

Incident Report :	14/2008
Date/Time of Incident :	13 September 2008 at 0320hrs (local time)
Location of incident :	09° 57.7' N, 076° 15.8' E
Area Description :	Port of Kochi, India
Name and Type of Ship:	<i>MV Kinship Prosperity</i> / General Cargo Ship
<p>Details of Incident:</p> <p>On 13 September 2008, the India-registered general cargo ship, the <i>MV Kinship Prosperity</i> was at anchor at the port of Kochi (west coast of India). At 0320 hrs, two robbers dressed in local attire boarded the ship from a speedboat while 10 other men waited in the boat. Please see approximate location of the incident below.</p> <p>The robbers boarded the ship from the starboard bow and broke the lock of the forward store. The sentry-on-duty sighted the robbers. He shouted, raised the alarm and assembled the crew. The robbers escaped by jumping overboard and fled in the speed boat.</p> <p>The ship master reported the incident to the Port Authority of Kochi. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the local police boarded the general cargo ship to investigate the incident.</p>	
Reported by :	ReCAAP Focal Point (India)
Comments by ISC :	Ship master and crew are advised to maintain vigilance and strengthen their watch keeping particularly during hours of darkness when their ship is at anchor.

<p>Observations by ISC :</p>	<p>This is the third incident reported at the port of Kochi in 2008. The first incident occurred on 5 April 2008 involving product tanker, the <i>MV Sampurna Swarajya</i>. The tanker was anchored at the port of Kochi when six robbers armed with knives boarded the tanker at the forecastle using hooks and ropes. The robbers when detected fled with one mooring rope of about 210 metres long. The second incident occurred on 20 August 2008 involving a container ship, the <i>MV OEL Dubai</i>. The container ship was anchored in the port of Kochi when four robbers boarded the ship from a wooden boat. They stole 10 drums of paint and escaped when detected. In both incidents, the ship master reported the incident to the Port Authority of Kochi.</p> <p>The modus operandi of the robbers in all three incidents was opportunistic in nature. The robbers came alongside the ship in their boat, boarded the ship while she was at anchor during hours of darkness and escaped with unsecured items or even empty-handed when detected.</p>
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Approximate location of Incident