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PROTECTION OF VITAL SHIPPING LANES

The result of the Coast Guard Global Summit

Submitted by Japan

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports the result of the Coast Guard Global Summit, a new platform of dialogue and cooperation, held in Tokyo on 14 September 2017, the first attempt of its kind, given the changing situation surrounding coastguards and the protection of vital shipping lanes, at the global scale

Strategic direction: 6.1

High-level action: 6.1.1

Output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 5

Related documents: None

Introduction

1 On 14 September 2017, Japan Coast Guard (JCG) and The Nippon Foundation co-hosted the "Coast Guard Global Summit", a new platform of dialogue and cooperation, in Tokyo, Japan. The co-hosts invited 34 Heads of Coast Guards and agencies representing coastguard functions in Asia, Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa, and other regions in the world (hereinafter referred to as "the Coastguards") as well as three senior officers of International Maritime Organization (IMO), European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), and the Information Sharing Centre of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP-ISC).

The Coast Guard Global Summit

2 In this Summit, participants discussed three themes: (a) maritime safety and marine environment protection, (b) maritime security and (c) human resource development.

- .1 Under agenda (a), the significance of close cooperation was underscored through presentations regarding the experience of a large-scale oil pollution incident, advanced technology used for detection of marine pollution, such as utilization of satellite system, and the Global SAR Plan. The Global SAR Plan, established under auspices of IMO, in particular, was highlighted as an existing example of global scale mechanism for cooperation, which may be used as a basis of discussion.
- .2 Under agenda (b), the participants shared examples of international cooperation in challenging security operations. To begin with, the recent rise in irregular migrants at sea was taken as the wider regional issue. The continuous efforts both in saving lives and maintaining national security at borders, successful experience and challenges in these operations were shared as basis for similar future challenges. Then, patrols to counter illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the North Pacific Ocean and counter-piracy operations in Asia and East Africa were presented as examples of the best practices in international cooperation. Close international cooperation and coordination were underscored as necessary to maintain good order and suppress maritime crime in vast areas of oceans.
- .3 Under agenda (c), the necessity for the development of human resources and the direction it should take in order to meet rapidly changing global maritime challenges were emphasized. Creating a global network of human resource development among the Coastguards was recommended so that officials could find solutions drawing on lessons from different parts of the world.

3 At the end of the Summit, the Chairman's Summary was suggested and generally supported. The Summary recognized, inter alia, the ever increasing importance of the role of the coastguard functions in maritime safety and security and marine environment protection, and the need for international and interregional cooperation among the Coastguards beyond existing regional cooperative frameworks, and therefore, the importance of enhancing dialogue and cooperation among the Coastguards in the world. In order to overcome global maritime challenges and perform their duties adequately, further international cooperation in human resource development, such as sharing of expertise, successful experience, and advanced technologies as well as considering the establishment of a system for human resource development and the best forms of interregional and international cooperation among the Coastguards in the world, were highlighted. The text of the Summary is attached in the annex.

4 Japan will host the Working Level Meeting next year for further development of this global and cooperative framework. For further information, please contact Commander Ryoji Hayashi, Director for Coast Guard International Relations, Japan Coast Guard Headquarters through his email address: jcghkokki19-9c6r@mlit.go.jp

Action requested of the Council

5 The Council is invited to note the information provided in this document.

ANNEX

CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY OF THE COAST GUARD GLOBAL SUMMIT

Tokyo, Japan, 14 September 2017

1 The Heads of Coast Guards and agencies representing Coast Guard functions in Asia, Oceania, the Americas, Europe, Africa and other regions in the world (hereinafter referred to as "the Coastguards"), took part in the Coast Guard Global Summit held on 14 September 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. The Summit was chaired by Admiral Satoshi NAKAJIMA, the Commandant of the Japan Coast Guard.

2 The Heads acknowledged that maritime safety and security and a clean marine environment are the vital foundation for the well-being and prosperity of the international community as a whole.

3 The Heads reaffirmed that ensuring safety of life at sea, providing readiness for distress and disaster response, protecting marine environment, and maintaining maritime order based on the rule of law at sea under international maritime law are an essential foundation for people utilizing the ocean to enjoy various benefits with ease all over the world.

4 The Heads were concerned that recent environmental change has led to more serious disasters and may have an adverse effect on navigational environment.

5 The Heads were concerned also about changes of societal environment where extremism and radicalism are observed and the resultant threat of terrorism and maritime crimes at sea.

6 The Heads recognized the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are a broad response to the challenges facing the world today – increasing world population, climate change, threats to the environment, overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices, threats to food security, societal threats posed by organized criminals and violent extremists, and instability leading to mixed migration.

7 The Heads were aware of the ever increasing importance of the role of the Coastguards, as the first responders and front-line actors at sea against these global changes and their results.

8 The Heads recognized that the importance of enhancing dialogue and cooperation among the Coastguards worldwide beyond existing regional frameworks, and concentrating the entire regions' wisdom, experience and knowledge to overcome challenges that the world is facing.

9 Henceforth, the Heads reaffirmed their determination to continue providing maritime safety and security as well as marine environment protection by way of encouraging to take the following actions in a concrete manner:

- .1 To share, among different regions and countries in the world, the best practices and advanced successful experiences in maritime safety and marine environment protection such as emergency responses to major marine pollution, natural disasters and marine accidents in each country and region;

- .2 To share, among different regions and countries in the world, the best practices and advanced successful experiences in maritime security such as measures against maritime crimes through utilization of new technologies;
- .3 To share, among different regions and countries in the world, the best practices and advanced successful experiences in education and training for the Coastguards; and
- .4 To consider establishment of a system for human resource development and the best forms of inter-regional and international cooperation among the Coastguards in the world through deepening understanding of shared principles of conducts globally as the guardian at sea.

10 The Heads consider a coast guard global meeting for further dialogue and cooperation among the Coastguards is necessary.

11 The Heads therefore determine to organize meetings for working level officials to discuss objectives, rules of governance, meeting logistics etc. for further development of this new cooperative framework.

12 This is a summary made by the Chairman of this Coast Guard Global Summit with general support from the Heads.
