



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Eleventh Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue
Workgroup (APSAR/WG/11)

Bangkok, Thailand, 5 – 8 May 2026

Agenda Item 2: Review Outcomes of Related Meetings

RELEVANT MEETINGS OUTCOMES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents Search and Rescue (SAR) related outcomes of meetings conducted by the relevant contributory bodies of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/36) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 24 to 26 November 2025.

1.2 The Thirteenth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management Sub-Group (ATM/SG/13) of APANPIRG was held in Singapore, from 25 to 29 August 2025.

2. DISCUSSION

APANPIRG/36

APANPIRG ATM and Airspace Safety Deficiencies in the SAR Field

2.1 APANPIRG/36 was informed of APANPIRG Air Navigation Deficiency related to the implementation of the SAR Plan. Regional policy classifies Administrations with under 90% implementation as having an APANPIRG Air Navigation Deficiency for SAR Plan implementation.

2.2 APANPIRG/36 was advised that the ICAO APAC Office received supplementary evidence from Thailand after the ATM/SG/13. Following review by the ICAO Secretariat, APSAR/WG Chairperson and ATM/SG Chairperson, APANPIRG/36 agreed to remove Thailand's deficiency, noting a 92 percent (Robust) implementation status.

2.3 As a result, there are now 15 Administrations that reported a SAR Plan implementation of 90% or more:

Australia, China, Hong Kong China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United States and Viet Nam.

ATM/SG Chairperson's View on Challenges

- 2.4 ATM/SG Chairperson informed APANPIRG/36 of the following challenges in 2025:
- a) FIR/SRR Review: progress remains limited, with many cases requiring clarification or justification with neighbouring States. APAC States were urged to review FIR/SRR data not listed in APAC ANP Volume I and provide accuracy feedback to the APAC Office.
 - b) Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT): a recent survey showed that most APAC Administrations were not yet ready for ADT applicability, with several tasks still pending. States/Administrations should accelerate ADT implementation. A SAR workshop would be held in 2026 alongside APSAR/WG/11 to support this effort.

ATM/SG/13

Use of Digital Form for Status and Implementation Progress Report

2.5 To streamline data collection and improve monitoring and analysis of APAC States/Administrations' annual submissions on regional plan implementation, ATM/SG/13 agreed the following Conclusion:

Conclusion ATM/SG/13-3: The Use of Digital Form to Collect Annual Regional ANS-related Monitoring and Reporting Data

That, the digital form (Microsoft Forms) be used as the primary means to collect annual regional ANS-related plans monitoring and reporting forms and data.

2.6 As of 16 April 2026, 23 Administrations have submitted the annual *Regional SAR Plan Monitoring and Reporting Form* over the MS Forms platform (<https://forms.office.com/r/fw1ZmCwypG>).

Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Version 5.0

2.7 As a subsidiary plan of the *Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan*, the *Asia/Pacific SAR Plan* was due for review and update in 2025. Accordingly, a small intersessional group consisting of Australia, New Zealand, United States and the ICAO APAC Office reviewed *Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Version 4.0* and developed proposed amendments for APSAR/WG/10 consideration.

2.8 Following the APSAR/WG/10 discussion, the draft *Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Version 5.0* was presented, reviewed and subsequently endorsed by ATM/SG/13 through the following Conclusion:

Conclusion ATM/SG/13-9: Revised Asia/Pacific SAR Plan

That,

1. *the revised Asia/Pacific SAR Plan at Appendix I to the Report be adopted, and uploaded to the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office eDocuments webpage to replace the existing version; and*
2. *States are urged to update their national SAR Plans to align with the revised Asia/Pacific SAR Plan.*

Annual Submission of Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Unit (SRU) Capability

2.9 APSAR/WG/10 considered Australia's proposal to replace “SAR capability” with “SRU capability” in the *Asia/Pacific SAR Plan* and for APAC States/Administrations to report SRU capability to APSAR/WG instead of annually exchanging SRU information with neighbouring States.

2.10 While SRU capability information improves rescue coordination centre (RCC) decision-making and response, some Administrations may find its submission sensitive (e.g. military assets). APSAR/WG/10 therefore agreed submission is voluntary and does not commit Administrations to provide capabilities during SAR operations. Administrations need only report SRUs with the capability and necessary approvals to operate in neighbouring search and rescue regions (SRRs). Accordingly, ATM/SG/13 agreed with the following Conclusion:

Conclusion ATM/SG/13-10: Proposal Annual Submission of Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Unit (SRU) Capability

That,

- 1. States and Administrations to submit update of their SRU capability information (template to be included in the revised Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Appendix 2) to the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office annually, no later than 28 February. The ICAO Secretariat will compile the data and present it as a working paper at the APSAR/WG meeting, include it as an appendix to the meeting report, and subsequently publish it on the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office eDocuments webpage; and*
- 2. the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan and the corresponding SAR Performance Indicator in the Regional SAR Plan Monitoring and Reporting Form be amended (Appendix J to the Report) to support the States/Administrations' submission of Asia/Pacific SRU Capability information and be uploaded to the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office website to replace the existing version.*

2.11 As of 16 April 2026, only 12 Administrations responded to the annual *Asia/Pacific SRU Capability Survey* to the ICAO APAC Office. The submitted data will be presented in separate working paper under **Agenda Item 4**.

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.

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