



## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ReCAAP ISC Holds Dialogue with Shipping Industry to Discuss Ways to Enhance Incident Reporting in Areas of Concern**

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) today held a dialogue with the shipping industry to share the latest situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, as well as efforts by the littoral States to address armed robbery against ships in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). The dialogue was attended by the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), Information Fusion Centre (IFC), representatives of shipping associations and shipping companies.

During the dialogue, the MPA and IFC updated on the enhanced measures and cooperative efforts with their counterparts of the littoral States in addressing sea robbery in the SOMS. The SOMS, which continues to see the occurrence of incidents in 2024, remains an area of concern for the shipping industry. On this note, INTERTANKO (International Association of Independent Tanker Owners) updated dialogue participants on the association's recent engagements with Indonesian government agencies on maritime security concerns.

Participants also discussed the need for more timely reporting of incidents by ship masters, and the role which shipping agents can play in reporting incidents to authorities and assisting with follow up investigations.

The ReCAAP ISC updated on the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia (ARAS) for January – June 2024. A total of 51 incidents of piracy and ARAS in Asia was reported in the first half of 2024, a 16% decrease compared to 61 incidents in the same period last year. The Straits of Malacca and Singapore has witnessed about 50% reduction in incidents of sea robbery. This is owing to enhanced surveillance and the arrests made by the littoral States of SOMS.

The Centre also updated on new initiatives to assist the shipping industry in timely and accurate incident reporting and information sharing. This includes the enhanced "ReCAAP" mobile app, poster with updated contact details of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres in Asia, poster with contact details of operation centres of the littoral States of SOMS, the access management of the Interactive Dashboard – Re-VAMP, and version 2 of ReCAAP ISC's Guide Book on Identification of Fishing

Boats in Asian Waters. These materials are available for download on the ReCAAP ISC website at [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)

ReCAAP ISC Executive Director, Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, said “Overall, the piracy and sea robbery situation in the Asian region, including the SOMS, has improved in the first half of 2024, compared to the same period last year. This can be attributed to concerted efforts by maritime stakeholders, stricter monitoring and enforcement by the law enforcement agencies of coastal States, and proactive reporting of incidents by shipmasters and shipping companies. The momentum needs to be maintained and all parties should not lower their guard.”

He added, “Notwithstanding the lower number of incidents in Asia, ReCAAP ISC notes that there has been a higher number of incidences of petty theft reported at some ports and anchorages from January to June 2024, compared to the first half of 2023. This has to be dealt with by the port authorities and law enforcement agencies of coastal States. Shipping companies need to be vigilant and maintain lookout when their vessels are anchored or berthed, and to report all incidents to the relevant authorities immediately.”

– End of Release –

### **Media Contact**

#### **ReCAAP ISC**

Gareth Yeo

Email: [gareth\\_yeo@recaap.org](mailto:gareth_yeo@recaap.org)

Tel: (+65) 9658 2473

### **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 (14 Asian countries, 5 European countries, Australia, the USA) 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>