



PRESS RELEASE
OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE 2018

Maritime Security: An Important Indicator for National Economic Growth

Nusa Dua, Bali (30/10). Maritime security was one of the areas of action discussed at the Our Ocean Conference (OOC) in Nusa Dua, Bali. Maritime security was discussed because it can have big impacts on national economic growth, such as export and import activities, cross-border security, illegal fishing, which triggered the smuggling of flora and fauna, illegal drugs and human trafficking.

The concern was raised by former foreign affairs minister Hassan Wirajuda in his remarks during the Maritime Security panel discussion on Monday (29/10).

“It is not only about “military” maritime security, but rather maritime security in a wider sense,” Wirajuda explained.

A similar view was expressed by the director of the United States National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office, Robert Sharp. According to him, maritime security is a cross border problem that can have global effect. Therefore, a multilateral cooperation needs to be optimized, especially in combating piracy, smuggling and illegal fishing because they have security implications.

According to Robert Sharp, there are no security issues that occur in isolation, because they are all interconnected. “The more we find ways to work together, the more we can address the issues,” he added.

In dealing with the maritime security issue, sophisticated technological innovation is needed. Senior advisor to the CEO of the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), Patrick McDougal, said the safety of seafarers was one of the reasons for the creation of INMARSAT. Other security issues include the reduction of drug and human trafficking, and the integrity of sovereign borders and the preservation of marine protected areas.

“The target of commitments for OOC 2018, is to combat maritime crime, innovations in surveillance and monitoring and a sharing mechanism to improve maritime security.

McDougal added that the use of satellite technology was very instrumental in improving maritime security, including to handle illegal fishing. “Hundreds of thousands of previously unconnected vessels need to enjoy safety, security and have access to basic communications while at sea,” he explained.

The use of satellite technology alone is not enough without data transparency.

“Transparency has the power to drive success and underpin maritime security, by revealing what is happening across our ocean,” said Tony Long, the CEO of Global Fishing Watch.

“Through transparency we can create a more complete and interconnected picture of maritime activity and where fishing is occurring across our global ocean. This picture will transcend national boundaries, connecting the dots and bringing into sight what is happening beyond the horizon, on the high seas,” said Long.

Other speakers at the conference include the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Ghana, Habibu Tijani, as well as the chief negotiator at the Council for the Final Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries, Timor Leste, Xanana Gusmao.

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