



**WORKING PAPER**

**ICAO/IMO JOINT WORKING GROUP  
ON HARMONIZATION OF AERONAUTICAL  
AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE (ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR)**

**FOURTEENTH MEETING**

**Saint Gilles les Bains, La Réunion, France, 10 to 14 September 2007**

**Agenda Item 5: SAR system administration, organization and implementation methods:  
5.5: evaluation of the effect of various Technical co-operation projects in cooperation  
with relevant Governments, organizations and agencies with a view to assessing  
their impact on implementing and maintaining SAR services**

**SAR COORDINATION BETWEEN MARITIME AND AERONAUTICAL  
AUTHORITIES ON A REGIONAL BASIS**

(Presented by United States)

**SUMMARY**

ICAO and IMO, as well as certain regional forums, conduct recurring and ad hoc meetings with SAR on the agenda but there is limited sharing of information among these groups. Better regional coordination among these forums could lead to further coordination among national agencies, especially aeronautical and maritime SAR authorities, and also among States.

Action by the ICAO/IMO JWG is in paragraph 3.

**REFERENCES**

None.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Annex 12 — *Search and Rescue* to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and the *International Convention on Maritime SAR* under the International Maritime Organization (IMO) call for harmonization of maritime and aeronautical SAR. ICAO and IMO, as well as certain regional forums, conduct recurring and ad hoc meetings with SAR on the agenda but there is limited sharing of information among these groups. Individually these forums will likely suffer lack of sustained focus or drive to advance SAR capacity and capability in areas of known weaknesses. However, by regionally

coordinating their efforts, these forums could attain a synergy for improving SAR services. Better coordination among these forums could lead to further coordination among national agencies, especially aeronautical and maritime SAR authorities, and also among States. The goal would be to make best use of ongoing regional efforts and existing resources, both money and people, so as to improve SAR services while minimizing costs.

1.2 Whereas the IMO has an active program of ad hoc meetings and technical cooperation projects on SAR around the world, ICAO relies on its seven regional offices to hold recurring meetings which include SAR on the agenda in addition to ad hoc special projects. Many parts of the world which have a need to improve SAR services are also served by an ICAO Planning and Implementation Regional Group which has SAR on its annual meeting agenda. Of note is the ICAO Asia-Pacific Regional Office which has been active in SAR matters and whose products are being shared with other regional offices. Its ad hoc efforts include the ICAO SAR Seminar and SAR Exercises held in India in March 2005; the ICAO SAR Workshop held in the Bangkok ICAO Regional Office and supported by ICAO's Cooperative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness Program, COSCAP, in December 2005; and, the ICAO Special Implementation Project for the International SAR Seminar and SAREX – Pacific Islands held in March 2007.

1.3 The ICAO Asia-Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) held the annual meeting of its Sub-Group which included SAR from 2-6 July 2007 in Bangkok, Thailand. Discussion at this meeting noted that there are several regional forums for SAR which could be supportive of APANPIRG efforts if a means was developed to more effectively coordinate their efforts and also share information. Examples listed of other established forums to engage included the annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Heads of Maritime Safety Agencies (APHMSA) Forum (a maritime group similar to the Directors General of Civil Aviation), the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR and State initiatives such as the recurring Hong Kong, China and Singapore SAR exercises. The report of the APANPIRG Sub-Group meeting contained the following conclusion for adoption by the member States in the Asia-Pacific region:

**Conclusion 17/12** — Promote relationships between APANPIRG, APHMSA Forum and the ICAO-IMO Joint Working Group (by coordinating the SAR reporting activities of APANPIRG with the other two groups on a reciprocal basis).

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The conclusion contained within the report of the APANPIRG Sub-Group meeting held July 2007, if implemented, provides an excellent framework for development of a sustainable approach to maintaining and improving SAR services. Linking aeronautical and maritime SAR forums, actively sharing information developed in the recurring regional meetings, spreading awareness of local ad hoc initiatives, and keeping the topic of SAR in view of decision-makers can serve as a model for other regions to consider when deciding how to develop and implement their own national and regional efforts for SAR. The goal would be to help advance global SAR by active use of the recurring regional forums and to use the successful process in one region to energize (or sustain) SAR efforts in other regions such as Africa.

2.2 A new effort pertinent to this paper is the *SAR Workshop for Pacific Island Nations* scheduled from 26 to 30 November 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The intention is to hold this SAR workshop once every two years, hosted by different Asia-Pacific States. SAR authorities of Australia, French Polynesia, New Zealand and the US and the regional authority of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) are organizing this event, with the SPC funding participation of many of the Island States. So far about 15 Island States, ranging across most of the Pacific, are planning to attend. Other States are welcome to participate or observe. One day of the workshop will be devoted to a SAR exercise and an aeronautical scenario over water is being strongly considered.

### 3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR

3.1 The ICAO/IMO JWG-SAR is invited to:

- a) support the conclusion of the Asia-Pacific APANPIRG Sub-Group by authorizing the ICAO/IMO JWG Chairman, or other JWG member of a State in the APANPIRG Sub-Group, to report on SAR activities on a reciprocal basis between the two groups;
- b) consider a recommendation to IMO's COMSAR 12 session to encourage States to consider the Asia-Pacific regional effort as an example of how linking their recurring regional forums and actively sharing SAR information can advance their own regional SAR capability and build capacity; and
- c) note the establishment of a new recurring regional effort to improve SAR in the Pacific and its initial workshop scheduled for 26 to 30 November 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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