



Australian  
National  
University

National  
Security  
College



**Maritime Domain Awareness in the Indian Ocean:  
Enhancing Regional Information Sharing  
10-12 June 2024  
New Delhi, India**

**DESCRIPTION**

Australia's desires consistent with maritime security in the Indian Ocean region was outlined at the 2024 Indian Ocean Conference held in Perth, Australia by the Australian Foreign Minister, The Honourable Penny Wong as, *a region that is peaceful and predictable, that is governed by accepted rules and norms, where all of us can cooperate, trade and thrive*. The Minister further stated that *rather than a closed, hierarchical region, we want a region characterised by openness and transparency*.

Consistent with the principles outlined by the Minister, the Australian National University, National Security College, in association with the National Maritime Foundation, will conduct an upcoming workshop to consider how Indian Ocean countries could enhance regional information-sharing so as to improve maritime domain awareness. The workshop will include:

- case studies of national MDA systems and processes.
- presentations by regional information fusion centres in the Indian Ocean region.
- an overview of new options for regional information sharing.

The workshop will work towards delivering specific recommendations focused upon the following themes:

- How has MDA evolved in the Indian Ocean region and where do we stand now?
- Ways and means to improve cooperation between the various centers in the region
- What is the future of MDA, including the use of the many new tools now available?
- How are these tools utilised in existing national institutions, especially in the smaller countries?

Invited participants will include MDA practitioners and experts from national and regional MDA centres of the Indian Ocean region.

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

### ALL TIMES ARE NEW DELHI, INDIA LOCAL

#### Monday 10 June 2024

All Day International participants arrive; Transport to Radisson Blu Hotel; Hotel Check-In

International participants should arrive prior to 5 PM on 10 June 2024 if possible.

1900 Reception, drinks and buffet at Radisson Blue Hotel

#### Tuesday 11 June 2024

0700 – 0845 Breakfast at leisure

0830 Workshop participants board transport for travel to Varuna Complex

0905 - 0910 Group Photograph

0915 – 0930 *Introduction of Workshop*

Speakers:

VAdm Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd) Director General, NMF

Dr David Brewster, ANU NSC

0930 – 0945 *Setting the Scene*

Speaker:

Mr Nicholas McCaffrey, Acting Australian High Commissioner to India

0945 - 1000 *Keynote Address*

VAdm AN Pramod, AVSM, Director General Naval Operations, IN

1000 – 1115 ***Session 1: The current state of play in MDA in the Indian Ocean region.***

Session 1 will serve as an introductory session.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the key challenges to be addressed in the Indian Ocean?
- What is the current state of play in national and regional MDA systems?
- What are the imperatives for enhanced information sharing?

Moderator:

Dr. Jeff Payne, NESAs

Speakers:

Dr. David Brewster, ANU NSC

Ms. Jane Chan, RSIS

Commodore Nitin Parvataneni

1115 – 1130 Coffee/Tea Break

1130 – 1245 ***Session 2: Case Studies in National MDA Systems (Australia and Bangladesh)***

In Session 2, presentations will be provided by representatives from two MDA centers in the region. This will be followed by a Q and A.

Guiding Questions:

- Describe the systems and processes used by National MDA centres in collecting and fusing information.
- What are the challenges to cooperation with other countries and the region?

Moderator:

CAPT Simon Bateman

Speakers:

Ms Jo Prior – Australian Border Force

Commodore Mirza Mohammad Hehedi Hassan– Bangladesh Information Fusion Centre

1245 - 1330 Lunch

1330 – 1400 ***Special address***

RADM Rahul Shankar, NM, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff  
(Communications, Space and Network-Centric Operations)

“Utilisation of Space and Advanced/Emerging Technologies for  
MDA”

1400 – 1515 ***Session 3: Case Studies in National MDA Systems (Sri Lanka and Maldives)***

In Session 3, presentations will be provided by representatives from national MDA centres in the Bay of Bengal area. This will be followed by a Q and A.

Guiding Questions:

- Describe the systems and processes used by National MDA centres in collecting and fusing information.
- What are the challenges to cooperation with other countries and the region?

Moderator:

Dr David Brewster

Speakers:

LCDR KR Thalagala – Sri Lanka Information Fusion Centre

LTCOL Ahmed Shiyam – Maldives Information Fusion Centre

1515 - 1530 Coffee/Tea Break

1530 - 1715 ***Session 4: Case studies in MDA applications to specific maritime security challenges***

Having a good awareness of your maritime domain is essential to all areas of maritime security, including in countering terrorism and piracy, the regulation and enforcement of IUU fishing and the protection of critical maritime infrastructure. Session 4 will include case studies on specific applications of MDA. This will be followed by a Q and A.

Guiding Questions:

- How can countries cooperate in sharing information on maritime terrorism and piracy?
- How/are our regional IFC's contributing to the prevention of IUU fishing?
- Given the importance of critical maritime infrastructure should there be a separate organization monitoring their security? What is the role of the Quad Partnership for Cable Connectivity and Resilience?
- Is there a need to share strategic intelligence?

Moderator:

Dr Anthony Bergin

Speakers:

Commodore Harish Bahuguna, Commodore (Network centric Operations), IN – MDA and Information Sharing for regional cooperation in the IOR

Mr Maurice Brownjohn – Information sharing and fisheries management in the Pacific (by video link)

Professor Christian Bueger – European systems for information sharing for the protection of maritime infrastructure (by video link)

Mr James Movick – Sharing of strategic intelligence in the Pacific (by video link)

- 1715 Workshop participants board transport for travel to Radisson Blu Hotel
- 1920 Workshop participants board transport for travel to Varuna Complex
- 1945 Workshop Dinner

**Wednesday 12 June 2024**

- 0700 – 0820 Breakfast at Leisure
- 0820 Transport departs for IFC-IOR
- 0820 – 0915 Travel to IFC-IOR, Guragram

0915 – 1045 Visit IFC-IOR

Address by Lt Cdr Prashant Kaushik on Indian Information Management and Analysis Centre

1045 – 1145 Return to Workshop venue

1145 – 1315 ***Session 5: Information Sharing Among Regional IFCs***

Regional Information Fusion Centres can play a key role in facilitating MDA information sharing on a regional basis.

Guiding Questions:

- What practical arrangements are there for sharing of information by and between regional information centres?
- How can these arrangements be improved?

Moderator:

CAPT Simon Bateman

Speakers:

Mr Nicolas Fury - Centre régional de fusion d'informations maritimes, Madagascar

Mr Sam Gontier – Regional Coordination Operations Centre

CDR Abeer Sharma– Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region

COL Raymond Ong – Defence Adviser - High Commission of the Republic of Singapore

1315 - 1415 Lunch

1415 - 1530 ***Session 6: Role of regional and international organizations in facilitating MDA***

Session 6 will explore the interest that various regional and international organisations have in MDA. These include IORA, IOC, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, IONS and UNODC. This will be followed by a Q and A.

Guiding Questions:

- How can these organisations contribute to regional information sharing systems?

Moderator:

VAdm Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM (Retd), Director  
General, NMF

Speakers:

Mr Raj Mohabeer – Indian Ocean Commission

Ms Siji Song – UN Office for Drugs and Crime (by video link)

Mr Shivraj Dhuppe – Indian Ocean Regional Association (by video  
link)

1530 - 1545 Coffee/Tea Break

1545 – 1645 ***Session 7: Reflections and Findings***

This session 7 will be an open discussion by workshop participants of  
ways of enhancing regional information sharing among national and  
regional fusion centres.

Moderators:

Dr David Brewster

CAPT Simon Bateman

1700 Workshop participants board transport for travel to Radisson Blu Hotel  
Conclusion of the Workshop