



# Asian Shipowners' Forum

## Safe Navigation & Environment Committee (SNEC)

c/o Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA)

59 Tras Street, Singapore 078998

Tel: (65) 6305 2260 Fax: (65) 6222 5527

email: [office@fasa.org.sg](mailto:office@fasa.org.sg)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### ***Governments urged to take action in face of increasing reports of piracy***

At the 30<sup>th</sup> Interim Meeting of the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF) Safe Navigation & Environment Committee (SNEC) held in Singapore on Friday 18 March 2016, the Committee was pleased to note that there had been a substantial decrease in the number of reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore for the last quarter of 2015 and the first two months of 2016.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for the continued vigilance and pro-active maritime security initiatives on the part of the three littoral governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore in those waters. The Meeting acknowledged the multilateral efforts that have been put in to combat piracy and armed robbery and urged the three countries to continue with their good works to ensure the safe navigation of ships transiting or trading in the Straits.

Although the incidents of piracy and armed robberies have declined, the SNEC strongly advised all ship masters to maintain vigilance and adhere to industry best practices when transiting the region.

In this regard, the Committee also welcomed the launch of the Regional Guide to Counter Piracy & Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, which had been produced by the ReCAAP ISC, in collaboration with the Asian Shipowners' Forum (ASF), the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners' Associations (FASA), Information Fusion Centre (IFC), INTERTANKO, Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA).

“I am confident that the guide, which provides guidance on the prevalent conditions in Asian waters, will be invaluable for the Masters and crews of ships trading in the region”, said SNEC Acting Chairman, Mr. Patrick Phoon.

The Committee also took the opportunity to extend its congratulations to the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), which was launched 10 years ago.

Whilst the Committee has been appreciative of ReCAAP’s efforts to enhance multilateral cooperation in the fight against piracy and armed robbery, the Committee also expressed hopes that ReCAAP, in cooperation with other stakeholders, will continue its efforts to further enhance and streamline reporting procedures for merchant ships in Asia.

During the Meeting, the Committee also held discussions on other issues of concern relating to safe navigation and environmental protection.

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For any queries relating to this Press Release, please contact:

Mr. Michael Phoon  
Secretary  
ASF Safe Navigation & Environment Committee

Tel: (65) 6305 2260  
Email: [secretary@fasa.org.sg](mailto:secretary@fasa.org.sg)

**Editor's note:**

*The Asian Shipowners’ Forum is a voluntary organization of the shipowner associations of Australia, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea and the Federation of ASEAN Shipowners’ Associations comprising shipping associations of ASEAN countries. The aims of the ASF are to promote the interests of the Asian shipowning industries. Between annual ASF meetings, the ongoing work is carried out by the five Standing Committees; the Shipping Economics Review Committee, the Seafarers Committee, the Ship Recycling Committee, the Safe Navigation and Environment Committee, and the Ship Insurance and Liability Committee. It has been estimated that ASF owners and managers control and operate nearly 50% of the world's cargo carrying fleet.*