The 9th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

23 – 27 June 2008

Video – ReCAAP ISC
Background / Concerns

- Concerns about piracy and armed robbery against ships in the 1990s
- Threats to maritime navigation (safety of life; transport of cargo & energy supplies)
- Loss of life.
- Tokyo Challenge 2000
  - Tokyo Appeal.
  - Model Action Plan.

Disruption to Commerce...

Through the Straits of Malacca and Singapore

- 75,000 vessels annually
- 141,000 vessels in 2020 (projected)
- > 30% of world trade
- Half of the world’s oil shipments

Safe use of sea-lanes is essential to the economic well-being of countries.
The ReCAAP Initiative
(from Concept to Reality …7 yrs)

- Response of ASEAN against piracy and armed sea robbery in the region
  - Joint communiqué. The 30th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, Subang Jaya, Malaysia (24-25 Jul 1997)
  - ASEAN declaration on Transnational Crime, Manila (20 Dec 2000)

- The concept of a regional cooperation agreement was first mooted by the former Japanese PM Keizo Obuchi at the ASEAN+1 Summit Meeting in Manila (Nov 1999).

- At the “Asia Anti-Piracy Challenge 2000” Conference in Tokyo (Apr 2000), 2 documents were promulgated:
  - Tokyo Appeal & The Model Action Plan

- The 16 countries (ASEAN+6) started drafting of the Agreement in 2002

- The Agreement was finalized on 11 Nov 2004 and came to force on 4 Sep 2006

- The Information Sharing Centre was launched on 29 Nov 2006
The Agreement

- 3 Pillars of the Agreement
  - Information Sharing
  - Capacity Building
  - Co-operative Arrangements

- Operating Principles of ReCAAP ISC
  - Respect for countries’ sovereignty
  - Effectiveness
  - Transparency

ReCAAP Focal Points

- Each ReCAAP signatory designates a Focal Point to be point of contact for the ISC

- Role of a Focal Point:
  - Manage piracy and armed robbery incidents within its territorial waters
  - Act as point of information exchange with ISC
  - Facilitate its country’s law enforcement investigations
  - Co-ordinate surveillance and enforcement for piracy and armed robbery with neighbouring Focal Points
ISC-Focal Point Concept

Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

ReCAAP Focal Points

Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
Functions of the ReCAAP ISC

- platform for information exchange
  - Focal Points will be linked via the Information Network System (IFN)
- collate & analyse statistics on piracy and armed robbery incidents
  - to gain better understanding of scenario in the region.
  - disseminate reports internally and to public.
    - Adhoc, monthly, quarterly, half annually & annually.
- facilitate capacity building efforts.
  - Sharing of best practices, training, advisory assistance...
Sources of Info for Research

- **Focal Points**
  - Internal sources.
  - Shipping Community.

- **Other industry or third-party sources**
  - IMO, IMB, Fairplay, INTERTANKO newsletters, etc.
  - Shipping associations.
  - Ship registries, etc.

- **Open sources**
  - Media.
  - News.
  - Publications, etc.

Research Methodology

- **Definitions:**
  - Piracy: Part VII; Article 101 of UNCLOS

- **Matrix-based assessment of incidents:**
  - Violence Factor
    - Types of weapons.
    - Treatment of crew.
    - Number of pirates/robbers involved.
  - Economic Factor
    - Type of property taken.

- **Level of Significance:**
  - The ReCAAP ISC evaluates the significance of each incident based on its level of violence (V-factor) and the economic loss incurred (E-factor).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Significance of Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAT 1</td>
<td>Very Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT 2</td>
<td>Moderately Significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT 3</td>
<td>Less Significant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

Trends from 2003-2007

- **Largest yearly decrease** in the number of reported incidents occurred in 2007.

- Overall, the nature of incidents in 2007 has **decreased in severity** compared to previous years.

- **Largest reduction** in the occurrence of moderately significant incidents (CAT 2) in 2007.

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2003-2007 (Observations)

- **Characteristics - at Anchor / Berth**
  - Mostly CAT 3
  - Robbers armed with knives
  - In groups of one to six
  - Less violent and fled when detected
  - Stolen items:
    - Ship Stores, Engine Parts, Berthing Ropes
  - Occurring in darkness, poor visibility
2003-2007 (Observations)

- **Characteristics – Underway**
  - Mostly CAT 1 or CAT 2
  - Exhibiting planning and well-organised
  - Attackers armed with hand guns
  - In groups of more than eight.
  - May resort to violence when confronted.

A significant improvement in the piracy and armed robbery situation in Asia (in 2007)

- Incidents involving ships at anchor / berth increased, but largely less significant

- Improvements most evident in Chittagong, Bangladesh and the Makassar Straits

- Seafarers faced decreased risk in incidents in 2007 due to decreased in severity and level of significance

- Tankers most frequent target versus Bulk Carriers previously
Conclusion

- ReCAAP .... a step closer ..... in enhancing regional co-operation through
  - Sharing of Information through the ISC-Focal Point Network
  - Building on Contracting Parties’ strength to share best practices through Capacity Building programme.
  - Engaging in co-operative arrangement activities to strengthen Focal Points ability to manage incidents at sea.

Situation in Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia is improving

- Less Crime does not mean No Crime
- No time for Complacency
Have a Jolly Good Day !!

Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

Anything I can clarify?

http://www.recaap.org