International Civil Aviation Organization

Third Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force (APSAR/TF/3)

Maldives, 25 – 29 January 2015

Agenda Item 4: Asia/Pacific and inter-regional SAR planning, coordination and cooperation

SAR ACTIVITY SHARING OF INFORMATION USING THE INTERNET

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents that a SAR coordination system of Japan, which was developed to share information between organizations concerned in Japan, and was planned to have a new function to improve the sharing of information of stakeholders SAR activities. The new Web function seems to be an effective means to share information not only among State's organization but also among States participating in an international SAR activity, such as like the SAR of Malaysia Flight MH 370.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   In Japan, the SAR services is performed in cooperation with five organizations; the Ministry of Defense, Japan Coast Guard , National Police Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency and Civil Aviation Bureau. In order to smoothly perform SAR services, a SAR coordination system which consists of network and computers was developed and terminals of the system were available at the headquarters of these organizations. Headquarters share information related to SAR activities. The SAR coordination system was deployed in 1981 for enhanced Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) services, which was triggered by Japan Airlines Flight JL123 accident.

1.2   However, the terminals are not installed at SAR units of those organizations. Headquarters need to send SAR information, which could be obtained from the coordination system, to each of their SAR units by fax or e-mail. Therefore, sharing of information was not efficient.
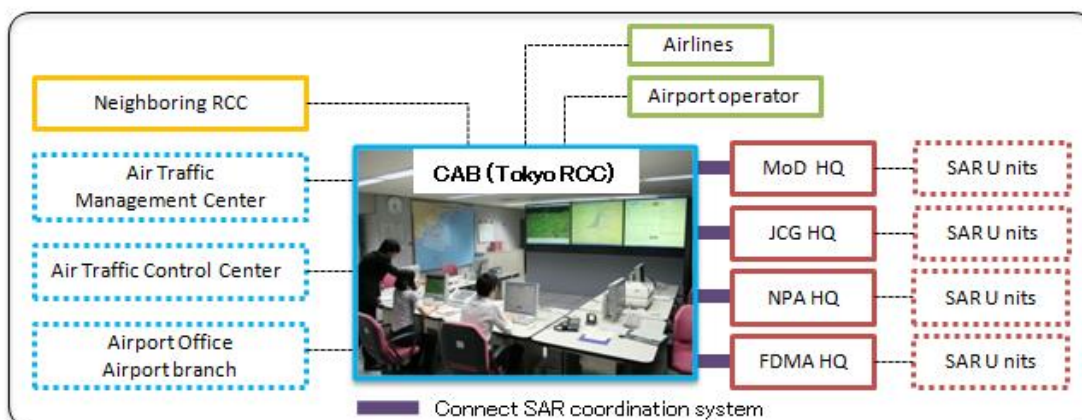

Figure 1: Framework of SAR Activity in Japan

1.3   In order to solve this problem, in this year, Japan was planning to expand the SAR coordination system so that SAR units can view the SAR information directly on the Internet. As a result, it is expected that more rapid SAR responses will occur. Japan considers that using the Internet is an effective means to share information simultaneously to many stakeholders.
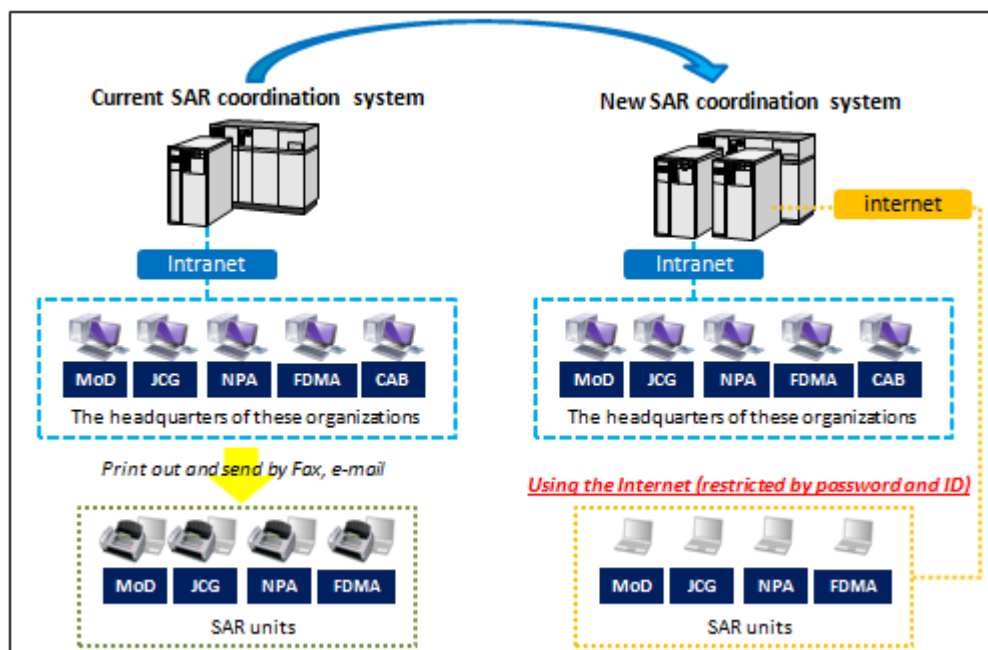

Figure 2: SAR Activity Information flow

1.4   Because the SAR activity information needed to be protected from alteration, the access to the website would be restricted by password and ID. In light of the governance, all of the stakeholders are public officials so they are required by service regulations to ensure confidentiality.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   Many States have cooperated in the search activities of Malaysia Flight MH 370. In such a case, Japan considers that a State which is responsible for search activity would desire information, such as the available facilities and available times etc. of other States which are willing to participate in the search activity, and that the States with the intention to cooperate in the search activity also would want to have information, such as what resources are expected to be provided.

2.2   Japan Ministry of Defense and Japan Coast Guard participated in the search activities from Japan. After these organizations accomplished their search activities, they presented on their search activities of MH370 at a SAR training of Japan Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center officers. They commented that they were not asked for their availabilities by the responsible State of the search activity, and were not provided the information of search activities being conducted by the other participating States. Also they said that it is so important to share information about search activities for allocating resources efficiently and effectively.

2.3   The responsible state of the search activity communicates SAR units of Japan with a diplomatic channel which was not SAR expert. If they could communicate SAR expert directly, they may get a lot of information of search activities.

2.4　　　　Using the Internet appears to be an effective means to share information even for international SAR activities. It would enable States to have the same information at the same time, and as a result of that, it may allow search activity to be conducted more rapidly and reduces the time required for communications.

2.5　　　　Therefore, the information sharing using the Internet should be included in the "Asia Pacific SAR Plan".
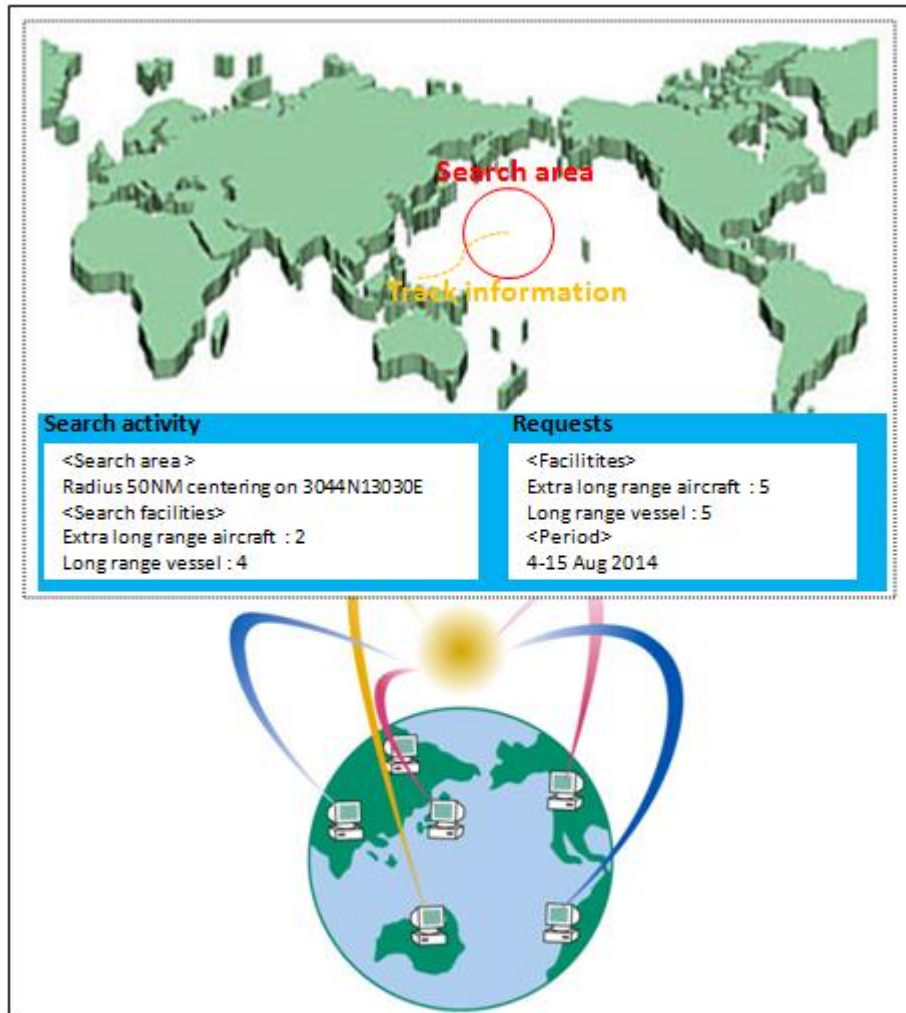

Figure 3: SAR Activity Sharing of Information Using the Internet
(Image)

3.　　ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1　　　　The meeting is invited to:

　　　　a) note the information contained in this paper;

　　　　b) recommend information sharing of SAR activities with using the Internet and to include it into the "Asia Pacific SAR Plan"; and

　　　　c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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