



ICAO

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 5 – 8 May 2026

Agenda Item 4: Asia/Pacific and Inter-regional SAR Planning, Coordination and Cooperation

MALINDOPURA TRILATERAL SAR COOPERATION INITIATIVE

(Presented by Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on the MALINDOPURA Trilateral Search and Rescue (SAR) cooperation initiative involving Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. It highlights the establishment of the MALINDOPURA SAR Working Group (SWG), its objectives, and planned activities aimed to strengthening regional collaboration, enhancing interoperability, and improving collective preparedness in responding to cross-border aeronautical emergencies.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The MALINDOPURA SAR Working Group (SWG) is a trilateral aeronautical SAR cooperation initiative led by the respective national SAR organizations of the participating States:

- a) Indonesia: Badan Nasional Pencarian dan Pertolongan (BASARNAS);
- b) Malaysia: Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM); and
- c) Singapore: Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

1.2 The initiative builds upon existing bilateral SAR arrangements and aligns with regional frameworks, including the ASEAN Agreement on Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Cooperation. It reflects the growing need for enhanced coordination, interoperability and timely response to increasingly complex and cross-border aviation emergencies.

2. DISCUSSION

MALINDOPURA Establishment

2.1 The MALINDOPURA has evolved progressively through the following milestones:

- a) Year 2022: during SAREX MALINDO, a recommendation was made to expand the existing Malaysia–Indonesia bilateral SAR cooperation by involving a third State in order to further strengthen regional coordination and operational collaboration;
- b) Year 2023: Singapore participated as an Observer in SAREX MALINDO 42/2023 (Kuching–Pontianak), during which the concept of trilateral SAR cooperation was first explored;

- c) Year 2024: bilateral engagements under the Malaysia-Singapore Aeronautical SAR cooperation between CAAM and CAAS supported the proposal to establish a trilateral aeronautical SAR initiative between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore under the codename “MALINDOPURA”; and
- d) Year 2025: the 1st MALINDOPURA Coordination Meeting was held in Tanjung Pinang, Indonesia, formally established the MALINDOPURA SAR Working Group (SWG) and outlined the framework for trilateral cooperation.

MALINDOPURA Objective and Focus Areas

2.2 The key objectives of MALINDOPURA are to promote knowledge sharing, enhance SAR personnel competency, facilitate regular coordination and strengthen operational coordination among the participating States.

2.3 The cooperation framework focuses on three main area:

- a) Capacity Building: implementation of technical workshops and seminars, training programmes and personnel exchanges to enhance competency and expertise;
- b) Exercises: conduct of joint SAR exercises to validate procedures, strengthen coordination and improve operational effectiveness; and
- c) Information Sharing: exchange of operational information, lessons learned and best practices to support continuous improvement in SAR operations.

MALINDOPURA Planned Activities For 2026

2.4 The MALINDOPURA programme for 2026 included the following activities:

- a) MALINDOPURA International SAR Workshop:
 - i) The MALINDOPURA International SAR Workshop was conducted on 30 April 2026 via video teleconference (Zoom), under the theme, “Improving Aviation Search and Rescue Coordination in Cross-Border Emergencies”. The workshop was jointly facilitated by BASARNAS, CAAM and CAAS. The workshop comprised the following sessions:
 - Session 1: Aeronautical SAR Framework and ICAO Annex 12 Search and Rescue;
 - Session 2: Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) Requirements;
 - Session 3: GADSS Operations – Action by Stakeholders:.
 - Session 4: Air Traffic Services (ATS) Alerting and Emergency Procedure: and
 - Session 5: Joint Procedures for Cross-border SAR Cooperation Between States.
 - ii) The workshop aimed to enhance understanding of international and regional aeronautical SAR frameworks, increase awareness on the implementation of the GADSS, strengthen cooperation and information sharing among States and relevant agencies in responding to aviation distress situations. It also sought to improve coordination between aircraft operators, Air Traffic Services (ATS), Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC) and emergency response agencies, as well as enhance operational procedures and collaborative mechanisms for cross-border SAR operations.

- iii) Participation in this workshop was open to aircraft operators, SAR organizations, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), relevant government agencies and other aviation stakeholders from participating States involved in aviation safety and emergency response. Invitations were also extended to ASEAN Member States and the ICAO Asia/Pacific (APAC) Regional Office.
- b) MALINDOPURA Table-Top Exercise (TTX):
- i) The MALINDOPURA TTX is planned for September 2026 in a hybrid format, comprising physical participation in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, supported by video teleconference connectivity;
 - ii) The TTX will simulate an in-flight aircraft emergency in order to assess the capability of ATS units, airline operators and RCCs in managing abnormal and distress situations;
 - iii) The exercise is intended to cover the complete sequence of response, from the receipt of initial notifications through the coordination of SAR actions, with focus on GADSS Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT) and Emergency Locator Transmitter (Distress Tracking) [ELT(DT)] procedures; and
 - iv) The TTX will be conducted through the Awareness, Initial, Operation and Conclusion (AIPOC) phases.
- c) MALINDOPURA Field Training Exercise (FTX):
- i) The MALINDOPURA FTX is planned for October 2026 and will involve participation from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore;
 - ii) The FTX will build upon the scenario developed during the TTX and will test operational understanding, coordination effectiveness and readiness in a real-time SAR environment; and
 - iii) The exercise is expected to involve multi-agency assets and personnel participation from government and private stakeholders of the three States, including cross-border coordination components.

2.5 The MALINDOPURA initiative and its planned activities support the objective of the ASEAN Transport SAR Forum (ATSF) Programme of Action, and contribute to the broader development of regional SAR capability.

2.6 It also contributes into strengthening aeronautical SAR cooperation in the Asia/Pacific Region, supporting ICAO *Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan* efforts and providing a practical model for trilateral SAR cooperation.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

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

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