



INDIAN OCEAN NAVAL SYMPOSIUM 2010
HOSTED BY UAE NAVY THE INDOONESIAN NAVY
AT ABU DHABI FROM 09 TO 12 MAY 10

1. The second edition of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS 2010) was held at Abu Dhabi from 09 to 12 May 10. The event also marked the handing over of the Chairmanship of the 'IONS' from South Asia, India, to the Middle East, UAE, where the Commander of the United Arab Emirates Navy (UAE Navy) assumed the Chair for the period 2010 – 2012. The event was conducted on an invitation extended to all Naval Chiefs of the 35 littorals from the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) by the Commander of the UAE Navy. Of the invitees, 20 navies were represented by their Chiefs, 05 countries had deputed their Deputy/Vice Chief equivalents and Pakistan was represented by their local Defence Adviser.

2. Besides the IONS-navies, navies of USA (NAVCENT Cdr and Dy CNO, USN), UK (Director of Naval Staff Office, UKMCC) and Italy (Chief of Staff, ITN) also participated in the events on an invitation from the Commander of the UAE Navy.

3. The IONS, in its third year, was found to be a professional gathering of littoral navies to discuss maritime matters that impinge on each nation's security and economic policies. The theme chosen for the IONS 2010 was "***Together for the Reinforcement of Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean***".

4. The Chiefs of navies and other selected speakers presented their view points over the plenary sessions and workshops, highlights of which are enumerated below:-

- (a) Need for collaborative international effort to address source of piracy ashore with attention to development and humanitarian concerns.



- (b) Evolving cooperative arrangements to deny freedom of movement to non-state actors.
- (c) Need for integrating regional and extra-regional approaches to progress Maritime Domain Awareness and linking existing regional networks was felt and agreed to by all the participating nations.
- (d) Evolving mutually agreed strategies and procedures for cooperative action to combat maritime crime.
- (e) Improvement in information-sharing mechanisms with progress in technology for affordable solutions.
- (f) Lack of adequate legal frameworks in handling apprehended pirates/maritime crimes.
- (g) Sharing of operational resources to progress the task of patrolling as no single navy could muster the required number of assets.
- (h) Building trust and principle of reciprocity for the success of information sharing.
- (j) Information sharing between countries and regions needs to be enhanced and a 'federated' global system needs to be evolved linking all regions.
- (k) Bilateral or multilateral agreements between countries and regional grouping under the aegis of IMO/UN should be the preferred 'way ahead' for sharing of information and realising global MDA.



(l) Establishing regional/sub-regional centres for training and enhancing technical cooperation amongst member nations.

(m) Experience sharing in tackling maritime crime and conduct of anti-piracy operations.