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To: All Masters, Ship Security Officers and Company Security Officers of Hong Kong registered ships

Security and Quality Advisory No. 10
Somali pirates try new techniques as monsoon season starts

1. The source from Lloyd's List revealed that earlier this month, a 2010 built, 14,445 dwt chemical tanker Golden Blessing was captured inside the international recommended transit corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden. Other reports also revealed that there had been an unsuccessful attack on a Hong Kong flagged chemical tanker at 0750 on 27 June (Sunday) and the hijack of a Singapore-flagged chemical tanker on 28 June (Monday).
2. In these recent attacks, security experts indicated that there had been increasing trend towards multi-skiff attacks, which had previously been rare, would mark an escalation of the situation. The skiffs could group themselves in a way as legitimate fishing activity in areas such as Bab al Mandeb without attracting suspicion from naval vessels.
3. Masters are reminded that they should not slacken their consciousness towards all necessary precautionary measures despite the onset of the monsoon season in June. The Somali pirates are still taking vessels and starting to adopt swarming tactics that see between six and ten skiffs converge on a single ship in the Gulf of Aden. Recent attacks also revealed that a slow vessel with a low freeboard and carried specialized cargo is particularly vulnerable to pirate attack. Where possible, Master should consider joining the convoy when transiting the Gulf of Aden.

(Y.K. Li)

Senior Surveyor/Security & Quality Assurance Section
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