

6. CAPACITY BUILDING VIRTUAL LECTURES

The Centre organised two Capacity Building Virtual Lectures for FPs in 2022.

The first virtual lecture was conducted on 23 August 2022, by Professor Maximo Q. Mejia Jr., Director of the PhD Program and Associate Academic Dean at the World Maritime University, on "The key points on the definitions/differences of piracy and sea robbery, maritime zones as well as rights and role of a coastal state and a case study featuring applicable maritime laws and regulations".

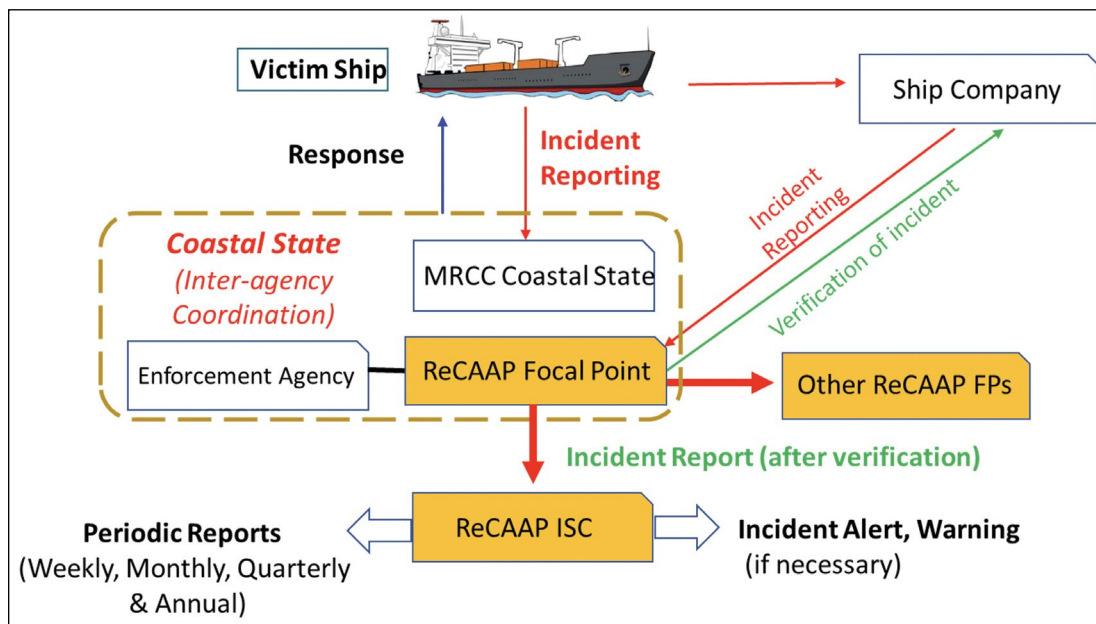
On 26 October 2022, Professor Christian Bueger, Professor of International Relations at the University of Copenhagen, gave a lecture on "Addressing Maritime Security Threats through International Cooperation: The Opportunities and Risks of Forum Shopping", as the second Virtual Lecture.

7. IFN TABLE TOP EXERCISE 2022

A total of 30 officers from 15 Focal Points and one Contact Point participated in the Information Network System (IFN) Table Top Exercise 2022 from 13-15 September 2022. The objectives were to familiarize Focal Points and Contact Point in the submission of Incident Reports and Amplifying Reports via the IFN. This exercise allowed Focal Points and Contact Point that seldom had incidents to warrant submission of reports, an opportunity to do so under a realistic setting.

This on-line mode in real time exercise was conducted, through the IFN and communications via exercise email and messaging app. Two sets of scenarios were given to the participants to respond as reports of incidents. All participants completed and attained the exercise requirements. Lessons learnt were collated, reviewed and disseminated to all Focal Points and Contact Point after the exercise.

Information Flow Mechanism (ReCAAP) Recommended by IMO/MSC Circulars 1333 & 1334



- 1st Step:** Report incident by ship to coastal State
- 2nd Step:** Verification of incident by FP
- 3rd Step:** Incident Report by FP via IFN
- 4th Step:** Analysis & produce reports by ReCAAP ISC
- 5th Step:** Dissemination of report

COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

1. OVERVIEW

Cooperative arrangements is the third pillar of the ReCAAP ISC's mission. It's aimed to sustain and strengthen the existing working relations and network between the Centre with ReCAAP Focal Points, regional authorities, shipping industry, international organisations and academia with a common objective of combating piracy and sea robbery. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre has continued most of its activities by maximizing the use of virtual platforms.

The cooperative arrangement activities of the Centre include participating in regional and international conferences; and partnering with international organisations, shipping industry and universities/think tanks in organising conferences, nautical forums, making guidebooks and posters for the shipping industry. It is through these activities, the Centre can expand its information sharing network, disseminate accurate and timely information of piracy and sea robbery situation, issue alerts and advisories to a wide audience, and profile the ReCAAP as a successful model of regional cooperation.

2. ENGAGEMENTS WITH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

Indonesia

The Centre could not make a visit to Indonesia to have an exchange of views with Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Indonesian Coast Guard (BAKAMLA) in 2021 and 2022 due to the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. The last visit was in February 2020. The Centre is making arrangement to visit Mr. Andreano Erwin, Director for Legal Affairs and Territorial Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in early 2023. The Centre extended invitations to Indonesia MFA and BAKAMLA for all

the virtual Capacity Building activities conducted during 2022.

In 2022, the engagement with Indonesia includes:

- Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore attended the virtual Open Session of the 16th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC on 16 March 2022 as an External Participant.
- On 23 June, four officers of BAKAMLA attended the virtual Capacity Building Workshop
- On 23 August, three officers of BAKAMLA attended the virtual Capacity Building Lecture.
- Two officers of BAKAMLA attended from 27-28 September, the virtual Capacity Building Executive Programme.
- A representative from BAKAMLA attended the Nautical Forum 14/23 on 17 January 2023; and delivered a presentation on 'Efforts to suppress sea robbery in Indonesian water'.



On 17 January 2023, BAKAMLA represented by Capt. Bakamla Hudiansyah Is Nursal (Ian) attended the Nautical Forum

Malaysia

The ED-ISC visited Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) HQ on 16 November 2022, and interacted with the Director-General, ADM Zubil to discuss ways to further strengthen the cooperation between ReCAAP ISC and MMEA. ED-ISC could not make a visit to Malaysia's MFA as Dr Adina Kamarudin, Director-General of Department of Maritime Affairs was indisposed and not available. The Centre however, continued operational cooperation with MMEA on sharing of information, verification of incidents and invitation of MMEA officers to capacity building activities organised by ReCAAP ISC.



On 16 November 2022, courtesy call on Admiral Zubil, Director-General of MMEA at Putra Jaya, Malaysia

The specific engagement of Malaysia in 2022 included:

- On 23 June, three officers of MMEA attended the virtual Capacity Building Workshop.
- On 23 August, two officers of MMEA attended the 1st virtual Capacity Building Lecture.
- Two officers of MMEA attended from 27-28 September, the virtual Capacity Building Executive Programme.
- On 26 October, one officer of MMEA attended the 2nd virtual Capacity Building Lecture.
- One officer of MMEA attended from 13-16 December, the in-person Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting in Manila, Philippines.

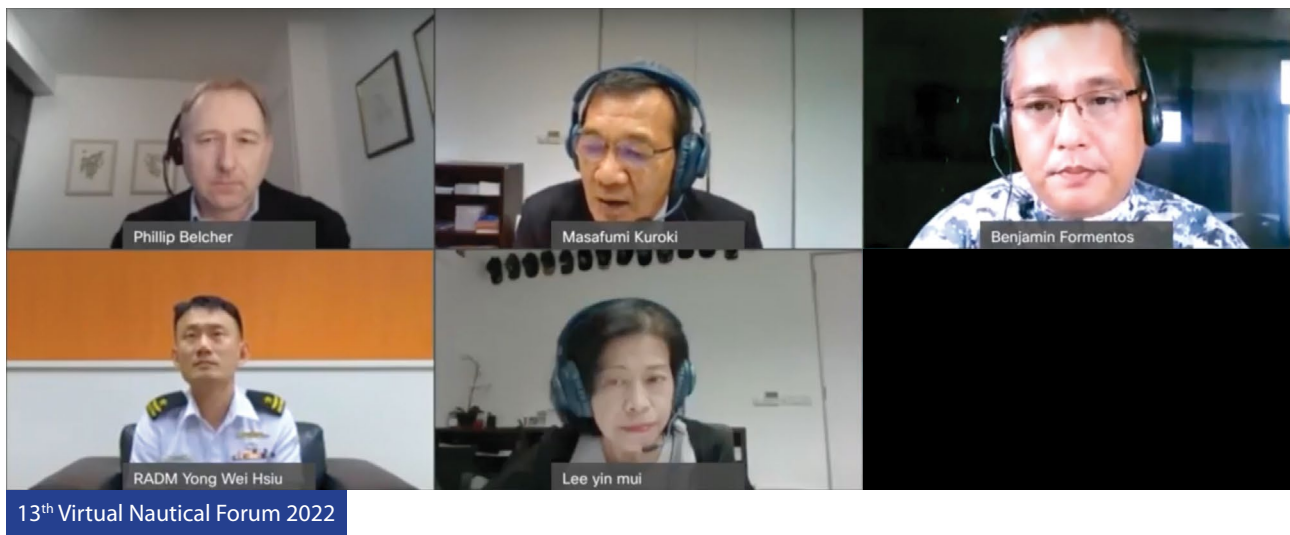
3. ENGAGEMENTS WITH MULTILATERAL REGIMES INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

13th Nautical Forum (Virtual)

In conjunction with the release of the Annual Report 2021, the Centre organised its 13th Nautical Forum virtually on 18 January 2022. At the Forum, the Centre presented the main points of the Piracy and Armed Robbery while the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard presented the situation in the Singapore Strait and Sulu-Celebes Seas respectively. In addition to the situation in Asia, INTERTANKO presented the recent developments in Africa (off Somalia and Gulf of Guinea). About 100 participants from the shipping companies, international and regional shipping associations, diplomatic community (ReCAAP Contracting Parties and other countries), regional authorities and academia attended the Forum.

Lecture at GRIPS

On 22 February 2022, the Centre delivered a virtual lecture on ReCAAP ISC activities and the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia at the Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program (MSP). This is a master programme jointly organised by the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) and Japan Coast Guard.



ReCAAP ISC Piracy and Sea Robbery Conference (Virtual)

The ReCAAP ISC conducted the Piracy and Sea Robbery (PSR) Conference on 5 April 2022 in conjunction with the Singapore Maritime Week (4-8 April). The Conference focused on the prevailing situation of maritime piracy and sea robbery in Asia and Africa; and the best practices and challenges of anti-piracy efforts were shared. Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) delivered the keynote address for the Conference, and the Vice Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council, Ms. Laila Jesmin delivered the Opening Address. In closing the Conference, Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC reiterated that the “fight against piracy and armed robbery against ships is a shared responsibility”. A total of 150 personnel attended the virtual PSR Conference.



UNODC Contact Group Meeting on Maritime Crime in the Sulu-Celebes Seas

The 7th and 8th meetings of the UNODC Contact Group were held on 27 June 2022 in Manila, Philippines and 15 November 2022 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia respectively.

The national delegates and maritime law enforcement agencies from Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysia attended the meetings, discussed the trends of maritime crimes in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and identified follow-up actions. At these meetings, the ReCAAP ISC presented on the trends and analysis of the abduction of crew incidents in the Sulu-Celebes Seas.



Participants at the Contact Group on the Sulu and Celebes Seas on 15 November 2022

MoU with UNODC

The ReCAAP ISC had participated in the Contact Group Meetings on maritime crime in the Sulu-Celebes Seas organised by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime Global Maritime Crime Programme (UNODC GMCP) since it was launched in 2018. On the other hand, the UNODC GMCP also attended the Open Session of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council Meeting and participated in conferences organized by the Centre. To provide a framework of cooperation and understanding, an MoU between ReCAAP ISC and UNODC GMCP is being progressed and planned for signing in early 2023.

3SuluX Meeting

In conjunction with the UNODC Contact Group Meeting, the Centre, for the first time attended the 3SuluX Meeting as an observer. The 3SuluX meeting was facilitated by GMCP of UNODC, and attended by BAKAMLA, Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and MMEA. The aim of the meeting is to further enhance cooperation and collaboration among the three littoral States to address the common maritime concerns in the tri-border area of the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah.

Dialogue Sessions with Shipping Industry

The Centre conducted two dialogue sessions with the shipping industry on 20 July 2022 and 28 October 2022 to share the key highlights of the situation, challenges faced by the shipping industry and the efforts made by the enforcement agencies in addressing the situation.



Discussion and group photo of participants at the dialogue sessions

22nd APHOMSA Meeting

The Centre was invited to the 22nd session of the APHOMSA virtual meeting hosted by the Cooks Island held from 26 to 28 July 2022. During the session, the Centre presented on the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

18th Working Level Meeting of HACGAM, New Delhi, India

Representatives from the Centre participated in the Working Level Meeting of the 18th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) that was conducted from 1 to 4 August 2022, in New Delhi, India. At the Working Group meeting on “Preventing and Controlling Unlawful Acts at Sea”, it was highlighted that the Information of incidents should be timely and accurate position with geographical locations to enable expeditious response by the appropriate agencies.

18th High Level Meeting of HACGAM, New Delhi, India

The 18th High Level Meeting of HACGAM was co-hosted by Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Japan Coast Guard from 14 to 18 October 2022 and attended by 16 Member States/Region, ReCAAP ISC (Associate Member) and UNODC (the newly joined Associate Member). ED-ISC delivered a talk at the plenary session on the key features of ReCAAP, activities of ReCAAP ISC, the achievements of ReCAAP ISC, situation of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, and the way ahead.



Opening Session and Inauguration of 18th HACGAM - India

Speaker at the Senior Commander’s Dialogue, RMPP

ED-ISC, on 9 September 2022, delivered talk on the topic of “Ever-Evolving Maritime Threats” at the Senior Commander’s Dialogue of the 10th Regional MARSEC Practitioner Programme (RMPP) conducted by the Information Fusion Centre (IFC). He shared his experience on the successful handling of several high-level crisis operations during his tenure as the former Director-General of the Indian Coast Guard.



ED-ISC talk on the topic of “Ever-Evolving Maritime Threats”

Lecture at APEC SEN

The Centre was invited to deliver a virtual lecture on 28 September 2022, at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Seafarers Excellence Network (APEC SEN). The aim of the lecture was to provide the cadets with knowledge and skills to address various issues pertaining to the maritime sector. The Centre delivered a talk on the topic “Enhancing Regional Cooperation in Combating Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia”, sharing on the latest situation and highlighted the need for collective efforts and shared responsibilities of all stakeholders to deal with the situation.

Lecture at Japan International Cooperation Agency

On the invitation by JICA, the Centre on 11 October 2022, delivered virtual lectures at the JICA’s Training Course for Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies. The participants of the course were from the maritime law enforcement agencies of Asian and African countries.

90th General Assembly of INTERPOL

ED-ISC and team of ReCAAP ISC attended the 90th General Assembly of INTERPOL from 18 to 21 October 2022 at New Delhi, India. ReCAAP ISC is an associate member of INTERPOL.

IMO 106th Session of the Maritime Safety Committee

The Centre attended the 106th MSC Meeting from 2 to 11 November 2022 at IMO HQ, London, UK. The Centre submitted an information paper to update the committee on the latest situation in Asia. At the MSC meeting, ED-ISC made an intervention to highlight the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery incidents update in Asia.



Introductory call on the Secretary General of IMO, Mr Kitack Lim at IMO HQ

Speaker at ASEAN Maritime Security and Law of the Sea Workshop

On 29 November 2022, ED-ISC delivered a talk on the topic “Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in Asia” at the Maritime Security and Law of the Sea Workshop. He shared on the evolution of piracy, the application of UNCLOS 1982 to deal with piracy in contemporary context, and the importance of framing the national legislation for trying the offenders.



ED-ISC delivering talk

Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum at Manila, Philippines

ED-ISC was invited to deliver a talk at the 10th Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) held in Manila, Philippines on 7 December 2022. He spoke on the “Effectiveness of Information Exchange Mechanism” which includes the incident reporting and sharing mechanism of ReCAAP ISC; and the case studies of arrests of perpetrators as a result of information sharing among Focal Points and regional authorities.



Participants at the EAMF

PROFILING AND BRANDING ReCAAP ISC

The Centre has continued its efforts for the dissemination of information, reports and advisories via ReCAAP ISC website, mobile App and various social media platforms. Various meetings and visits with key partners also took place during the year.

1. MEETINGS AND VISITS WITH KEY PARTNERS

In the spirit of continued close collaboration with its key stakeholders, the team at ReCAAP ISC led by Mr. Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC met with various key parties to discuss ways to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and to ensure the safe traverse of seafarers.



On 27 April 2022, interaction with Mr Yuichi Sonada, Secretary-General, Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA) and Mr Michael Phoon, Secretary-General, Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA)/Executive Director of the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA)



On 21 April 2022, an introductory call on Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Executive Deputy Chairman of the RSIS at the NTU campus



On 28 April 2022, call on Mr. Loh Ngai Seng, Ministry of Transport, Singapore

Partner Organisations



IMO
Signed MoU
4 Dec 2007



IFC
Signed SOP
17 Dec 2009



BIMCO
Signed MoU
29 Apr 2010



ASA
Signed MoU
27 Aug 2010



INTERTANKO
Signed MoU
11 May 2012



INTERPOL
Signed MoU
8 Nov 2012



OCIMF
Signed MoU
24 Jul 2017



WMU
Signed MoU
2 Jul 2018



On 12 May 2022, an introductory call on RADM Yong Wei Hsiung, Commander, Maritime Security Task Force to discuss ways to combat and reduce piracy and armed robbery incidents



On 8 June 2022, interaction with the Philippine Ambassador to Singapore, H.E. Joseph Del Mar Yap in pursuit of a secure and free flowing maritime commerce in the region



On 20 May 2022, call on Her Excellency Sashikala Premawardhane, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Singapore



On 10 June 2022, visit by Ms Claire Rees, Commander of Australian Border Force to discuss ways to ensure the safety of seafarers and maritime trade in the region



On 30 May 2022, an introductory call on Chief of Navy, RADM Aaron Beng



On 14 June 2022, meeting with the Ambassador from Republic of Korea to Singapore, H.E. Dr Choi Hoon to bring about smooth and secure economic trade



On 17 June 2022, discussion with Senior Assistant Commissioner Cheang Keng Keong on ways to enhance the safety of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore for both seafarers and maritime trade



On 4 July 2022, discussion with Captain Kuniaki Takahashi, Commanding Officer, JCG Training Vessel "KOJIMA" on the importance of collaboration and training in relation to countering piracy and armed robbery threats in Asian waters



On 29 June 2022, discussion with the Ambassador from Lao PDR to Singapore, H.E. Sengkeo Pouangpadith on the importance of ensuring the safety of vessels for the region



On 6 July 2022, call on the Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, His Excellency Jun Yamazaki



On 1 July 2022, visit of Superintendent General Park Jae Hwa, Director General for International Affairs and Intelligence, Korea Coast Guard



On 26 July 2022, meeting with Ms. Karen Davis, Managing Director and other personnel from OCIMF



On 28 July 2022, call on the Ambassador of Cambodia to Singapore, His Excellency Sok Khoen



On 16 August 2022, visit by VADM Pairote Fuangchan, DG, Naval Intelligence Dept of Royal Thai Navy



On 29 July 2022, call on the Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore, His Excellency Chutintorn Gongsakdi



On 30 August 2022, meeting with CE of MPA, Ms Quah Ley Hoon (Outgoing) and Mr. Teo Eng Dih (Incoming) to discuss ways to ensure safety of seafarers and to bring about the smooth traverse of maritime trade in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore



On 12 August 2022, meeting with the Ambassador of Germany to Singapore, His Excellency Dr. Nobert Riedel, Ambassador



On 30 August 2022, meeting with Ms Heike Deggim, Director Maritime Safety Division, International Maritime Organisation at Suntec Convention Centre



On 30 August 2022, visit by Mr Cheong Tae-seong, Director General, Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries, South Korea, to discuss ways to ensure the safe traverse of seafarers in Asian waters



On 18 November 2022, visit by Ms Maria Angela A Ponce, Asst Secretary, Dept of FA-MOAO, Philippines with Dir M V Castro & Consul J E Santos



On 8 September 2022, visit by RADM Matthew Sibley, Deputy Commander, Pacific Area, USCG from USA



On 24 November 2022, visit by Ms. Siri Bjune, Head, Global Maritime Crime Programme, UNODC



On 9 December 2022, visit by Korea Coast Guard Senior Superintendent General Lee Myung Joon



On 12 December 2022, ED ISC called on Admiral Artemio M Abu, Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at its HQ in Manila

2. DIGITAL OUTREACH

In 2022, the Centre has continued the active use of its website, mobile App and digital platforms to share and disseminate information to the maritime community in a timely manner.

Various key information such as alerts, periodic reports, detailed description of incidents and press release as well as the Centre’s activities and events are uploaded on the website.

In 2022, the Centre’s website achieved a monthly average of 2545 visitors.

3. MEDIA REPORTS AND OUTREACH

In addition to sending updates and reports to the shipping community, the Centre has also kept the key trade media, local media and other media outlets informed of the latest information and key developments regarding the piracy and sea robbery in Asia.



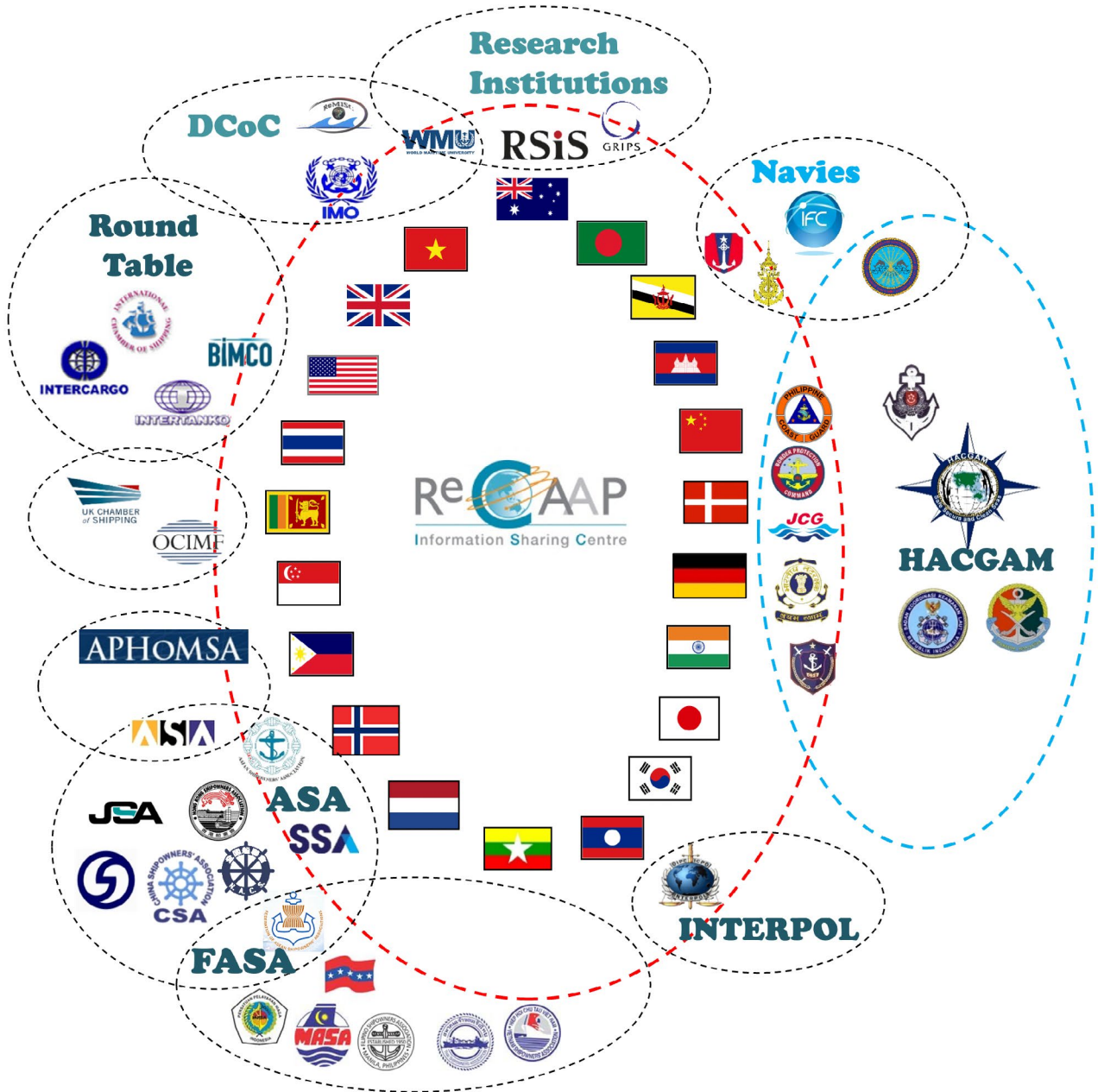
The Executive Director gave a Half-yearly and Annual Report briefing to media to share the updated situation of piracy and armed robbery in Asia.

The Centre also issued press releases on its key initiatives such as Capacity Building activities, meetings with the maritime community and visits to the Centre by partner organisations.

In 2022, the Centre earned a total of 730 media mentions on traditional media and 894 mentions on social media.

ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION

ReCAAP ISC NETWORK/CONNECTIVITY



ReCAAP INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE

Infinite Studios, 21 Media Circle, #05-04, Singapore 138562

ReCAAP

Information Sharing Centre

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