

Session 5 : « *Maritime domain awareness* ».

« *Dark shipping : collaborative efforts for information fusion* »

*ALINDIEN and MICA IO contribute to provide maritime awareness and security with all our partners in the Indian Ocean*

The Indian Ocean is an area of passage, of transit and of commercial trade: every year, over 80.000 ships cross the Malacca Strait while approximately 25.000 ships pass through the Bab el Mandeb strait.

Not only is the Indian Ocean an ocean of free flow of gas or oil, but it is also an ocean full of resources, such as fishing resources. Yet, it is also an ocean where we have to collectively address multiple threats such as maritime incidents with attacks or seizures of merchant ships, smuggling of goods, drugs and weapons along with dark shipping and black tankering as well as IUU fishing.

To effectively tackle these threats, collaborative efforts are required from various national institutions like Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCC), Information Fusion Centers (IFC) and of course Maritime Coordination Centers (MCC) or Naval Operations Commands (NOC)

With so many key players involved, streamlining information sharing becomes essential, which can be achieved by leveraging a simple shared digital infrastructure designed to foster interoperability among participating countries, thereby bolstering overall maritime safety across the Indian Ocean Region.