



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 March 2021

15th Anniversary Symposium of ReCAAP “Enhancing Regional Cooperation: 15 years and beyond”

*H.E. Mr. Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Transport, Republic of Singapore and
H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization
addressed the global virtual gathering*

ReCAAP Contracting Parties and ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) organised today a [15th Anniversary Symposium](#) with the theme of “Enhancing Regional Cooperation: 15 years and beyond,” on virtual platform.

The symposium was organised to mark 15 years of regional cooperation against piracy and sea robbery in Asia (programme in Annex). The symposium was joined by 20 ReCAAP Member Countries, the shipping industry, the diplomatic community as well as academia and research institutes.

In his Welcome Address, Singapore 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, and recognised the ReCAAP ISC as a vital part of the regional anti-piracy architecture for international cooperation against a transboundary problem.

Mr. Ong added, “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.”

His Excellency Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, stated in his Keynote Address (video), “I would like to encourage ReCAAP to strengthen your efforts in capacity building to help promote and share your experience and achievements with other regions. I am certain that your successful experience can help parties in other regions to further enhance their capacity of an effective information sharing mechanism.”

The representatives of ReCAAP Member Countries (Japan and India), and a shipping association (Federation of ASEAN Shipowners Association) made presentations on their perspectives, affirming their commitment to enhancing maritime safety in Asia.

Other highlights of the symposium included a presentation on “15 Years’ Analysis of Piracy and Sea Robbery Incidents in Asia” by Mr. Masafumi Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC, as well as a panel discussion on “The Future of ReCAAP” moderated by Professor Max Mejia of World Maritime University and participated by representatives from ReCAAP Member Countries (Norway and Singapore), a shipping association (INTERTANKO) and a research institute (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan), as panellists.

“The 15th Anniversary Symposium has provided the ReCAAP Contracting Parties and the ISC with a good opportunity to reflect on the journey we have taken collectively, reconfirm the commitment to our shared mission, and deliberate on the way to pursue the mission of ReCAAP in the future amid changing environments. The commitment and support by all the ReCAAP Member Countries, partners and stakeholders will spur the ISC to further strengthen its work to enhance the maritime safety in Asia.” said Mr Kuroki, Executive Director of ReCAAP ISC.



ReCAAP Contracting Parties and ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) organised today a 15th Anniversary Symposium with the theme of “Enhancing Regional Cooperation: 15 years and beyond” to mark 15 years of regional cooperation against piracy and sea robbery 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 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 and it started with 14 Asian countries as Contracting Parties. The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre was established, under the Agreement, on November 29, 2006. To date, 20 States (14 Asian countries, 4 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 has been enhancing regional cooperation through information sharing, capacity building and cooperative arrangements. At the 12th Governing Council Meeting in 2018, the Council announced ReCAAP ISC as “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>

15th Anniversary Symposium of ReCAAP
“Enhancing Regional Cooperation: 15 years and beyond”
 18 March 2021

14:00 hrs	Opening Remarks Admiral George V. Ursabia, Jr. Chairperson of ReCAAP ISC Governing Council Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard
14:05 hrs	Welcome Address H.E. Mr. Ong Ye Kung Minister for Transport Republic of Singapore
14:15 hrs	Keynote Address (video message) H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim Secretary General International Maritime Organization
14:30 hrs	“ReCAAP: The First 15 Years & the Way Forward” Mr. Wajima Takehiko Acting Governor from Japan to ReCAAP ISC Governing Council Director, Space and Maritime Security Policy Division Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
14:45 hrs	“The Relevance of ReCAAP to the Maritime Community: Perspective of India” Inspector General K R Suresh, PTM, TM Dy Director General (Operations & Coastal Security) Indian Coast Guard
15:00 hrs	15 Years’ Analysis of Piracy & Sea Robbery Incidents in Asia” Mr. Masafumi Kuroki Executive Director ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre
15:15 hrs	“ReCAAP & the Fight against Piracy and Sea Robbery: An Industry’s Perspective” Mr. Michael Phoon Secretary General Federation of ASEAN Shipowners Association
15:30 hrs	Panel Discussion on “The Future of ReCAAP” Moderator: Prof. Max Mejia, World Maritime University Panelists: Mr. Gaute Sivertsen, Governor from Norway; Ms. Quah Ley Hoon, Governor from Singapore; Ms. Katharina Stanzel, Managing Director, INTERTANKO;

	Prof. Kentaro Furuya, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), Japan
16:10 to 16:15 hrs	Closing Remarks Mr. Masafumi Kuroki Executive Director ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre