

Enhanced Maritime Visibility; Challenges & Way Forward

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PREAMBLE



- **Maritime Security** - continuously gaining prominence
- **Maritime security** is a matter of vital importance for national interests of states
- **Maritime Visibility** - a pre-condition to ensure **Maritime Security**
- **'Visibility'** - knowledge of all activities that might be going on in our seas of interest



PREAMBLE



- ***‘Maritime Visibility’*** - co-existence of presence of maritime forces & knowledge of maritime domain
- **Absolute maritime visibility continues to remain a predominant challenge**
- **Concept of attaining greater maritime visibility remains fluid and is still evolving**
- **Term *‘Maritime Visibility’* remains open to various interpretations even at times to justify own objectives**



SEQUENCE



- **Global Perspective – Maritime Security**
- **Indian Ocean - a major arena of global power contestation posing greater challenges**
- **Pakistan Navy's approach to address peculiar threats to our maritime interests**
- **Pakistan Navy's share in global initiatives of making the seas secured & usable by all**



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



- **Need to find grounds for common objectives vis-à-vis ensuring safety & security of all at sea**
- **Today's Maritime Domain, apart from traditional naval rivalry, also embroiled with variety of unconventional threats**
- **Challenges further compound in Indian Ocean Region due**
 - **Resource constraints**
 - **Technological imbalance amongst nations**
 - **General lack of awareness on maritime issues**
 - **Absence of proper legislation against illegal exploitation of seas**



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



- **Open source ship tracking applications though have enhanced MDA**
- **More advanced & sophisticated systems still remains a rich man's choice**
- **Maritime visibility achieved through advanced systems only available with selective nations**
- **End Result – exploitation of blind spots in regional maritime picture by illegal actors**
- **Sharing of info between multilateral partners considered imperative**



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



- **Multilateralism - answer to the problems we face in today's world**
- **Need to form cooperative alliances, principally within a region where states are facing the similar set of threats & troubles**
- ***'trust & cooperation cannot be 'surged' but have to be built & sustained over time, through development of increased understanding amongst maritime forces and forging of international partnerships'***

– Geoffrey Till



INDIAN OCEAN REGION



- Spread over an area of around 69 million square kilometres
- Nearly 1/3 of world's population lives on its shores
- End of Cold War & Post-9/11 have yet again brought Indian Ocean into limelight
- 20% of total trade in IOR is regional while 80% is extra regional
- Stability & maritime security in the IOR is vital concern to the regional & extra regional countries



INDIAN OCEAN REGION



- Indian Ocean has the potential to cause serious damage to global, political, & economic security in the maritime realm
- Regional alliances exist in shape of multinational platforms - still far from attaining desired objective
- Traditional inter-state rifts have to be ‘ignored’ or ‘made irrelevant’ to contemporary maritime issues
- *‘One might envision a ‘NATO of the Seas’ for Indian Ocean’*
– **Robert D Kaplan**



INDIAN OCEAN REGION



- *‘Land divides while the Sea unites’*
- **Shared challenges in maritime domain have given rise to broader approach of coordination beyond regional caveats**
- **Indisputable Reality - Indian Ocean nations need to adopt cooperative rather than confrontational approach**
- **We can no longer outsource security & visibility of our ocean**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **Pakistan's significance stems from its vital geostrategic location at the heart of the Arabian Sea**
- **Pakistan Navy pursues the concept of 'Ready & Arrayed' maritime forces hinged on operational cardinals of 'Adaptability, Responsivity & Effectivity'**
- **CPEC Maritime Security Task Force raised at Gwadar comprising of ships, aircraft, UAVs & Pak Marines elements sustaining economic growth of the region**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **Coastal Security & Harbour Defence Force in place, with built in quick response elements to undertake maritime interceptions**
- **Outward - Pakistan Navy ships & aircraft, which patrol upto the fringes of Continental Shelf & even beyond**
- **Inward - Pakistan Maritime Security Agency remains active to maintain good order at sea**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **PN active member of:**
 - **Task Force 150 since 2004**
 - **Task Force 151 since 2009**
- **With a total of 17 command tenures of both TFs by PN, our contributions remains second only to USN**
- **Regular participation in symposiums & conferences (IONS & WPNS etc)**
- **PN sends ships overseas to promote understanding of maritime operational cultures, enhanced interoperability & solidify coordination mechanics**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **PN ships frequently undertake HADR Missions & Non Combatant Evacuation Operations:**
 - **First to respond to Tsunami in 2005 by carrying out humanitarian relief missions in Indonesia & Sri Lanka**
 - **Rescued stranded crew of pirated vessel MV SUEZ in 2011, which also included 18 foreign nationals**
 - **Evacuated 35 foreign nationals from Yemen in April 2015**
 - **Conducted HADR operation in Sri Lanka during floods in June 2017**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **Biennially holds AMAN - 'Peace', series of exercise to send a clear message across that PN believes in collaborative maritime security**
- **Latest exercise of the series held in February 2017& witnessed participation of 35 countries**
- **AMAN Exercise - reflective of Pakistan's commitment towards peace & stability**
- **Exercise's motto 'Together for Peace', brings navies of East & West under a common platform for the good of global commons**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **PN founded 'Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center - JMICC' in 2013 at Karachi**
- **JMICC utilizes conventional surveillance tools for data gathering, analysis & subsequent transmission to all relevant stakeholders in the maritime domain**
- **Envisaged as a low-tech solution for achieving MDA, approach taken by JMICC, provides valuable lessons & possible way forward for many regional countries**



PAKISTAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- **JMICC engages with 48 national stakeholders**
- **JMICC has established itself as the 1st point of contact amongst local populous for reporting maritime incidents as well as suspicious activities**
- **JMICC also interacts with IFC-Singapore, MSCHOA, ReCAAP, UKMTO & HQ NAVCENT on regular basis**



WAY FORWARD



WAY FORWARD



- **Regional actors need to put aside traditional inter-state rifts by playing more assertive role in existing collective mechanisms, which eventually will result in achieving enhanced maritime visibility by identifying common maritime challenges & formalizing the response methodology**
- **Establish handshake between all maritime operation centers of the region as well as undertake their capacity building to have better maritime visibility through sharing of information, even on voluntary basis to start with**



WAY FORWARD



- **Collaboration in benign avenues such as SAR & disaster relief operations must be used as a stepping stone to enhance existing level of interoperability and surge trust between the regional nations**
- **Collectively undertake review of changing pattern through character of maritime challenges & its implications on marine environment, blue economy, human security, maritime crime & law enforcement**



CONCLUSION



THANK YOU