

[Safety In Straits Of Melaka And Singapore At Highest Level](#)

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MELAKA, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Six navigational safety and environmental protection projects in the Straits of Melaka and Singapore implemented under the Navigation Aid Fund are running smoothly to ensure that security at the straits is at the highest level.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Kong Cho Ha said the fund, which was launched in 2008 under the Cooperative Mechanism by Malaysia, Indonesia dan Singapore, had reached US\$12.4 million, mostly contributed by the three littoral states and other countries using the straits.

"The main focus is on the safety of all vessels sailing through the Straits of Melaka and Singapore and of course, we are also concerned about the environmental aspects, including pollution."

He said this to reporters after opening the 4th Cooperation Forum under Cooperative Mechanism to Enhance Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, here Monday.

The six projects include transferring damage in the Traffic Separation Scheme at the Straits of Melaka and Singapore, collaboration and building preparedness and response capabilities for hazardous and toxic substances in the straits, exhibiting an Automatic Identification Transponder System for small vessels.

Establishing tides, currents and wind measurement system to enhance safety of navigation in the straits, and replacing and operating navigational aid damaged by the tsunami in December 2004.

Kong said the safety patrol jointly conducted under the Cooperative Mechanism had also proven effective especially in tackling piracy over the past several years and right now, pirate activities at the straits was at zero level.

"During my visits to other countries, I was informed by my fellow counterparts that they really appreciated the efforts taken by Malaysia, Indonesia dan Singapore to ensure safety in the Straits of Melaka and Singapore," he said.

On other developments, Kong said the ministry would implement the construction of new expressways with the allocation announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak when tabling the 2012 Budget last week.

He said the expressways were West Coast Expressway from Banting, Selangor to Taiping, Perak and East Coast Expressway from Mersing, Johor to Kuantan, Pahang.

"Another long-standing plan is to build an expressway from Bentong, Pahang to Gua Musang, Kelantan," he added.

-- BERNAMA