

**Abstract by  
ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre for the  
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on Oceans and the Law of the Sea  
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**COMBATING PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA – THE ASIAN EXPERIENCE**

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first government-to-government agreement that addresses the incidence of piracy and armed robbery in Asia. The Agreement was finalised on 11 November 2004 in Tokyo, and came into force on 4 September 2006 with the Information Sharing Centre (ISC) located in Singapore.

The roles of the ReCAAP ISC include exchanging information among Contracting Parties on incidents of piracy and armed robbery, facilitating operational cooperation among Contracting Parties, analysing the patterns and trends of piracy and armed robbery and supporting the capacity building efforts of member countries and sharing of best practices through co-operative arrangements.

A Focal Point, designated by each member countries as an inter-ministry point of contact with the ISC, manages piracy and armed robbery incidents within its territorial waters / area of jurisdiction, acts as point of information exchange with ISC, facilitates its country's law enforcement investigations, and coordinates enforcement for piracy and armed robbery with neighbouring Focal Points. The ISC facilitates exchange of information among the ReCAAP Focal Points through a secure web-based Information Network system (IFN).

The ISC adopts a matrix-based assessment of incidents and assigns level of significance based on violence and economic loss factors. The trends analysis for 2003-2007 shows that 2007 has the largest yearly decrease in incidents and severity.