



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Twenty-First Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-Group
(ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/21)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 27 June – 01 July 2011

Agenda Item 9: Update the ATM/AIS/SAR Task List

Search & Rescue Agreements with the Neighbouring Countries

(Presented by India)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the status of establishment of Search and Rescue agreements between India and its Neighbouring States.

This paper relates to –

Strategic Objectives:

A: *Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety*

C: *Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport – Foster harmonized and economically viable development of international civil aviation that does not unduly harm the environment*

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-16 Decision support systems and alerting systems

GPI-18 Aeronautical information

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There has been a tremendous growth of traffic in Asia Pacific Region resulting in large number of aircraft movements. India has signed operational Letters of Agreement with one adjacent state and this agreement has been functioning effectively. The need for entering into Search and Rescue services agreements with other neighbouring countries have always been felt, therefore, initiatives are being taken to formalize the required SAR agreements.
- 1.2 India hosted International Search and Rescue conference and SAREX in 2005 wherein both land and maritime exercises were conducted.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 Government of India has already established SAR agreement with Govt. of Bhutan for the cooperation of SAR services.
- 2.2 Recently ATS Coordination Meeting was held in New Delhi in which the neighbouring countries; Nepal, Sri Lanka, Oman and Thailand participated.

- 2.3 The discussion on Search & Rescue Agreements broadly covered the following areas
- Critical activities near border areas for rescue operations.
 - Identify the resources which are available near the Search and Rescue area.
 - International cooperation at the quickest possible time.
 - Sharing of SAR resources.
 - Mutual exchange of SAR personnel.
 - Joint exercises both over marine and land areas.
- 2.4 India urged the neighbouring States to take initiatives to formalize the letter of agreements.
- 2.5 Further coordination with the Search and Rescue agencies is being initiated for finalization of SAR agreements with the other neighboring states.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) note the initiative taken by India for establishment of SAR agreements with neighbouring states.
 - b) urge concerned states to formalize the SAR agreements.

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