



DRAFT AGENDA
**CSCAP Experts Group Meeting on Security of Vital Undersea
Communications Infrastructure**

The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) **Study Group on Maritime Security** held its first meeting in Singapore on 7-8 June 2013. A second meeting is being held on 18-19 February 2014 in Jakarta. The Study Group is co-chaired by CSCAP Singapore, CSCAP Indonesia and CSCAP New Zealand.

As an output from the Jakarta February 2014 meeting, the CSCAP Study Group intends to prepare a draft CSCAP Memorandum to be circulated amongst members and subsequently approved by the CSCAP Steering Committee and submitted to the ASEAN Regional Forum.

On 17 February 2014, prior to the CSCAP Study Group meeting, an **Experts Group Meeting** will be held. The purpose of the Experts Group Meeting is to provide officials attending the Study Group on Maritime Security with information on security issues relating to submarine telecommunications cable infrastructure. It is intended that as a result of the Experts Group Meeting the CSCAP Memorandum will contain recommendations on security issues relating to submarine telecommunications cables.

Venue: Experts Group Meeting will be held at the CSIS Office in Jakarta.

Date: Monday 17 February, 2pm – 5.00pm.

	CSCAP EXPERTS GROUP MEETING ON SECURITY OF VITAL UNDERSEA COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE
14.00 – 14.10	WELCOME ADDRESS Mr Kwa Chong Guan or the CSCAP Singapore representative will introduce the topic of submarine cables as a maritime security issue, explain the purpose of the Experts Group Meeting within the context of the Study Group on Maritime Security, and introduce the speakers.
14.10 – 15.20	SESSION 1: SUBMARINE CABLES AS CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE SECURITY OF STATES
14.10 – 14.30	Douglas Burnett , International Cable Protection Committee – International Law Advisor <i>Topic: Submarine Telecommunications Cables as Critical Infrastructure</i> What are telecommunications cables and why do they form critical infrastructure for States? Submarine cables support the operation of the internet, banking and finance industries, communications and defence: they connect the world's commerce and governments. Damage to cables can occur as a result of both intentional and non-intentional causes. A damaged cable has an effect on every State connected to that cable, as it compromises economic security and communications. States share a common interest in protecting cables, minimizing damage, facilitating rapid repair, and responding to intentional damage as a security measure. Cooperation between industry and governments is essential for ensuring the resiliency of the cable network.

14.30 – 14.50	<p>Mr Ian Douglas, President of Global Marine Shipping Ltd, Industry Representative for the International Cable Protection Committee <i>Topic: Issues Concerning the Repair of Submarine Cables</i></p> <p>Governments and industry have a common interest in securing an uninterrupted flow of data from submarine cables. Damaged cables compromise this data flow; repairs therefore need to be conducted as quickly as possible. Cable repairs are carried out by contract – not by government mandates. They are immensely expensive, highly specialized activities requiring specialized crew and purpose built vessels. Operations are confined to cable laying and repairs – they are not a threat to the economic interests that States have in oil and gas or other resources. Cooperation between industry and governments is needed protect cables from activities such as fishing and anchoring, and to provide for fast-track repairs and safety for the vessels conducting repairs. Important measures include the establishment of a lead agency by States and the streamlining or removal of permitting procedures to prevent delays in repairs. Examples of ‘best practices’ will be offered to illustrate how government/industry can work together to provide for rapid repairs and to protect the legitimate interests of both.</p>
14.50 – 15.20	Question and Answer discussion
15.20 – 15.50	Coffee Break
15.50 – 17.00	SESSION 2
15.30 – 16.10	<p>Australian Attorney-General Department Representative <i>Topic: Australia’s National Law and Policy Relating to Submarine Cables</i></p> <p>This presentation offers examples of practice from Australia aimed at enhancing protection for submarine cables. Australia has national legislation which recognizes submarine cables as critical infrastructure, criminalises intentional or negligent damage to cables, and has taken steps to minimize damage through cable protection zones and harsh deterrents for damage caused through fishing/anchors/intentional damage. Australia actively enforces these laws and widely publicizes the protective measures it adopts to all users of the ocean. Australia works closely alongside industry to refine its law/policy, including amendment to its national laws that are found to be in conflict with law of the sea provisions.</p>
1610 – 1630	<p>Professor Robert Beckman, Director of the Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore <i>Topic: The Way Forward: Regional Cooperation for the Protection of Submarine Cables</i></p> <p>This session will give an overview of the current international legal regime that governs submarine cables and identifies security gaps and issues that arise from the inadequacy of this regime. Lack of implementation of the obligation to establish national legislation to protect cables is a core problem. There is no United Nations body or specialised agency which has primary responsibility for the regulation of submarine cables and they are not registered in any State – therefore regional cooperation between governments, and good communication between industry/government is needed to protect cables. Recommendations for establishing regional cooperation will be provided.</p>
16.30 – 16.50	Question and Answer discussion
16.50 – 17.00	End of Session: Closing Remarks by Mr Kwa Chong Guan