



**NINTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION  
GROUP (APAC-AIG/9)**

*(27-28 October 2021 on Virtual Platform at 11.00 hrs. Bangkok Time UTC+7)*

**Agenda Item 5: Regional Cooperation**

**COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS ON SEARCH AND RESCUE**

*(Presented by Macao SAR, China)*

**SUMMARY**

In accordance with Annex 12 paragraph 2.1, Contracting States shall arrange for the establishment and prompt provision of search and rescue services within their territories to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress.

Relevant Macao bureaus are responsible for search and rescue within the administrative boundary of the Macao SAR included both land and maritime area, with the cooperation of other entities within the region. This paper highlights some of the key points from the cooperation arrangements.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The land and maritime boundaries of the Macao SAR was adjusted in 2015, the total land area of Macao is 33 Square Kilometres and the maritime area of the Macao SAR is 85 square kilometres. Search and rescue within Macao land and maritime area are responsible by Macao Fire Services and the Marine and Water Bureau respectively.

1.2 In order to strengthen the search and rescue emergency response capability, realize resource sharing, provide quick and effective assistance to people in distress, Macao SAR had signed 2 cooperation arrangements on search and rescue within the region:

- a) Cooperation Arrangement on Maritime Search and Rescue between Guangdong Province and Macao SAR China.
- b) Cooperation Agreement on Providing Emergency Rescue Services to Macao SAR China by Government Flying Service of Hong Kong SAR China.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The Cooperation Arrangement on Maritime Search and Rescue between Guangdong Province and Macao SAR China was signed in 2010 with the following four chapters:

**a) General**

- i. The arrangement is applicable to any maritime search & rescue occurred in Guangdong and Macao maritime boundaries.

- ii. Both parties will host maritime search & rescue working group meeting regularly.
- iii. The arrangement is based on the principle of resource sharing, near and fast, timely and effectively to help each other.

**b) Search and Rescue Cooperation Guarantee**

- i. The existing search & rescue resources for Guangdong and Macao should be used as resources for maritime search & rescue cooperation. Resource allocation follows the principles of equal negotiation, coordinated solution and reasonable economy.
- ii. Both parties should develop internal procedures for resource allocation on this cooperation. Ensure that search & rescue forces participate in cooperation in a timely manner.
- iii. Both parties should regularly collect, update relevant search & rescue resource information. Establish information source database, notify each other regularly.
- iv. The responsibilities of both parties are:
  - Liaise and response to search & rescue cooperation.
  - Collect and share the daily search & rescue work, summarize and evaluate search & rescue cooperation.
  - Identify existing issues and propose solutions in search & rescue cooperation at the working group meeting.
  - Report the search & rescue status to relevant emergency management task force.
- v. Both parties should develop annual training plan, organize trainings such as:
  - Training courses conducted by search & rescue experts.
  - Visits, exchange activities and attachment program.
  - Different scenarios of cross-region exercise.

**c) Search and Rescue Cooperation Actions**

- i. Search & rescue cooperation includes:
  - Deploy rescue force to participate in the search & rescue operations.
  - Send experts to provide technical support.
  - Provide relevant information.

- ii. Can request to activate the cooperation when emergency situations occur and need support.
- iii. After the search & rescue cooperation activated, the responsible party should inform the supporting party of the followings:
  - Occurrence types, the situation of person in distress, the goal of operations.
  - Occurrence time and location.
  - The situation of the search & rescue location.
  - The appointed commander.
  - Ways of communications.
  - Provide operation progress report and on-site report.
- iv. The party who first received the occurrence notification, even though the occurrence location is not within its own boundaries, it should bear the commander responsibility, take corresponding emergency actions until the emergency response actions has completely transferred to the responsible party.
- v. Both parties should follow up and report the progress of search & rescue cooperation operation, actively adjust the cooperation action plan, determine whether to continue, cease, terminate or resume the operation.

**d) By-laws**

- i. The arrangement does not constitute a legal obligation between the parties.

2.2 Cooperation Agreement on Providing Emergency Rescue Services to Macao SAR China by Government Flying Service of Hong Kong SAR China was first signed in 1997 and updated in 2018. This agreement specifies the support provided by both parties.

**a) For Government Flying Service of Hong Kong SAR China**

- i. When support on emergency search & rescue is request by Macao, according to the situation at the time, on the premise of not affecting the emergency services provided to Hong Kong citizens, Government Flying Service will provide the following relevant rescue services:
  - Deploy fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter to conduct search & rescue operations.
  - Conduct search & rescue training and exercise with Macao.
  - With coordination with Marine Department of Hong Kong, assist in cleaning up oil spills in Macao waters.

**b) For Civil Aviation Authority of Macao SAR China**

- i. Approve the fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter from Government Flying Service entering Macao Aerodrome Traffic Zone to conduct training flight, when operating conditions permit, provide services at Macau International Airport and Heliport and associated equipment without any charges.
- ii. Coordinate with Macau International Airport and Heliport to provide flight training facilities for Government Flying Service of Hong Kong SAR.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The Meeting is invited to note the content of this paper.

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