



*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

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

**ASEAN SAREX**

(Presented by Singapore)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents information on the conduct of ASEAN SAREX.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Acknowledging the importance of enhancing the capabilities of ASEAN SAR agencies, ASEAN Transport SAR Forum agreed to conduct Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) under the ASEAN Joint SAREX Work Plan. Indonesia conducted the first ASEAN SAREX in Jakarta in August 2014 and Singapore conducted the second exercise in October 2015.

**2. ASEAN SAREX**

2.1 In August 2014, Indonesia conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN SAREX in Jakarta, Indonesia. A Joint Command Post Exercise (CPX) and Table Top Exercise (TTX) were conducted on 27 to 29 August 2014 with the participation of ASEAN Member States based on a real life scenario. Two recommendations were derived from this exercise, first was the recommendation that the next ASEAN Joint SAREX would allocate more time for planning and the second recommendation was that the ASEAN Joint SAREX could be the initial action for ASEAN Member States for the development of ASEAN Search and Rescue Standard Operating Procedures (ASEAN SAR SOP).

2.2 The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN SAREX TTX was hosted by Singapore on 5 to 8 October 2015. The Exercise was based on an aeronautical incident with the main objectives of testing standardized communication and coordination procedures for SAR operations among ASEAN Member States, and to enhance information sharing mechanism for SAR operations. Indonesia and Singapore presented the standardized operating and communication procedures as the draft ASEAN SAR SOP. The meeting took the opportunity to test the ASEAN SAR SOP's practicality and effectiveness during the TTX. The proposed scenario of the TTX, which started with activation till termination using the guidelines in the draft ASEAN SAR SOP, led to a robust discussion amongst ASEAN Member States. This allowed for further refinement of the ASEAN SAREX SOP. This exercise also provided a good opportunity for the ASEAN Member States to update the contact list for their respective SAR Agencies (both aeronautical and maritime).

2.3 The 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN SAREX TTX will be held in Singapore in October 2016. This exercise would focus on a maritime scenario with the aim to further refine the standardized operating and communication procedures in the ASEAN SAR SOP.

**3 ACTION BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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