



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2021

**CENTRE OF
EXCELLENCE**

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

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.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

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



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S PREFACE



In 2021, the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combatting Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and its Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) marked its 15th anniversary. This is a special milestone for the Centre.

Since the Centre came into force on 4 September 2006, Member States (Contracting Parties) of ReCAAP have grown from 14 original Member States (all Asian countries) in 2006 to 21 Member States in 2021. The current Member States are from 14 Asian countries, 5 European countries, Australia and the United States. This increase in membership is an acknowledgement by the international community of the Centre's pivotal role and positive achievements as an organisation promoting collective efforts to combat piracy and sea robbery in Asia. More countries are expected to come on board.

To commemorate the 15 years of activities and reflect on the way forward, the Centre organised the 15th Anniversary Symposium with the Contracting Parties and maritime community. It has also made

a Commemorative Publication. Both the Symposium and Publication highlight the achievements of ReCAAP in the past 15 years. These achievements were not possible without the cooperation of all stakeholders such as Contracting Parties, Focal Points, regional maritime authorities, shipping industry and research institutes. I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the continued strong support and invaluable cooperation of all stakeholders.

ReCAAP ISC remains committed to its mission of protecting crew, vessels and cargo from piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia through its key missions of information sharing, capacity building as well as cooperative arrangements with the maritime community.

I am also pleased to share that, in 2021, there was a 15% decrease in the number of piracy and sea robbery incidents in Asia, compared to 2020. I appreciate the constant efforts of law enforcement by Contracting Parties to mitigate these maritime crimes.

Despite the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Centre has continued most of its activities by maximising the use of virtual platforms. It is all the more important to sustain and strengthen the existing working relations and network with ReCAAP Focal Points and the shipping

industry when the meetings in person are not possible.

The ReCAAP ISC will further strengthen its model of regional cooperation that has proven relevant to the needs of combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asian waters. It is through the continued vigilance and collective efforts of all stakeholders that the overall situation in Asia can be further improved.

Masafumi Kuroki
Executive Director
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre

1 | 15TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

2021 was a special year for ReCAAP and ReCAAP ISC as the 15th anniversary. To commemorate this special milestone, the Centre organised a 15th anniversary symposium on virtual platform with the theme of “Enhancing Regional Cooperation: 15 years and beyond”.

20 ReCAAP Member Countries, the shipping industry, the diplomatic community as well as academia and research institutes attended this event.

At the Symposium, Singapore's Minister for Transport, His Excellency Mr. Ong Ye Kung emphasised the need for the global community to exercise collective responsibility to protect global commons like the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. He also recognised the ReCAAP ISC as a vital part of the regional anti-piracy architecture for international cooperation against a transboundary problem.

Mr. Ong shared that “Singapore is honoured to have played an active part in the ISC's development over the years and will continue to work with the Contracting Parties of ReCAAP in giving the centre our strongest support.”

In his Keynote Address, Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, noted that he “would like to encourage ReCAAP to strengthen efforts in

capacity building to help promote and share experience and achievements with other regions”. Mr. Lim added that he was certain that the Centre's successful experience can help parties in other regions to further enhance their capacities for effective information sharing mechanisms.

The representatives of Japan and India as ReCAAP Contracting Parties as well as the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners Association (FASA) made presentations to share their perspectives regarding the piracy and sea robbery situation and reaffirmed their commitment in enhancing maritime safety in Asia in cooperation with the ReCAAP ISC.

“15 Years' Analysis of Piracy and Sea Robbery Incidents in Asia” was presented by Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

In a panel discussion on “The Future of ReCAAP” moderated by Professor Max Mejia of the World Maritime University, the ReCAAP ISC Governors from Norway and Singapore, representative of INTERTANKO and professor of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (Japan) exchanged views on the achievements of the ReCAAP ISC and made suggestions for its future role.

The 15th Anniversary Symposium has provided a good opportunity to reflect on the journey the ReCAAP ISC has taken collectively, reaffirm the commitment of its stakeholders to the shared mission and deliberate on the way forward amid a changing landscape. The commitment and support by all the ReCAAP Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders will spur the Centre to further strengthen its work to enhance maritime safety in Asia.



The 15th Anniversary Symposium was organised virtually by ReCAAP ISC with the theme “Enhancing Regional Cooperation: 15 years and beyond” to commemorate the Centre’s 15th year milestone.

2 | COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION

To commemorate the 15th Anniversary, the Centre has also made a Commemorative Publication “Commemorating 15 Years of Enhanced Regional Cooperation”. The publication features messages from Partners and Governors of the Contracting Parties as well as milestones and key achievements of the Centre in the past 15 years. It presents how the ReCAAP ISC has been endeavouring with the stakeholders to establish solid mechanism and network for information sharing on piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia and contributing to the safety of seafarers and safe maritime transport. 15 years is an important milestone which can guide the Centre in its future course.



PART 2:

15TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE RECAAP ISC

1 | OVERVIEW

The 15th Governing Council Meeting of the ReCAAP ISC was held on 16-17 March 2021 virtually due to the COVID-19 situation, with the participation of the Governors/Representatives from the 20 ReCAAP Contracting Parties.

The Council reviewed the activities of the Centre in FY2020 and deliberated on its activities for FY2021.

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

situation. This includes the conduct of various capacity building activities virtually in place of the physical meetings.

Members of the Council also congratulated ReCAAP ISC on the occasion of its 15th Anniversary milestone and confirmed that ReCAAP ISC is emerging as a highly credible centre in Asia and beyond.

At this meeting, the Council agreed on the renewal of the term of the Philippines as Chairperson and the election of Bangladesh as new Vice Chairperson for the three-years term of FY2021- FY2023.



The 15th General Council (GC) meeting was held virtually on 16-17 March and attended by ReCAAP's 20 Contracting Parties.

2 | VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The Centre welcomed the voluntary contributions by ReCAAP Contracting Parties for FY 2021 (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022) as follows:

Contracting Parties	Singapore Dollars (SGD)	Foreign Currency
Singapore	\$1,920,706.00	NA
Japan	\$513,281.00	NA
Korea (ROK)	\$175,955.79	NA
India	\$134,047.50	USD 100,000
Kingdom of Norway	\$133,110.00	USD 100,000
Australia	\$101,370.00	AUD 100,000
China	\$95,083.20	USD 72,000
United States of America	\$67,450.00	USD 50,000
Kingdom of the Netherlands	\$31,578.00	EUR 20,000
Total	\$3,172,581.49	

PART 3:

SITUATION OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS IN ASIA IN 2021

1 | OVERALL SITUATION

A total of 82 incidents of armed robbery against ships (comprising 77 actual incidents and five attempted incidents) were reported in Asia in 2021 compared to 97 incidents (comprising 95 actual incidents and two attempted incidents) in 2020. This accounts for a 15% decrease in the total number of incidents compared to 2020.

There was a decrease of incidents in many locations in Asia in 2021 compared to 2020; namely, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, South China Sea and the Sulu-Celebes Seas.

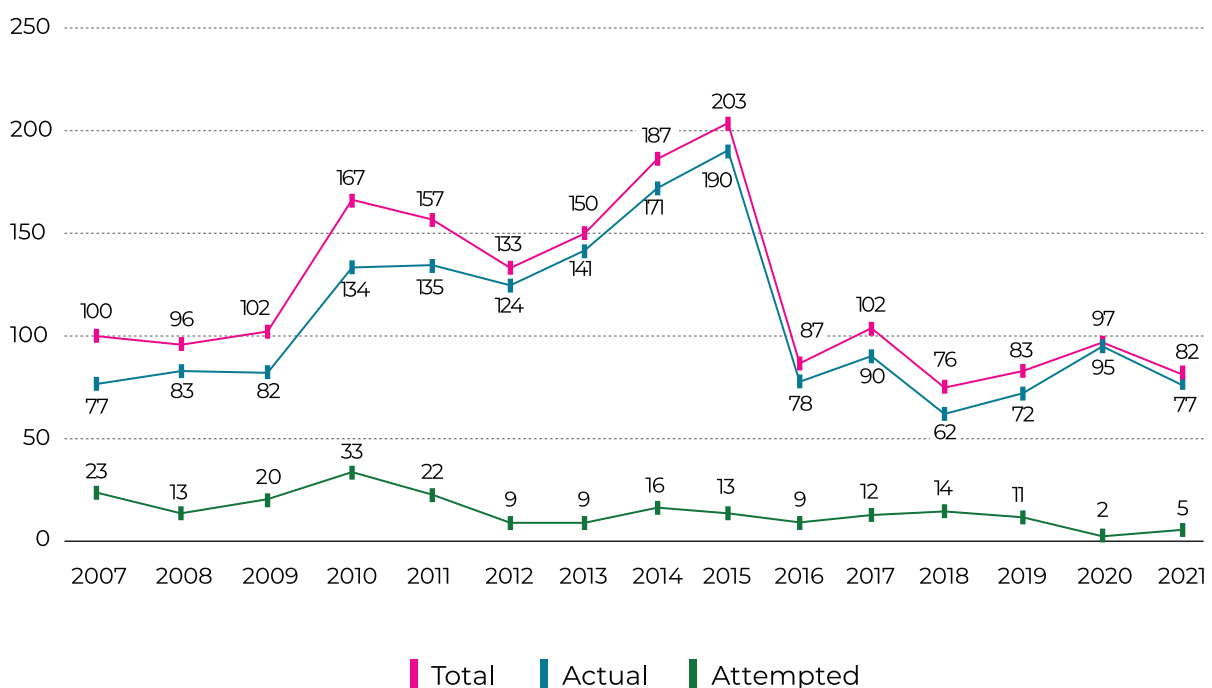
However, the Centre was concerned with the increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait, the

increase of violence by the perpetrators at the Manila Anchorage areas, the Philippines and the persistent threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas in 2021.

Piracy vs armed robbery against ships

All the incidents reported in 2021 were armed robbery against ships. No piracy incident was reported.

Over the 15-year reporting period of 2007-2021, 81% were incidents of armed robbery against ships and 19% were incidents of piracy. Piracy incidents refers to incidents that take place on the high seas while armed robbery incidents against ships take place in internal waters,



Graph 1: Number of incidents (2007-2021)

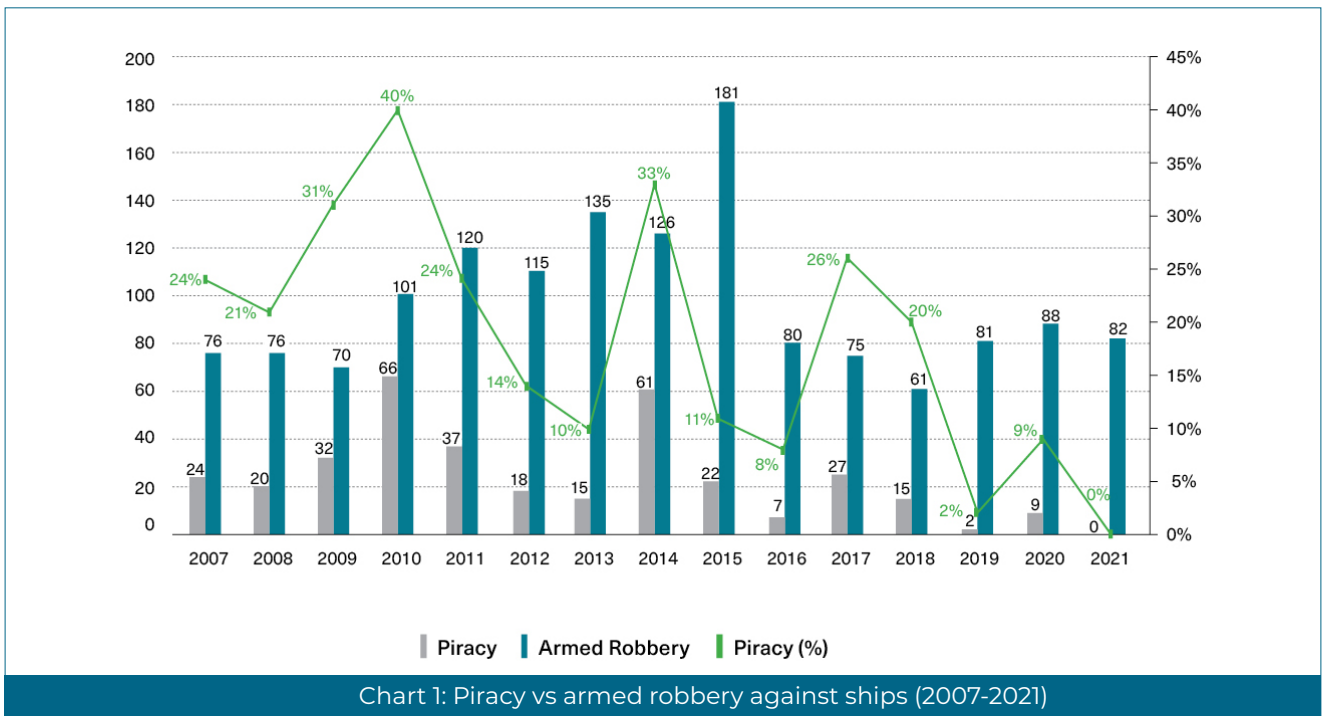


Chart 1: Piracy vs armed robbery against ships (2007-2021)

archipelagic waters and territorial sea which are under the sovereignty of coastal States. Chart 1 shows the number of incidents of piracy vs armed robbery against ships from 2007-2021.

Significance level of incidents

Of the 77 actual incidents reported in 2021, eight were CAT 2 incidents, 16 were CAT 3 incidents and 53 were CAT 4 incidents. There was no CAT 1 incident (most severe incident). This is the first time in the last 15 years (2007-2021) when there was no CAT 1 incident.

However, there was a slight increase of CAT 2 incidents in 2021 compared to the previous two years (2019-2020). This was due to the increase of incidents with violence at Manila Anchorage areas.

The number of CAT 3 incidents decreased slightly in 2021 compared to 2020. As in the past, the majority of the incidents (69%) were CAT 4 incidents, with perpetrators not being armed and no injury to the crew. Chart 2 shows the significance level of incidents reported during 2007-2021.

Status of ships

In 2021, 65% (53 incidents) occurred to ships

while underway and 35% (29 incidents) to ships while at anchor/berth. Most of the incidents on board ships while underway occurred in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (50 of 53).

Situation in the Singapore Strait

There was an increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait in 2021. A total of 49 incidents were reported, and this accounts for 60% of the total number of incidents in Asia in 2021 (49 of 82 incidents). It is also the second highest number of incidents reported in the Singapore Strait since 2007.

Among the 49 incidents, 43 incidents occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), three incidents in the westbound lane of the TSS and three incidents in the precautionary area in the Singapore Strait.

Of concern is the growing cluster of incidents that occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia) as well as an increase of incidents off Nongsa, Batam Island (Indonesia). Map 1 shows the location of the incidents.

While the number of incidents increased, most of them were at low level of violence (CAT 3 and CAT 4) with crew not being harmed.

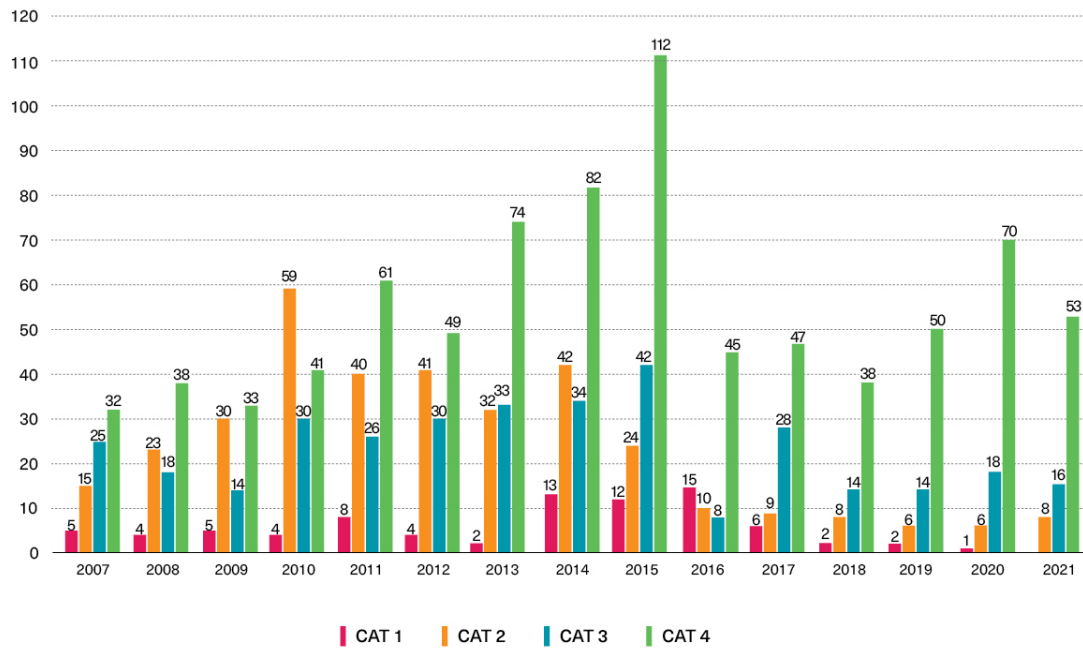


Chart 2: Significance level of incidents (2007-2021)

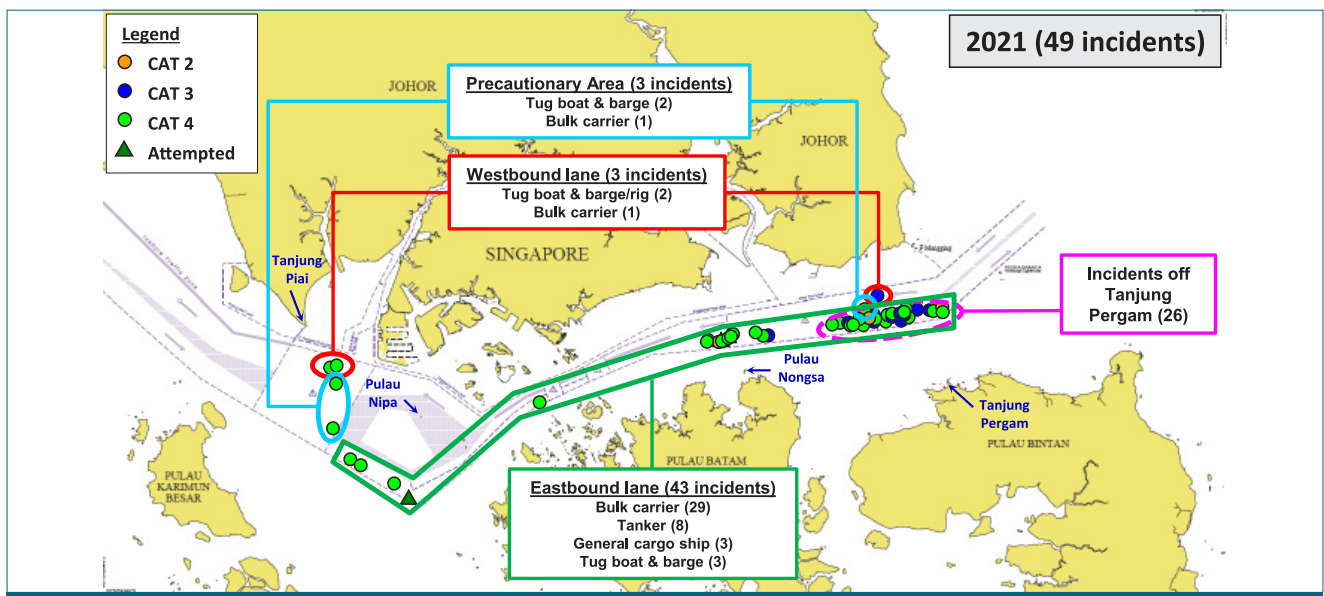
Increased of violence of perpetrators against crew at Manila Anchorage areas, the Philippines

Four of the nine incidents reported at the Manila Anchorage areas involved perpetrators who were armed with guns &/or knives, which they used to threaten the crew and tied them up.

The situation has been stabilised after the arrest of the leader and members of the criminal group responsible for the past incidents. No incident was reported at Manila Anchorage areas since the arrest in September 2021.

Threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah

There was no incident of abduction of crew by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) for ransom in 2021. The last incident occurred in January 2020. No crew is currently held in captivity by the ASG. Since the leaders of the ASG who are responsible for past abduction incidents are still at large, the threat of abduction of crew for ransom remains high.



Map 1 – Location of incidents in the Singapore Strait in 2021

General trends of incidents from 2007 to 2021

By using data analytics with the 1,822 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia during the last 15 years, the general trends are summarised as follows:

- The majority of incidents involved groups of 4-6 perpetrators (33% of all incidents) and 1-3 perpetrators (26%).
- 32% reported perpetrators being armed with knives/machetes, and 10% were armed with guns and knives while 46% of the incidents had no information on the weapons carried by the perpetrators
- 79% of the incidents reported no injury to crew or no information of the treatment of the crew.
- Regarding stolen items, 33% of incidents reported loss of ship stores, 10% reported loss of cash/personal belongings and 8% reported loss of engine spares. In 33% of the incidents, nothing was stolen as the perpetrators escaped empty-handed upon being sighted.
- Ships boarded were tankers (35%), bulk carriers (28%), tug boats/supply vessels (14%) and container ships (13%).
- 81% of incidents occurred during hours of darkness (18:00 – 06:00).

2 | DATA ANALYTICS PROJECT PHASE 2

The Centre embarked on Phase 1 of the Data Analytics project in 2017 to develop tools to analyse the trends of piracy and armed robbery against ships incidents, based on the various factors of past incidents. The analytical tool provides data visualization, enables cluster analysis and establishes correlations of the factors of incidents. The Centre is reporting the result of analysis in its periodic reports.

To provide a more in-depth analysis, the Centre is implementing the Phase 2 project to analyse the external factors which might have linkages

with piracy and sea robbery incidents. These factors include weather conditions, moon phases, economic situation of coastal States, commodity prices of items commonly targeted by pirates/robbers (e.g. oil products, scrap metals, etc). The Phase 2 project has started in December 2021.

3 | ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF INFORMATION SHARING AND INCIDENT REPORTING

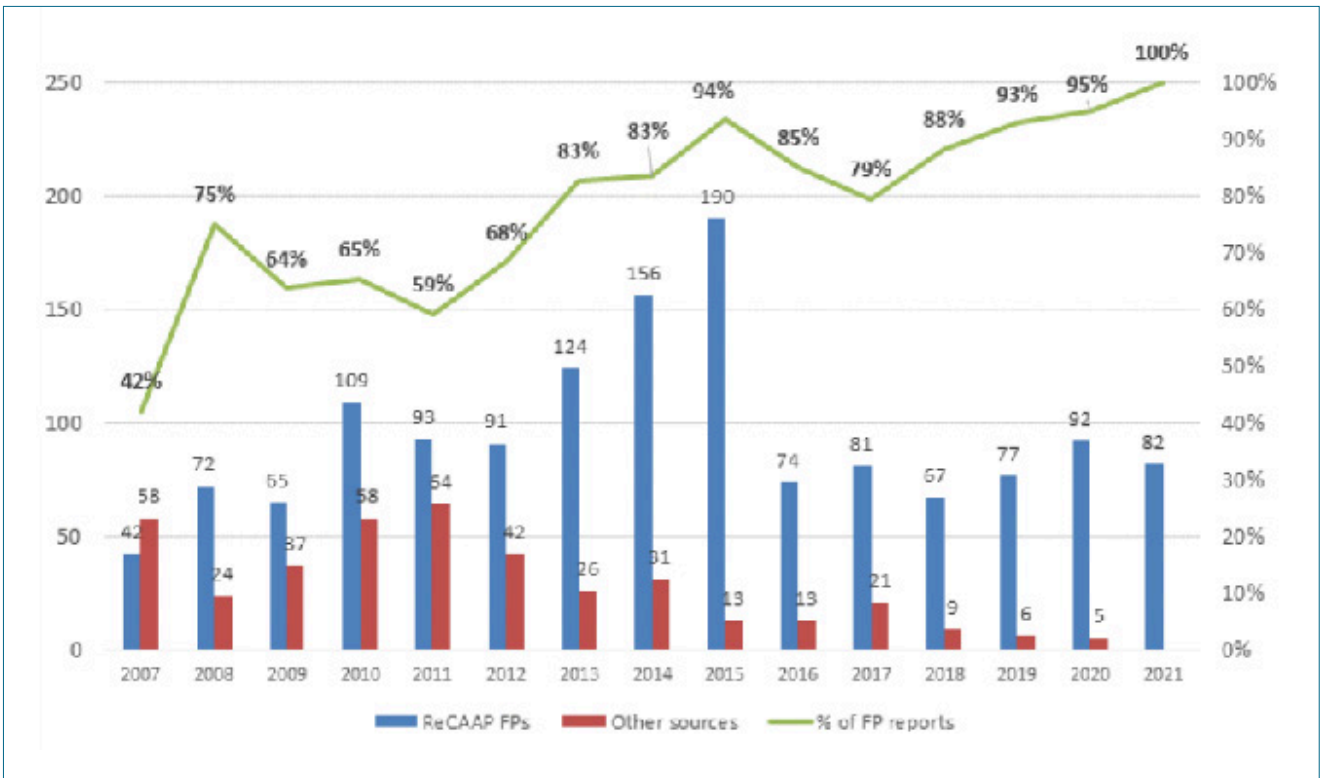
Accurate information

The primary source of information of the Centre is reporting by the 21 Focal Points (FPs) of ReCAAP via the Information Sharing Network (IFN). The FPs submit Incident Report (IR) on all incidents occurred within and outside their territorial waters based on reporting received from ship masters, shipping companies and local agents. The FPs also verify the details of incidents to ensure the accuracy of the information before submitting the IRs to the Centre. Apart from the FPs, other sources of information of the Centre are the IMO and regional authorities.

The chart below shows the number of reports submitted by FPs compared to other sources from 2007-2021. The percentage of reports by FPs has increased from 95% in 2020 to 100% in 2021. This indicates the competence and effectiveness of FPs in collecting information, verifying incidents and reporting incidents to the Centre. It also demonstrates the good cooperation between the shipping industry and FPs in sharing information.

Timeliness of reporting

Chart 2 indicates the timeliness of IRs submitted by FPs to the Centre during 2007-2021. The timeliness of reporting is measured by the interval between the time of the incident and the time when the IR is submitted by the FP.



Incidents reported by FPs vs other sources (2007-2021)

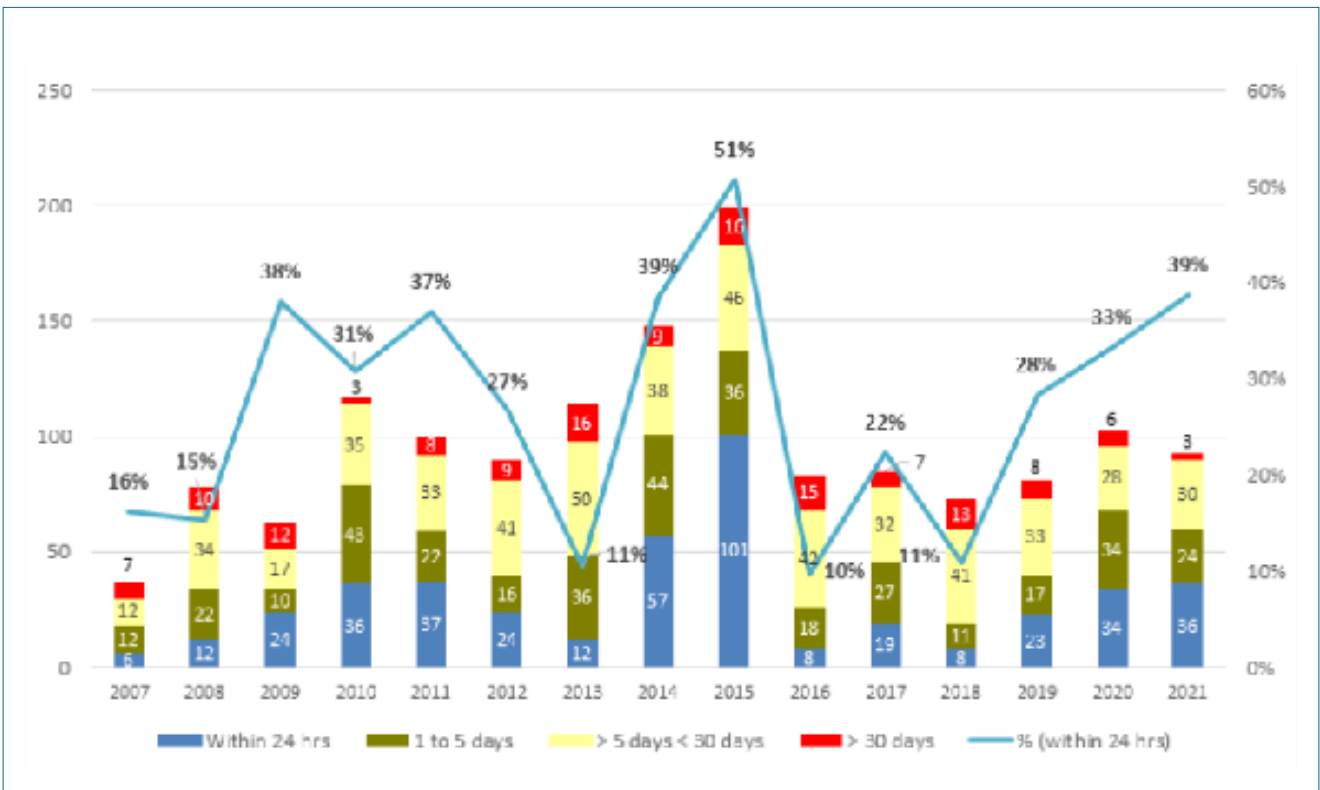


Chart 2 - Timeliness of submission of IRs by Year (2007-2021)

Of the 1,463 IRs submitted during 2007-2021, on average, 30% of the IRs were submitted within 24 hours, 25% submitted between 1 to 5 days and 45% submitted after more than 5 days. In 2021, 39% of the IRs were submitted within 24 hrs.

While there was an improvement in 2021, there is still room for further improvement.

4 | PRODUCTS OF RECAAP ISC

The information sharing products of the Centre are ad hoc reports and periodic reports. 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 Centre also produces periodic reports with statistics and analysis on a weekly and monthly basis. 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.

Warnings


The Centre issues a Warning when the timely information of a serious incident is critical so that seafarers can take appropriate actions when transiting the area. Warning is issued with validated information provided by FP, pending the submission of a formal Incident Report.

In 2021, the Centre produced one Warning on 5 March upon receiving validated information about three perpetrators on a speed boat who attempted to board a bulk carrier off Sibutu Island, Tawi-Tawi, the Philippines. As the kidnap-for-ransom elements of the Abu Sayyaf Group are based in the area of the incident, the Centre issued a warning to urge ship masters and crew to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the area.

WARNING 01-2021

5 MARCH 2021

1. The ReCAAP ISC has received information from the Philippine Coast Guard (ReCAAP Focal Point) about an incident involving a bulk carrier, *Akij Pearl off Sibutu Island, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines* on 3 March 2021 at about 1045 hrs. While the bulk carrier was underway, an unidentified speed boat with three perpetrators on board attempted to board the ship. The master reported the incident to the Philippine Navy Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS). There was no mention if the perpetrators were armed. Refer to map below on approximate location of incident.
2. As the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group/Kidnap-for-Ransom Group (ASG/FRG) elements are based in the area of the incident, the ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to exercise extra vigilance when transiting the waters off Eastern Sabah and in the Sulu-Celebes Seas, in particular waters off Sibutu Island.
3. Source: Philippine Coast Guard
4. This information is to provide maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the area.



ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC)
 Email: info@recaap.org
 Tel: +65 6376 3084
 Fax: +65 6376 3066

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 reported by FP via Incident Report.

In 2021, the Centre issued eight IAs (seven IAs on the increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait and one IA on the incidents with violence by armed perpetrators at Manila South Harbour Anchorage areas).

Advisory

In 2021, the Centre issued one Advisory on 30 November to remind ship masters and shipping companies of the importance to immediately report incidents to the nearest coastal States, to enable the authorities to respond and to arrest perpetrators.

2 December 2021




Incident Alert

**Sea Robbery Incidents in
the eastbound lane of
Singapore Strait**

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
21 Media Circle, #05-04
Singapore 138562
Tel : (65) 6376 3091
Fax : (65) 6376 3066
Web : www.recaap.org

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30 November 2021




Advisory:

**Ships to report incidents to
nearest Coastal State**

ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
21 Media Circle, #05-04
Singapore 138562
Tel: (65) 6376 3091
Fax: (65) 6376 3066
Web: <http://www.recaap.org>

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23 August 2021



Incident Alert

**Incidents at Manila
Anchorage Areas, the
Philippines**

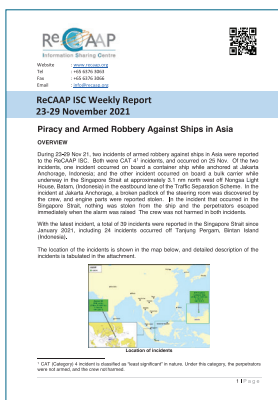
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
21 Media Circle, #05-04
Singapore 138562
Tel : (65) 6376 3091
Fax : (65) 6376 3066
Web : www.recaap.org

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Periodic Reports

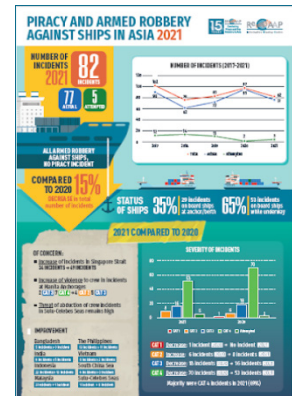
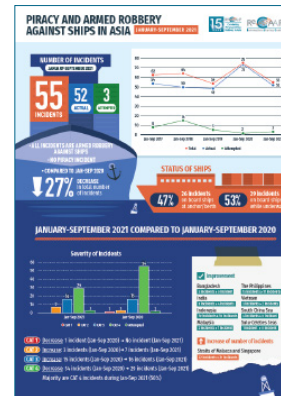
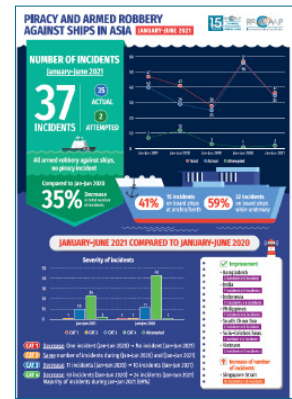
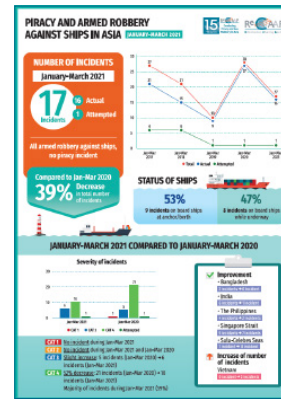
The Centre issues Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly and Annual Reports. These reports provide updates of the situation including the statistics, modus operandi of the perpetrators, trends of incidents, best practices and recommendations.

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



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.



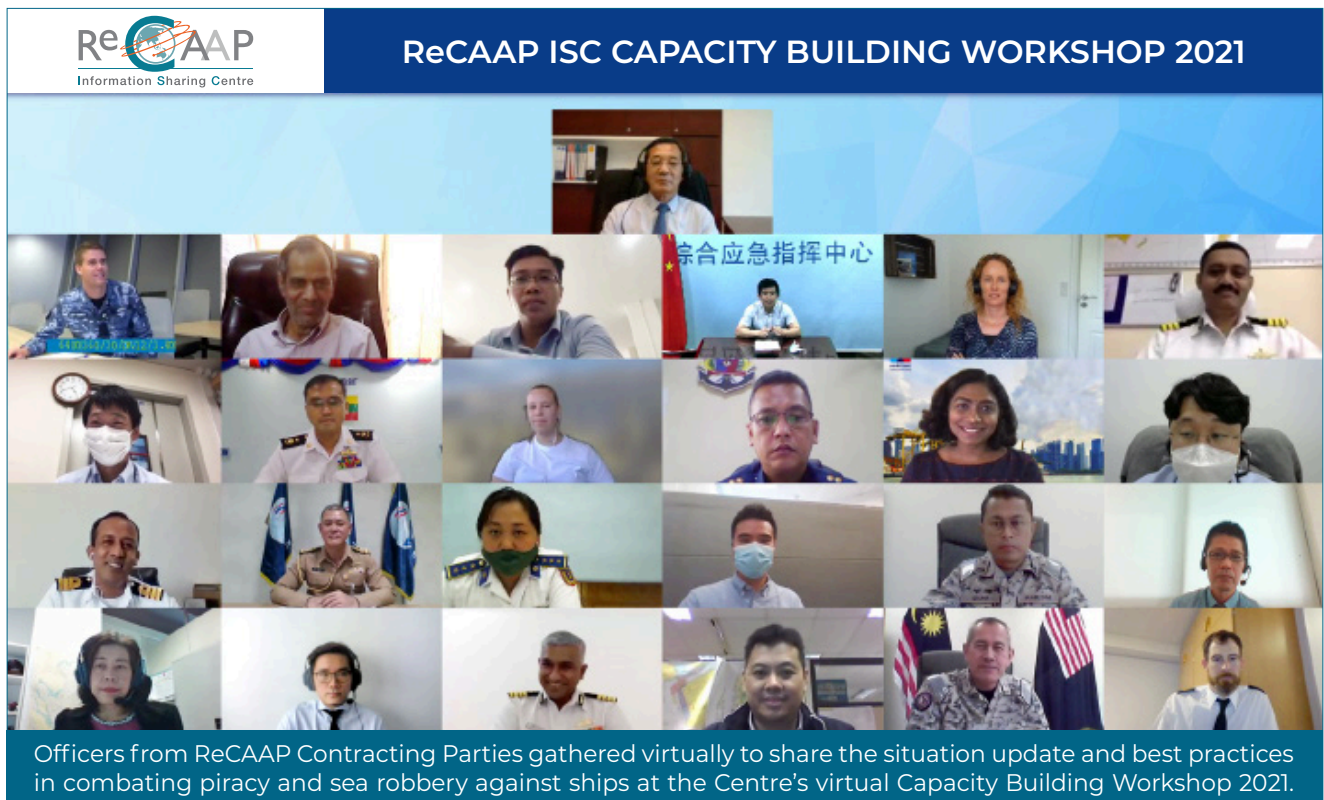
PART 4: CAPACITY BUILDING

1 | OVERVIEW

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre continued to organise its Capacity Building activities virtually in 2021.

Since it was the second consecutive year to conduct capacity building activities virtually, the Centre was aware of the needs to sustain the close bonds and network that had been fostered among Focal Points (FPs) before COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the Centre has continued to organise the three main Capacity Building meetings for all the FPs such as Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting 2020, Capacity Building Workshop 2021 and Capacity Building Executive Programme 2021, as well as FP Training Programme for new FP officers and table-top exercise of Incident Reporting through IFN system.



Furthermore, by taking advantage of virtual platform, the Centre organised three Capacity Building Virtual Lectures given by external experts.

2 | VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING (CBSOM) 2020

The Centre held virtual CBSOM on 26 January 2021, with the participation of FP senior officers from 18 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.

3 | VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP (CBW) 2021

On 10 June, ReCAAP ISC held virtual CBW with the participation of 28 FP officers from 18 Contracting Parties.

In addition to sharing the latest information and analysis of the piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia, the Philippine FP shared insights on the nexus between maritime terrorism and piracy.

The participants also exchanged views on how to further promote inter-agency cooperation and engagement with the shipping industry, particularly in timely reporting of incidents.

4 | VIRTUAL CAPACITY BUILDING EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME (CBEP) 2021

The Centre held a virtual CBEP on 15 September with the participation of 47 FP officers from 21 Contracting Parties.

During the programme, the Centre shared the latest information and analysis of the situation of piracy and sea robbery and FPs presented their efforts to address these crimes in certain areas of concern.

The FP of Germany, as a new member of ReCAAP, presented its organisation and countermeasures to prevent piracy and sea robbery incidents. The Japan Coast Guard and the US Coast Guard shared their expertise in the area of law enforcement.

5 | CAPACITY BUILDING VIRTUAL LECTURES

The Centre organised three Capacity Building Virtual Lectures for FPs in 2021.

The first lecture was given on 7-8 July by Professor Robert C. Beckman, Centre of International Law of National University of Singapore, on "Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships from the perspective of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea" and "Other international conventions that may be applicable in some cases concerning the security of commercial shipping".

Region	% Piracy Cases 1995-2017
North/Central America	21%
South America	74%
Europe	0.9%
Africa	34.9%
- West Africa	12.9%
- East Africa	18.4%
Middle East/North Africa	3.2%
South Asia	12.8%
SE Asia/Oceania	37.3%

Figure: Map of piracy, from SIPRELD (1995-2017)

- Four primary Hotspots
- Malacca and Singapore Straits
- Gulf of Guinea
- Bay of Bengal
- South America

Professor Brandon Prins from the University of Tennessee, USA addressing officers from ReCAAP Contracting Parties at the 2nd Capacity Building Virtual Lecture conducted in October.

On 19 October, Professor Brandon Prins of the University of Tennessee, USA, gave a lecture on “Root causes of piracy and how to effectively address them”.

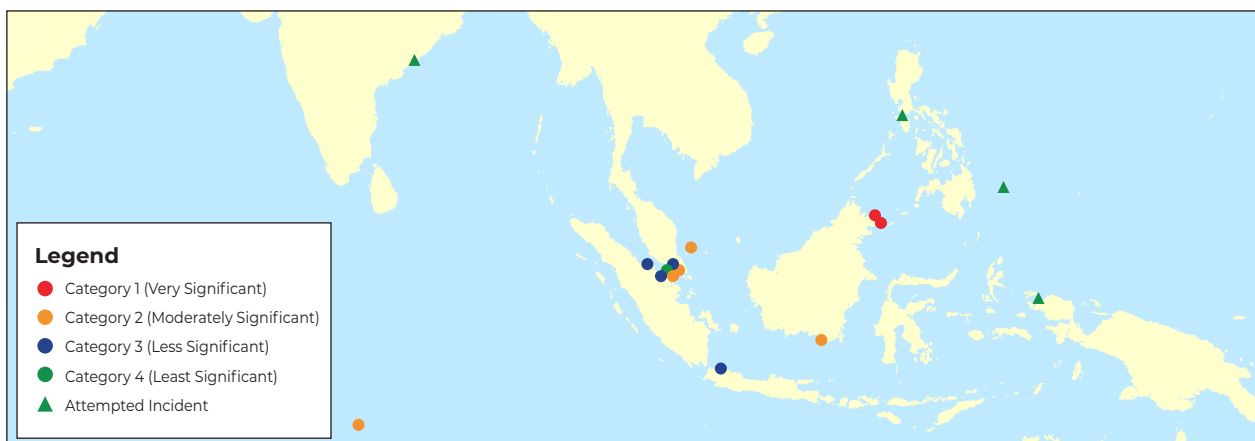
For the third lecture on 14 December, Mr Russel Kempley, cyber-security expert, gave a lecture on the theme “Current state of Maritime Cyber-security in Asia as well as the nexus between Cyber-security and Piracy”.

New staff of seven FPs and one CP participated in the programme – Germany, India, the Netherlands and the UK on 17 November; and Cambodia, Hong Kong (China), Myanmar and Vietnam on 18 November.

6 | FOCAL POINT TRAINING PROGRAMME (FPTP)

The Centre continued to conduct the FPTP virtually on 17-18 November. The objective of the training is to provide the new staff of FPs and Contact Point (CP) with better understanding on the role of FP, the importance of timely and accurate reporting of incidents as well as the procedures for the submission of Incident Report on the Information Network System (IFN).

INTERACTIVE INCIDENT REPORTS



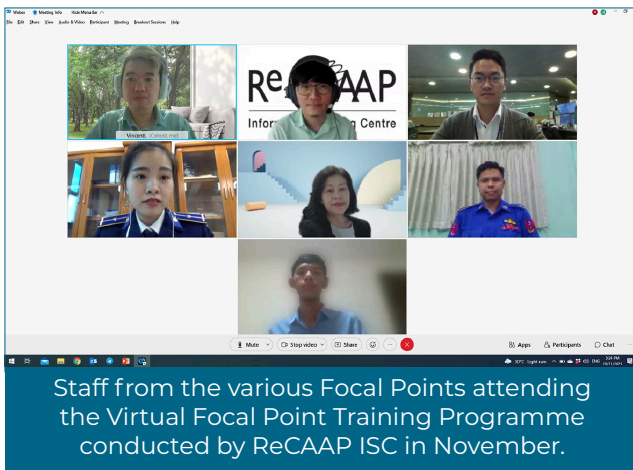
This is an illustrative view of the Interactive Incident Reports.

**Click on the map above to launch the Interactive Incident Report Map Tool.*

The Interactive Incident Report module of the Centre’s IFN system allows Focal Points (FP) to search for incidents based on the Incident Reports submitted by the FPs (for incidents in Asia and beyond) or Incident Cases (ICs) compiled by the Centre (for verified incidents in Asia).

7 | IFN EXERCISE WITH FOCAL POINTS

The Centre conducted incident reporting exercise through IFN during 1-3 September for the staff of FPs. The objective is to familiarise the staff of FPs with the process of submitting incident reports through the IFN. 13 FPs/CP participated in the exercise.



1 | OVERVIEW

The Centre has continued its efforts to engage government agencies, the shipping industry and the maritime community with a common objective of combating piracy and sea robbery. Cooperative arrangement enables the Centre to expand its information sharing network and disseminate information and advisories to a wide audience.

2 | ENGAGEMENT WITH INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

Indonesia

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre could not make a visit to Indonesia to have an exchange of views with Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BAKAMLA in 2021. However, the Centre continued to extend invitation to the MFA and BAKAMLA to attend the Centre's virtual activities.

In 2021, engagement with Indonesia included:

- Embassy of Indonesia in Singapore attended the Open Session of ReCAAP ISC's 15th Governing Council Meeting in March as an observer, and the 15th Symposium on 15 March.
- On 15 September, two officers of BAKAMLA attended the Capacity Building Executive Programme.
- On 7 and 8 July, three officers of BAKAMLA attended the Capacity Building Virtual Lecture.

Malaysia

The Centre could not make a visit to Malaysia to have meetings with Malaysia's MFA and the Malaysia Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in 2020 and 2021.

However, the Centre continued operational cooperation with MMEA for information sharing and the verification of incidents as well as invitation to the capacity building activities.

The specific engagement in 2021 included:

- On 10 June, MMEA was represented by four officers and a panelist at the Capacity Building Workshop.
- On 15 September, four MMEA officers attended the Capacity Building Executive Programme.
- On 7 and 8 July, four MMEA officers attended the Capacity Building Virtual Lecture.

3 | ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTILATERAL REGIMES INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

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

The 4th and 5th meetings of the UNODC Contact Group were held virtually on 24 June and 7 December respectively.

The national delegates and maritime law enforcement agencies from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines attended the meetings and discussed the trends of maritime crimes in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and identified the follow-up actions.

At the meetings, the Centre presented on the trends and analysis of the abduction of crew incidents in the Sulu-Celebes Seas.

21st APHoMSA Meeting

The Centre was invited to the 21st session of the APHoMSA virtual meeting hosted by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority on 18-20 May. During the session, the Centre presented on the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

Lecture at GRIPS

On 22 February, the Centre delivered a lecture on its 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.

Lecture at Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

On the invitation by JICA, the Centre delivered lectures at the JICA's Training Course for Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies on 4 February and 15 November. The participants of the course were from the maritime law enforcement agencies of Asian and African countries.

4 | ENGAGEMENT WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY

12th Nautical Forum

The Centre organised the virtual 12th Nautical Forum on 15 January. The Centre presented on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2020, based on its Annual Report.

About 120 participants from the shipping industry, international and regional shipping associations, diplomatic community (ReCAAP Contracting Parties and other countries), regional authorities and academia attended the Forum.

Dialogue with the Shipping Industry

The Centre held its 2nd dialogue session with representatives of the shipping associations and companies based in Singapore on 11 November.

The Centre presented the latest situation and exchanged views with the participants on the three areas:

- (i) Increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait,
- (ii) Increase of violence against crew in incidents at Manila Anchorages, the Philippines
- (iii) Incidents at the ports/anchorages in Indonesia.

Updating of "Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia"

The Regional Guide for Asia was produced in 2016 by the Centre in collaboration with a Working Group comprising representatives from the Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA), Singapore Shipping Association (SSA), Information Fusion Centre (IFC), INTERTANKO, Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) and the S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). Considering some changes of the situation of piracy and sea robbery, the Centre initiated the updating of the Regional Guide with the Working Group members in 2021, and completed the updating in January 2022. The Version 2 of the Regional Guide will be released soon.

The Centre has continued active efforts for the dissemination of information, reports and advisories via its website, mobile App and various social media platforms.

1 | 15TH ANNIVERSARY MICROSITE AND COMMEMORATIVE PUBLICATION

In 2021, ReCAAP ISC marked its 15th Anniversary. To commemorate the special occasion, the Centre has created a microsite within its website to upload materials related with the commemorative events such as a digital copy of the 15th Anniversary Symposium and Commemorative Publication. Both the Symposium and publication highlight the milestones, key achievements and activities of the Centre over the past 15 years.

2 | WEBSITE AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

In 2021, 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 2021, the Centre's website achieved a monthly average of 2,940 visitors, an increase from 2,626 in 2020.

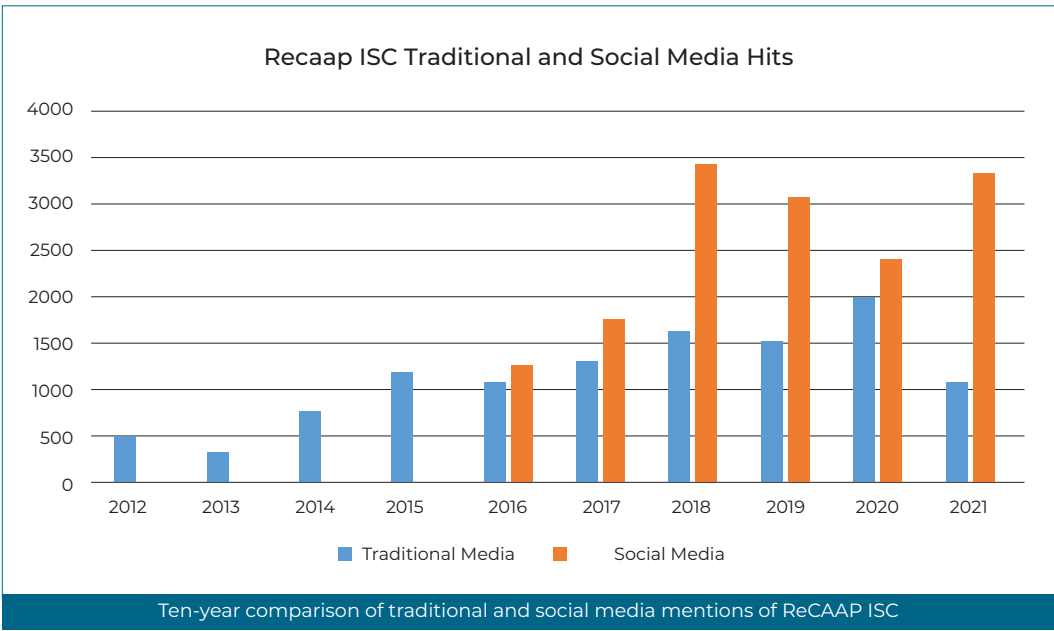
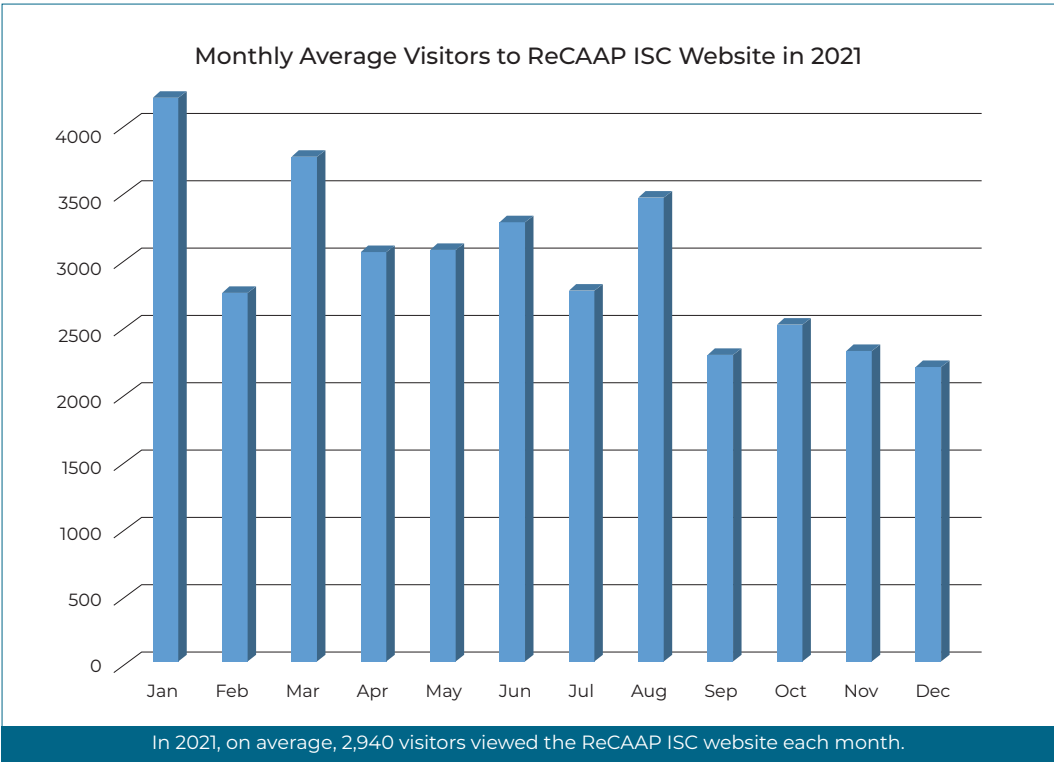
3 | MEDIA REPORTS AND OUTREACH

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.

For this purpose, the Executive Director gave a half-yearly media briefing to share the key points of the Centre's Half-yearly Report and Annual Report.

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 2021, the Centre earned a total of 1,080 media mentions on traditional media and 3,340 mentions on social media.



ReCAAP INFORMATION SHARING CENTRE
Infinite Studios, 21 Media Circle, #05-04, Singapore 138562

WWW.ReCAAP.ORG

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