From Dusk to Dawn
Maritime Domain Awareness in SEA

Dr. Christian Bueger
“Information sharing is the key to building trust and provides a basis for decisions and actions.”

(Committee on the "1000-Ship Navy“, U.S. National Research Council 2008)
Does MDA deliver?
How to organize MDA?
Experience from South East Asia
Lessons for Western Indian Ocean (WIO), Gulf of Guinea (GoG) and Mediterranean (Med)?
Situating MDA

Source: Bueger, Christian. 2015. Organizing Maritime Domain Awareness. The South East Asian Experience, Cardiff: Cardiff University
"the effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy, or environment".

(US Government 2005)
Challenges of MDA

- Technical Challenges
  - collecting
  - fusing
  - sharing
  - predicting anomalies

- Socio-Political Challenges
  - Among whom?
  - What to share?
  - How to understand?
Socio-Political Challenges of MDA

- **Who?**
  - Number of Agencies
  - Trust & Organizational Interests/Cultures
  - Military/Civil Divide
  - State/Industry Divide
  - Inter-State Divides
- **What?**
  - Classified/Public data
  - Incidents/Other Info
- **How?**
  - Sense-making Tools
South East Asia: 3 center system

Piracy Reporting Center (PRC) of International Maritime Board (IMB), Kuala Lumpur

Information Sharing Center (ISC) of Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery (ReCAAP), Singapore

Information Fusion Center (IFC) of Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore
## Main Features of Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IMB PRC</th>
<th>ReCAAP ISC</th>
<th>IFC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legal Status</strong></td>
<td>Non-governmental organization with observer status at IMO</td>
<td>Multi-lateral agreement and MoUs</td>
<td>Multi-bilateral agreements and MoUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding</strong></td>
<td>Voluntary contributions by insurance and shipping industry</td>
<td>Governments (core funding by Singapore)</td>
<td>Singapore Government (and other participating governments)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coverage</strong></td>
<td>Piracy globally</td>
<td>Piracy in SEA</td>
<td>Maritime security incidents in SEA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main objective</strong></td>
<td>Rapid operational response</td>
<td>Political consent</td>
<td>Operational coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Main network</strong></td>
<td>Shipping Industry &amp; Law Enforcement Agencies</td>
<td>Nominated governmental focus points (civil focus)</td>
<td>Cooperating national maritime security agencies (military focus)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: own figure.*
# Functions of Centres

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Media</th>
<th>Civil</th>
<th>Military</th>
<th>Governments</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRC</strong></td>
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<th>Incident responses</th>
<th>Alerts &amp; Earlywarning</th>
<th>Strategic Coordination</th>
<th>Best Practices</th>
<th>Symbolic</th>
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South East Asia: 3 center system

- IMB Piracy Reporting Center
  - Private
  - Piracy-focused
  - Public
- ReCAAP Information Sharing Center
  - multi-lateral (treaty-based)
  - Piracy
  - Verification mechanism
- Information Fusion Center (IFC) Singapore
  - multi-bi-lateral (MoU based)
  - Multi-issue, multi sensemaking
South East Asia: Impact of MDA

Legal Regulation

Law Enforcement Operations

Defense & Power Projection

Diplomacy

Guidance

Capacity Building

Training

Information Sharing & MDA

Shared Understandings
South East Asia: Features of System

- Functional Division of Labor
- Overlap ensures functionality
- Forum-shopping ensures everyone is included (e.g. Taiwan, Indonesia)
- Balance between littoral ownership & international engagement
- Based on Singapore as a financial, political and academic “hub”

→ And yes, it is an enabler
Lessons for other regions

- Not one, but how many centers?
- Find right equation between functional diversity, forum shopping and efficiency
- Better balance littoral ownership & international engagement
- Identify hubs:
  - Honest political brokers
  - (Academic) sense-making communities
- Facilitate region-to-region learning
http://piracy-studies.org
A Research Portal for Maritime Security

http://www.lessonsfrompiracy.net
Lessons Learned Repository of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS)

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