

# Asia-Pacific Maritime Security

Five Future Challenges

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## Five Future Challenges

### 1) Incidents at Sea / 'IncSea'

- Regulation of military ships in open waters (1972 US-Soviet Agreement; 2001 Malindo (Indonesia-Malaysia Agreement)
- Traffic distance / 'rules of the road'
- Need for expanded IncSea agreements in the Asia-Pacific
- Also useful for civilian vessels in open waters and/or in cases of unclear jurisdiction
- Use in (multilateral) HADR (humanitarian and disaster response) missions
- Increase in civilian traffic through SLoCs further necessitates IncSea agreements

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### 2) Maritime Piracy

- Historical security threat in East, Southeast Asia
- Number of incidents dropping in Southeast Asia but according to ReCAAP 2010 Report, the overall number of incidents have risen (164, mostly category 2,3 with 1 being the most severe)
- Most violent attacks in the Asia-Pacific were in the Arabian Sea in 2010
- Situation deteriorating in Gulf of Aden and surrounding waters; potential threat to Indian Ocean shipping, fossil fuel shipments to Asia
- Many Asia-Pacific contributors to anti-piracy coalition off of Somalia

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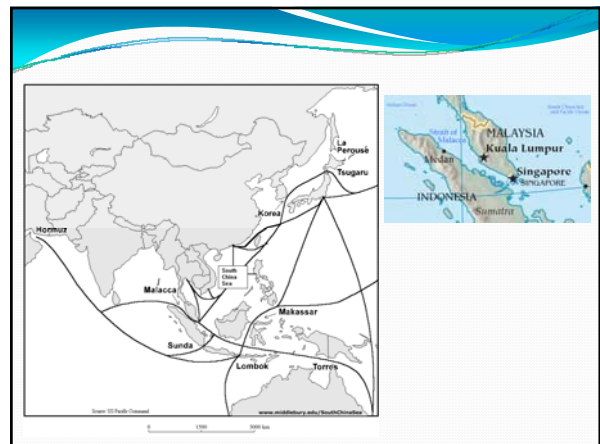
### 3) Maritime Terrorism

- Increasing globalisation leads to increasing sensitivity and vulnerability of maritime trade routes, SLoCs
- Growing concerns over 'economic terrorism' designed to harm national economies
- Cargo, fossil-fuel carrying vessels seen as potential targets.
- Asia-Pacific regimes including ARF, ASEAN, ASEM and APEC have all examined terrorism threats. Need for further bilateral, multilateral coordination
- Differences among regional governments over some anti-terror methods (2003 Proliferation Security Initiative)

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### 4) Trade / Economic Security

- Greater dependence of Asia-Pacific economies on imported goods (raw materials / energy)
- Top five container ports in the world now in Asia (Singapore, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Busan)
- Ongoing problem of protecting, overseeing regional 'choke points' in East, Southeast Asia
- Issue of overfishing in Asia-Pacific waters; economic threat to coastal centres. Southeast Asia governments calling for crackdown on 'IUU' (illegal, unregulated and unreported) fishing in and around South China Sea



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##### 5) Transnational Crime

- Smuggling of illegal goods, weapons (light arms, etc.), drugs, contraband as well as persons; money laundering and illegal finance
- Regional cooperation agreements (Aseanpol, Bali Process, Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement, Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering) but problems persist.
- Increased levels of first, second track dialogue
- Problem of increased sea traffic placing strains on verification, policing practices