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International Cooperation to Safeguard Critical Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs)

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International Co-operation to Safeguard Critical Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs)

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INTRODUCTION

- **APEC STAR: Extensive yet Focused Coverage of Key Security Issues**
- **Vital Maritime Security Issues of ISPS Code, Container Security, and safeguarding of SLOCs**
- **Similarities between APEC STAR and MPA's approach to Maritime Security**

MPA's Maritime Security Framework

- **Comprehensive Approach to Maritime Security:**
 - ISPS Code – Ship and Port Facilities;
 - Beyond the ISPS Code – Port Security covering small craft (non-SOLAS vessels), port waters and areas not covered by the Code;
 - Cargo Security Programmes; and
 - SLOC Security - Contributed to co-operative efforts for SLOC (Malacca and Singapore Straits).
- **Sharing of MPA's experiences in these areas at various APEC fora, including STAR**

Critical SLOCs: Malacca and Singapore Straits

- **Critical SLOCs: Enable free flow of maritime commerce and energy supplies**
- **Straits of Malacca and Singapore**
 - Among the busiest and most important SLOCs
 - 2nd highest volume of oil transported through
 - Shortest sea route between Asia-Pacific and Middle East/Europe
 - Straits are of great importance to many stakeholders

Threats to Malacca and Singapore Straits

- Both Navigational Safety and Security Concerns
- Navigational Safety Threats:
 - Increase in usage and traffic volume, bigger vessels
 - Increased risk of navigational and pollution accidents
 - Disruptions as devastating as those from security threats
- Security Threats
 - Sea borne piracy and armed robbery against ships
 - 2004: 160 reported piracy incidents in Southeast Asia, quarter of incidents (45) occurred in the Straits
 - Post-Sep 11: Possible Nexus between piracy and maritime terrorism

Co-operative Initiatives for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- Navigational Safety
 - Traditionally strong co-operation
 - Tripartite Technical Experts Group (TTEG)
- Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore
 - Effective and expedient implementation of safety measures
e.g. Traffic Separation Scheme, STRAITREP
 - Successful co-operation with stakeholders
e.g. IMO and Japan

Co-operative Initiatives for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

■ Maritime Security

- Trilateral Co-ordinated Patrols
- Indonesia-Singapore Co-ordinated Patrols
- Multilateral initiatives:
 - ASEAN Regional Forum series of Maritime Security meetings – S'pore, 2-4 Mar 05
 - Five Power Defence Arrangement: Activities to include maritime terrorism

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- Past and existing co-operation demonstrate the *necessity as well as the collective responsibility* of stakeholders to contribute in maintaining the Straits.
- However, more can, and needs to be, done.
- Maritime threats – Not static, can only increase in complexity.
 - > ***What more can be done, and how?***

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- **Basic principle:** The primary responsibility for the safety and security of the Straits lies with the three littoral States of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore
But there are many stakeholders, and they also have a part to play
- The key is to find the appropriate modalities for co-operation between the littoral States and stakeholders – modalities which respect national sovereignty and proceed within the bounds of international law
- Three possible modalities.....

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- UNCLOS and TTEG Familiarisation Meetings
 - UNCLOS Art 43: Co-operation between user States and coastal States to maintain straits used for international navigation such as the Malacca and Singapore Straits
 - Two Straits Confs in Singapore in 1996 and 1999: Consensus that littoral States collectively appeal for voluntary contributions for maintenance of the Straits
 - TTEG developed Straits safety initiatives for project funding by Straits stakeholders. Familiarisation Meetings to bring stakeholders on board the initiative

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

■ UNCLOS and TTEG Familiarisation Meetings

- First TTEG Familiarisation Meeting successfully held in Dec 04 in Jakarta. Participants from China, Japan, ROK and three littoral States
- Agreement - Develop Straits Users Forum, and next Familiarisation Meeting
- Momentum for international co-operation
- Second TTEG Familiarisation Meeting – Plans to convene in Apr 05
- Expand scope and numbers of user States participation, and advance concept of Straits Users Forum

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

■ Regional Co-operation Agreement on Anti-Piracy in Asia (ReCAAP)

- Inter-governmental anti-piracy initiative launched by Japan in 2001
- Three components of information sharing, operational cooperation, and capacity building
- Information Sharing main pillar of ReCAAP
- 10 ASEAN States, Japan, China, Korea, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- Regional Co-operation Agreement on Anti - Piracy in Asia (ReCAAP)
 - Establishment of Information Sharing Centre - Hub of Information Network comprising Focal Points of ReCAAP members
 - ISC facilitate communications and information exchange between govts. Enhance co-operation among law enforcement agencies
 - Expediting establishment of ISC in Singapore. Inter-govt outfit comprising officers from ReCAAP members.
 - Multilateral framework for enhancing anti-piracy co-operation, and contributes to the overall maritime security environment in the Asia-Pacific.

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- IMO “Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes” Initiative
 - IMO Secretary-General launched an initiative to find a multilateral solution to secure vital SLOCs against threats such as maritime terrorism.
 - The Malacca and Singapore Straits identified as a key area
 - IMO-sponsored meeting in Jakarta this year to further develop co-operation for the Straits

Way Ahead: Future Co-operation for the Malacca and Singapore Straits

- IMO “Protection of Vital Shipping Lanes” Initiative
 - IMO proposals to consider “ways and means to enhance safety, security and environmental protection in the Strait of Malacca” through “awareness increasing; information sharing; personnel training; and capacity building”
 - Singapore supports this initiative of the IMO to develop platforms for co-operation in the Straits
 - The IMO SG in Singapore next week for ARF CBM on Maritime Security, and we look forward to his plans for the meeting in Jakarta

Conclusion

- The three highlighted modalities - not separate initiatives.
- They are an interlinked network of co-operative arrangements between the littoral States and stakeholders of the Malacca and Singapore Straits.
- The urgency to secure our SLOCs and the political commitment of all involved will help bring these initiatives to their full potential.

Thank you