



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 March 2026

ReCAAP 20th Anniversary Celebrations and Symposium *- Commemorating Two Decades of Regional Cooperation and Partnership for Safer Seas in Asia*

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) commemorated its 20th Anniversary today with a celebratory event graced by Mr Murali Pillai, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law & Ministry of Transport, Singapore, and a symposium featuring panel discussions on emerging maritime threats and multifaceted approaches to addressing piracy and other maritime crimes. The event, held in Paradox Singapore Hotel, was attended by Governors from 19 ReCAAP member states, ambassadors, as well as representatives from shipping associations, law enforcement agencies, academia, and regional and international organisations.

During the event, the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) launched a coffee table book to commemorate ReCAAP's two decades of regional cooperation and partnership with maritime stakeholders for safer seas in Asia. The Centre also unveiled the [ReCAAP 20th anniversary website](#) for the public and stakeholders to learn about ReCAAP's history and ReCAAP ISC's key milestones and initiatives from 2006 to 2025.

Mr Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), noted in his pre-recorded video address that over the past 20 years, ReCAAP ISC has evolved into a recognised Centre of Excellence for information sharing and a model of practical, regional cooperation. He also acknowledged the Centre's efforts in helping to make some of the world's busiest sea lanes safer for shipping.

Panellists discussed the rise of threats against shipping such as attack drones, cyber-attacks and AIS jamming, as well as the need to improve maritime domain awareness, build trust and share information to effectively address these threats. Discussions also centred on the need for clear, legal frameworks to prosecute perpetrators of sea robbery and other maritime crimes (Refer to programme in Annex A).

Other highlights of the event included a welcome address by Admiral Ronnie Gavan, Chairperson of ReCAAP ISC Governing Council and Commandant of the Philippines Coast Guard and a presentation on "ReCAAP ISC: The first 20 years and the way forward" by Mr Vijay D Chafekar, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC

“As we come together to commemorate ReCAAP’s 20th anniversary, I would like to express my appreciation to past and present ReCAAP ISC Governors, Focal Point officers and secondees, as well as the shipping community and partner organisations, for their support and contributions over the years. The 20th anniversary is an opportunity for ReCAAP ISC and our Contracting Parties to reflect on the journey we have collectively undertaken, and to renew our shared commitment to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements,” said Mr Vijay D Chafekar, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.

“Looking ahead, ReCAAP ISC will continue to keep abreast of emerging maritime threats and their nexus to piracy and sea robbery, as well as leverage technology and data analytics tools, to provide useful incident reports for our Contracting Parties, shipping industry, law enforcement agencies and maritime stakeholders,” he added.



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Media Contacts

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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>

ReCAAP 20th Anniversary Celebration & Symposium

13 March 2026 (0900 - 1430 hrs)

Venue – Paradox Singapore Merchant Court

Programme

Time	Activity
ReCAAP 20th Anniversary Celebration <i>Commemorating Two Decades of Regional Cooperation & Partnership for Safer Seas in Asia</i>	
0830 hrs	Registration
0900 hrs	Welcome Remarks Admiral Ronnie Gavan Chairperson of the ReCAAP ISC Governing Council
0905 hrs	Opening Address Mr Murali Pillai (Guest of Honour) Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Law & Ministry of Transport Republic of Singapore
0910 hrs	ReCAAP 20th Anniversary Celebration (launch segment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unveil ReCAAP 20th anniversary logo • Screen montage video (show ReCAAP’s milestones, launch ReCAAP 20th anniversary coffee table book and web page) • Group photos
0925 hrs	Keynote Address (pre-recorded) Mr Arsenio Dominguez Secretary General, IMO
0930 hrs	“ReCAAP ISC: The First 20 Years & the Way Forward” Mr Vijay D Chafekar Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC
0940 hrs	Coffee Break
ReCAAP 20th Anniversary Symposium <i>Adapting to evolving maritime security challenges</i>	
1000 hrs	<u>Session 1</u> Addressing emerging maritime threats and the Future of ReCAAP Moderator – Professor Max Mejia, President, World Maritime University [Synopsis: Panellists will discuss current and emerging maritime security threats, and how States and the shipping industry are addressing/preparing to address

	<p>these threats. They will also discuss how ReCAAP ISC can continue to stay relevant and play a constructive role in the next 20 years.]</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mr Bastiaan Maltha, ReCAAP ISC Governor for Netherlands b) Mr Hasan Khajah, Senior Coordinator, Maritime Security, INTERPOL c) Dr Philip Belcher, Marine Director, INTERTANKO d) Ms Lee Yin Mui, Deputy Director, ReCAAP ISC
1100 hrs	Presentation of mementos by Chairperson and photo taking with Panel 1
1115 hrs	<p><u>Session 2</u></p> <p>Multi-faceted approach to fighting piracy & other maritime crimes Moderator – Professor Christian Bueger, Professor of International Relations at the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen</p> <p>[Synopsis: Panellists will discuss their experience of collaborating with partners to fight Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in different parts of the world, the nexus between illicit maritime activities and piracy/sea robbery, and share case studies and best practices.]</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mr. David O’Connell, Regional Programme Coordinator, Maritime Crime – Southeast Asia, UNODC b) Mr Terry Gibson, Lead, UK MDAT-GoG, Royal Navy c) Mr Akash Mittra, Director of HSEQ, Teekay Tankers d) Cdr Abeer Sahrma, Commander (Operations), IFC-IOR
1215 hrs	Presentation of mementos by Chairperson and photo taking with Panel 2
1225 hrs	<p>Closing Remarks Mr Vijay D Chafekar Executive Director ReCAAP ISC</p>
1230 hrs	Lunch and Networking
1430 hrs	End