

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senior Maritime Law Enforcement and Regulatory Officers Gather in Incheon, Republic of Korea to Discuss Measures to Strengthen Fight against Piracy and Sea Robbery in Asia

The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC), with the support of the Republic of Korea Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, also the Focal Point for Republic of Korea, today concluded a five-day Capacity Building Senior Officers' Meeting (CBSOM) in Incheon, South Korea. Senior officers of maritime law enforcement and regulatory agencies from 16 ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong (China), India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vietnam), as well as the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and BAKAMLA, attended the CBSOM. Participants took stock of the current maritime security challenges in Asia, and explored ways to strengthen cooperation to deter and suppress piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

Capacity building is one of the three main pillars of the ReCAAP ISC's mission. The CBSOM provided a platform for the ReCAAP Focal Points/Contact Point to update their knowledge on maritime security issues, network, and exchange best practices on combating armed robbery against ships in ports, anchorages, and territorial waters.

Participants presented and discussed on a range of topics, including:

- Efforts by maritime authorities in Asia to prevent and combat piracy and sea robbery incidents
- Case studies on incidents of unauthorised boarding and theft from ships
- Ways to enhance the timeliness of incident reporting
- Application of domestic and international maritime laws to piracy and armed robbery against ships

In addition, the senior Focal Point officers took part in a group discussion and deliberated on the future 10-year roadmap of ReCAAP ISC.

Mr Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Executive Director, ReCAAP ISC, said, "From January to October 2024, there were 78 incidents of piracy and sea robbery in Asia, representing a 14% decrease in the number of incidents compared to the same period in 2023. The improved situation can be attributed to proactive efforts taken by littoral State law enforcement agencies to deter and suppress maritime crimes. I would like

to urge all ReCAAP Focal Points keep up their monitoring and enforcement efforts, to ensure the continued safety and security of seafarers and cargo in Asia.”

Mr Choi Seong-yong, ReCAAP ISC Governor for the Republic of Korea and Director General of Maritime Affairs and Safety Policy Bureau, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said, “As a Contracting Party to the ReCAAP Agreement, the Republic of Korea is pleased to co-host the CBSOM, and play a part in enhancing regional cooperation and information sharing to combat piracy and sea robbery in Asia. The Republic of Korea supports ReCAAP ISC’s capacity building efforts, and we will continue to work closely with the Centre and ReCAAP member States to deter piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.”

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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 (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>