



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6 June 2024

Maritime Law Enforcement and Regulatory Officers from Asian Countries Meet in Guangzhou, China for ReCAAP ISC Capacity Building Workshop to Share Best Practices in Combating Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), in cooperation with its China Focal Point, the China Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center [MRCC] (Beijing), has concluded a Capacity Building Workshop (CBW) from 3 to 6 June 2024 held in Guangzhou, China. The workshop facilitated the sharing of best practices among ReCAAP member States in Asia, and allowed ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point officers to strengthen their skills in reporting and verifying piracy and sea robbery incidents using ReCAAP's Information Network System (IFN).

The workshop was attended by the coast guards, navies and maritime law enforcement agencies from ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point in Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam), and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

The ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point, during the workshop, shared their countries' efforts in preventing sea robbery incidents in their ports, anchorages and territorial waters. Participants also took part in a training session and table-top exercise to familiarise themselves with reporting of incidents using ReCAAP ISC's Information Network System (IFN). In addition, Mr Li Quan, Deputy Director of Safety Management at Dalian Maritime University delivered a lecture on the theory and application of international maritime law on piracy and sea robbery incidents.

Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC, said "The Focal Points/Contact Point of ReCAAP Member States play a crucial role in timely and accurate incident reporting and response, the ReCAAP ISC is committed to building the knowledge and skills sets of Focal Points/Contact Point officers to manage piracy and sea robbery incidents in their area of responsibility. The piracy and sea robbery situation in Asia from January to May 2024 has seen an improvement with 42 incidents reported during this period, against 49 incidents in same period in 2023. I appreciate the efforts of the ReCAAP member States in arresting and prosecuting the perpetrators, which contributed to a 14% reduction in robbery incidents. He stressed

that the momentum need to be maintained to ensure the safety of seafarers and secured seas for unhindered flow of global trade.”

Mr Zhuo Li, Executive Deputy Director General of China MRCC, said, “The China Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center is committed to strengthening communication and collaboration with ReCAAP member States, to ensure safer seas for all. We are honoured to have co-hosted the Capacity Building Workshop, which promoted dialogue and useful exchanges between maritime law enforcement and regulatory agencies in Asia.”

Ms Liu Xiaoyan, Counsellor of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, China MFA, also ReCAAP ISC Governor for China, said “Looking ahead, China will continue to work with ReCAAP ISC and ReCAAP member States to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, so as to maintain the overall sound situation of maritime security in the region, and to promote regional peace, stability, prosperity and development.”

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About ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. The Agreement entered into force on September 4, 2006 with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties, and the Information Sharing Centre was established on November 29, 2006. To date, 21 States have become Contracting Parties to ReCAAP. To fulfil its vision as the Information Hub for combating piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, ReCAAP ISC enhances regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in 2018, the Council announced that ReCAAP ISC has met the criteria to be a Centre of Excellence for information sharing in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea. For more information about ReCAAP ISC, please visit <http://www.recaap.org>