



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 5: Asia/Pacific Regional SAR Plan

SAR LIBRARY

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

This paper presents some practical advice regarding a SAR library for rescue coordination centers as well as a proposal for amending part of the text in the Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan Version 1.0 regarding the SAR library.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 For many years, the Asia/Pacific SAR Capability Matrix indicated a deficiency by many States in having quick access to the applicable international, national and agency SAR publications that provide standards, policy, procedures and guidance. To assist in resolving this matter, the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan developed specific guidance as to what States should have in their SAR library. This paper provides further guidance regarding establishment of a SAR library.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The topic of a SAR library may not sound exciting, but such documents and publications provide the needed knowledge and background for all professionals. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) develop the standards and recommended practices (SARPs) as well as guidance documents. These documents are then supplemented and implemented by regional, national and agency publications and documents.

2.2 Since flight information regions typically define the aeronautical SAR region, Coastal States have to be concerned that aeronautical SAR regions align with maritime SAR regions or have a clear understanding and procedures in place to ensure which State will coordinate a SAR response. Therefore, coastal States, especially at the rescue coordination center, should have the relevant aeronautical and maritime SAR publications and documents.

2.3 Both ICAO and IMO have a common view on the definition of publications and documents: Publications are for purchase and have copyright protection; and documents are non-copyright and are available for free. As provided for in the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan, States should purchase certain publications and could establish a web-based SAR library for documents. The web-based library could be for downloading the documents or, if there is ready (reliable and quick) access, then that website could be part of the library itself.

2.4 The ICAO Chicago Convention has 19 annexes, including Annex 12 – Search and Rescue. However, several other annexes (such as Annex 6, 9, 10, 11, and 13) have content important to SAR. ICAO has decided that it is not appropriate to make extracts of the other annexes for posting on the SAR library website. Instead, ICAO recommends contacting the State's ICAO Portal State Group Manager to determine if access could be granted to the ICAO secure website which holds its publications and documents. In this regard, it would be helpful to all ICAO regions, if a list was developed of ICAO annexes and their specific sections for which the SAR service or RCC should have access to or to hold.

2.5 It is proposed that Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Version 1, paragraph 7.11 a) bullet points be amended as follows:

- i. ICAO Annex 12;
- ii. IAMSAR Manual Volumes I, II and **III**;
- iii. ~~SOLAS~~, and **International Convention on Maritime SAR (SAR Convention)**;
- iv. Asia/Pacific SAR Plan;
- v. **Asia/Pacific eANP**, and
- vi. **Relevant regional, national and agency SAR documents.**

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss which ICAO annexes and their specific sections that an RCC should have access to or to hold; and
- c) decide on amending paragraph 7.11 of the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Version 1.0.

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