



International Civil Aviation Organization

**First Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Working Group
(APSAR/WG/1)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 19 August 2016

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

PROGRESS IN SAR CAPABILITY OF SRI LANKA UNDER THE SCPP PROGRAM

(Presented by Sri Lanka)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on the progress in SAR Capability of Sri Lanka under the Search & Rescue Capability Partnership Program (SCPP) implemented by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) with funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to improve and enhance SAR capability in the Indian Ocean.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) introduced a new initiative, the Search and Rescue Capability Partnership Program (SCPP) from January 2015 to June 2017 between Australia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius. The objective was to improve regional SAR service capability in the Indian Ocean region,

1.2 The Program is aimed to assist Sri Lanka too as one of the partner countries to strengthen her national SAR services to enable effective responses to Aeronautical and Maritime SAR incidents in the Indian ocean region. The expected improved SAR capability of Sri Lanka under this program will lead to an enhanced regional SAR capability in the central Indian Ocean area which has presented challenges to SAR response in certain remote oceanic areas for all four partner countries.

1.3 Program activities commenced with an on-site SAR Capability Assessment of Sri Lanka during February 2015, followed by a SCPP Familiarization visit to Australia by representatives of the MRCC and ARCC from 27 June – 03 July 2015.

2. DISCUSSION

SAR Capability Assessment

2.1 Prior to the visit of AMSA officials in February 2015 for the SAR system assessment of SAR system of Sri Lanka, a SAR Gap-Analysis was completed by Sri Lanka using the Search & Rescue Assessment Checklist in the IAMSAR Manual. AMSA officials conducted the on-site assessment using guidance material in the IAMSAR Manual, Appendix H. A Work program was developed based on recommendations made from the assessment and input from the Sri Lanka. The work program was focused on specific tasks which could realistically be achieved during the life of the program and within the available funding.

2.2 Recommendations included providing assistance with the development of different elements, or the enhancement of existing elements, in areas such as SAR System Governance, SAR Agreements, ARCC and MRCC Coordination, Procedures and Documentation, SAR System/Information Technology Support, Training, Mobile SAR Unit set-up, SAR Exercises (SAREX) and Safety Education. The recommendations also include examining the merits of a JRCC model.

SCPP Deliverables since Commencement of the SCPP and Activities Pending

2.3 Two representatives from Sri Lanka visited AMSA's JRCC Australia from 26 June to 3 July 2015, with one representative each from the ARCC and MRCC who were directly responsible for managing a SAR incident and are involved in the planning and training for SAR system developments. The purpose of the visit was to:

- Obtain familiarization on the set-up, capabilities and personnel of the Australian JRCC;
- Meet representatives from other partner countries and Australia to establish connections and develop operational relationships;
- Understand the structure and documents used to form JRCC Australia and how these have progressed;
- Appreciate the staffing arrangements, training, systems and tools in use in JRCC Australia;
- Discuss the experiences and lessons learnt from MH370 and other large incidents; and
- Develop a high level plan to implement the recommendations as outlined in the SAR Capability Assessment report; and make arrangements for SAREXs.

2.4 The familiarization program included:

- Overview of the Australian National SAR System;
- COSPAS-SARSAT System overview;
- Australian 406MHz Beacon Database;
- Non COSPAS-SARSAT SAR Alerting Devices – emerging technology and impact on SAR;
- Introduction to JRCC Australia;
- JRCC Australia specific operational documents;
- Introduction to JRCC SAR Tool Kit using incident examples, including capability and data sources for consideration by partner countries, familiarization with Australian JRCC systems and personnel, set-up and benefits of a JRCC, SAR response components, practical use of SAR arrangements;
- SAR Unit arrangements, aircraft, equipment and air observers;
- Regional SAR engagement;
- AMSA's SAR system public awareness, education and prevention programs;
- SAR Officer Training including pre-requisites and background requirements;
- Discussions for proposed SAREX Workshop in each country;

- Air Search Observer introduction training;
- Flight in civilian SRU Aircraft (Cessna Conquest) simulating search tasks; and
- on-board tour of a dedicated SRU aircraft (Dornier 328) to simulate a maritime Search.

2.5 Activities concluded locally:

- 1st SAREX from 12-14 October 2015 (Table Top Exercise)
- SAR Officer Development Course 15-26 February 2016: at the Civil Aviation Training Centre, Sri Lanka for 19 participants.
- E- Broadcast System 26-29 April 2016: for eight officers from MRCC, SL-Coast Guard and ARCC staff.

2.6 Activities in progress / pending:

- Aeronautical SAR Operations Course at Singapore Aviation Academy from 11 July-26 August 2106 for one officers from the ARCC.(In progress)
- SAR Administrator Course - 15th -26th August 2016 at Singapore Aviation Academy for one officer from the ARCC.
- Provision of a Drift Model and Incident Management System with Drift Modelling and Incident Management capability
- SAREX 2 – 28 November to 1 December 2016: Simulation of a live SAR incident
- Establishment of a National SAR Council: Assistance to establish a formal governance structure that has responsibility for providing a sustainable framework for the SAR system.

3 ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) Discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

.....