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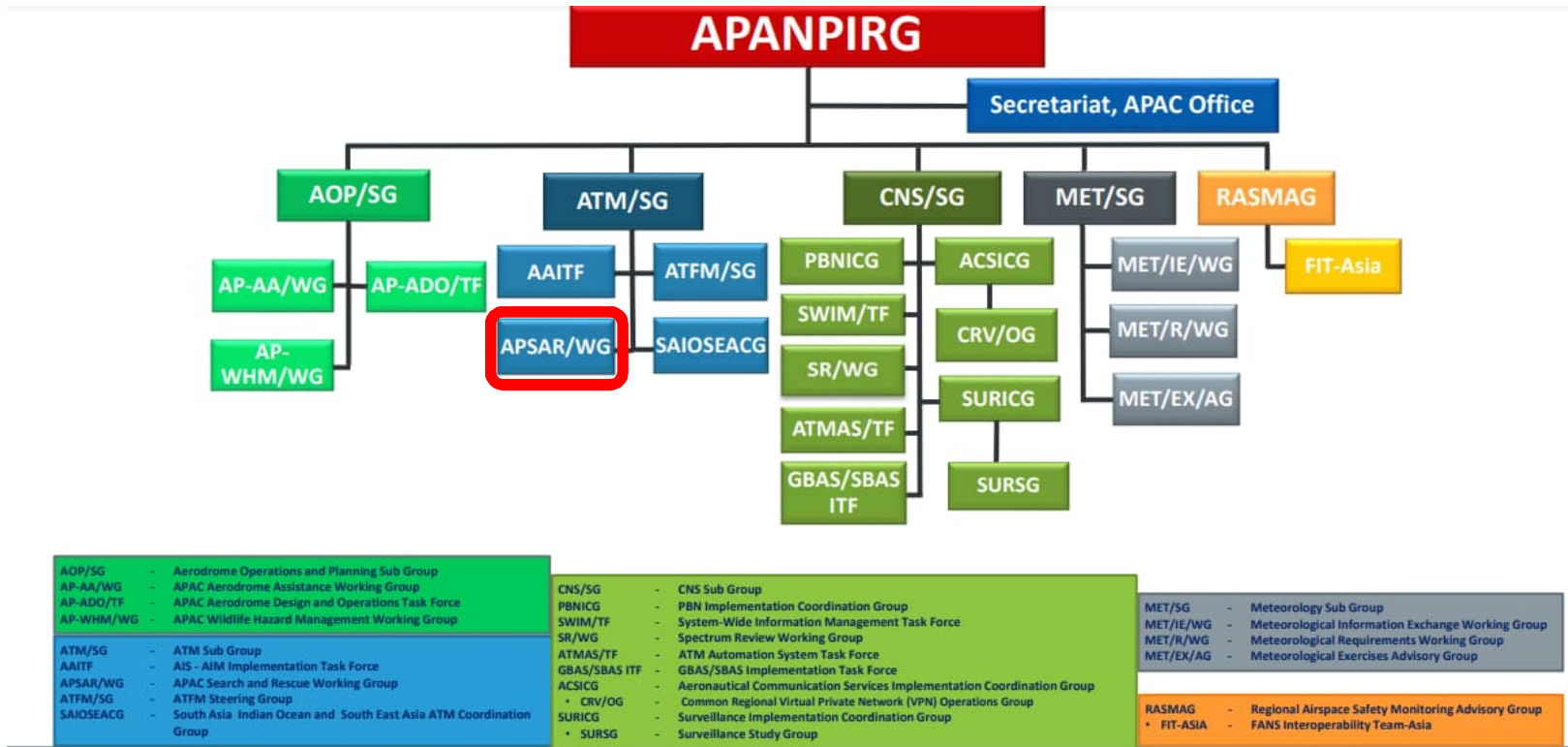


Report from the APAC SAR WG

—
Mr. Tai Kit

Chair APAC SAR/WG

APANPIRG Framework



APSAR/TF and APSAR/WG

2015

- APANPIRG/26 decided to establish APSAR Work Group in 2015
- Mr. Phillip Jones-Hope (Australia) chaired the WG in 2016
- Mr. Tai Kit (Singapore) chaired the WG from 2017

2012

- APANPIRG/23 decided to establish APSAR Task Force in 2012
- Mr. Scott Constable (Australia) chaired the TF from 2012-2015

2025

- APSAR/WG/9 held in Bangkok, Thailand, from May 7-10, 2024
- Mr. Tai Kit (Singapore) chaired the WG

Terms of Reference (TOR) of the APAC SAR/WG

1. Objectives:

- Enhance the coordination and effectiveness of SAR operations in the Asia/Pacific region.
- Promote the implementation of ICAO SAR provisions and best practices among member states.
- Facilitate the sharing of information and experiences related to SAR operations.

2. Responsibilities:

- Develop and update regional SAR plans and procedures.
- Organize and conduct SAR exercises (SAREX) to improve readiness and interoperability.
- Monitor and report on the status of SAR services in the region.
- Collaborate with other international organizations, such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO), to ensure cohesive SAR efforts.

Terms of Reference (TOR) of the APAC SAR/WG

3. Meetings and Reporting:

- The group holds regular meetings to discuss SAR-related topics and review progress.
- Reports and recommendations from these meetings are submitted to the ICAO Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG).

4. Membership:

- The working group comprises representatives from ICAO member States in the Asia/Pacific region, relevant international organizations and industry stakeholders.

GADSS Workshop

GADSS Workshop in conjunction with APSAR/WG/7

- **Date:** May 23-27, 2022
- **Details:** This workshop, held via video teleconference, focused on the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS). It aimed to familiarize states, airspace users, and international organizations with ICAO provisions for tracking aircraft in distress and the Location of an Aircraft in Distress Repository (LADR).

APSAR/WG/9

Ninth Meeting (APSAR/WG/9): Held in Bangkok, Thailand, from May 7-10, 2024, this meeting covered various topics, including updates on the COSPAS-SARSAT program, regional SAR status, and autonomous distress tracking.

There were 61 participants registered for the meeting from 21 Administrations and two international organizations including Australia, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong China, Fiji, India, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Viet Nam, Cospas-Sarsat Programme, and ICAO.

There were 17 Working Papers (WPs), 11 Information Papers (IPs), five presentations and two films considered by the meeting.

APSAR/WG/9

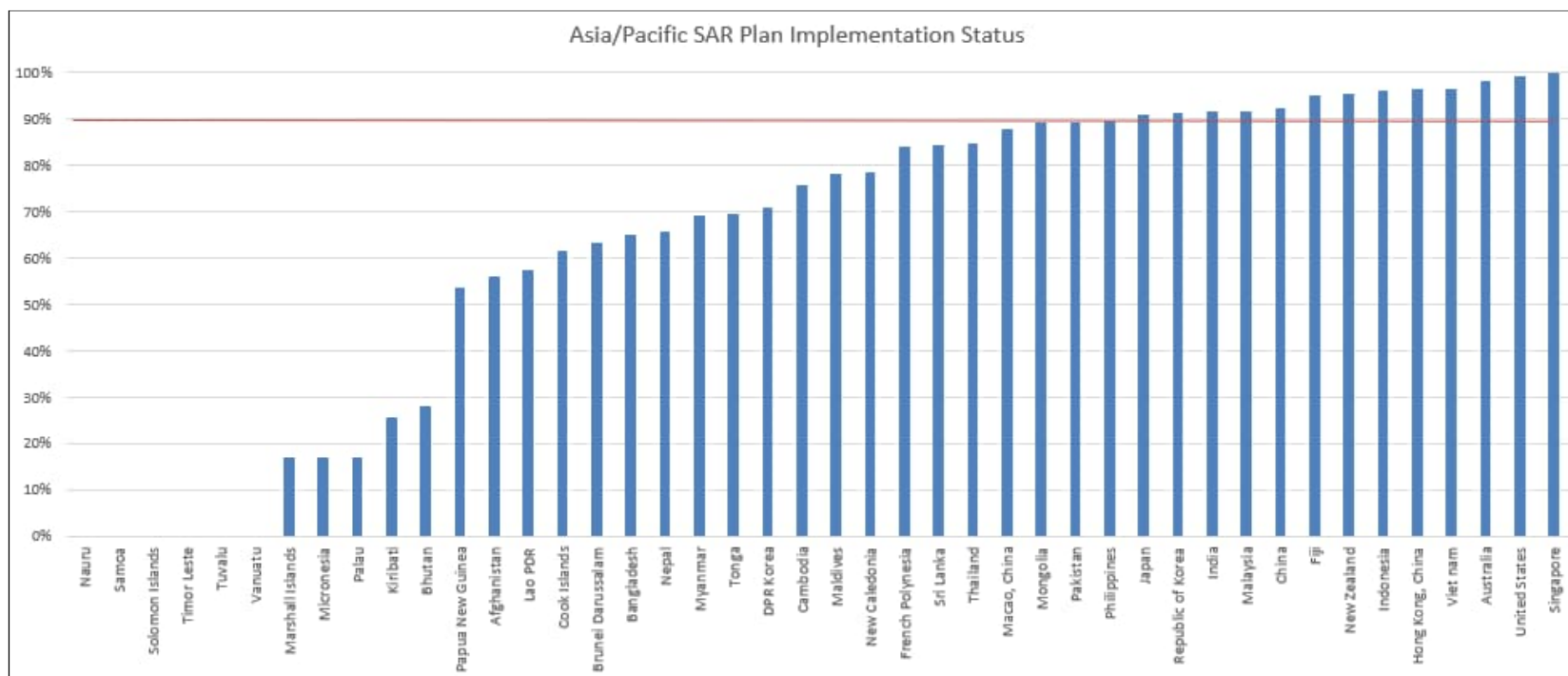
Key working papers discussed included:

- **Regional Air Navigation Plan Update:** Focused on the latest revisions and improvements to the regional SAR plan.
- **Asia Pacific Regional Readiness for Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT):** Addressed the region's preparedness for implementing autonomous distress tracking systems.
- **Search and Rescue Exercises (SAREX):** Updates on recent and upcoming SAR exercises, such as the SAREX 2024 in India, SAREX in Japan, and Malaysia-Indonesia SAREX.

<https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2024-APSAR-WG-9.aspx>

Regional SAR Status

The SAR Plan-based 41-element assessment provided a metric of the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan implementation as of 30 April 2024



Asia Pacific Regional Readiness for Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT)

1. Survey Results:

- A survey was conducted to gauge the readiness of Asia/Pacific states for the implementation of ADT. The results indicated that many states were not fully prepared for the ADT applicability, which is set to become mandatory by January 1, 2025.
- The survey revealed that most administrations had not yet developed procedures for responding to ADT notifications or ELT(DT) alerts. Additionally, training for relevant SAR personnel, ATS personnel, and flight dispatchers on ADT notifications and ELT(DT) alerts had not been widely conducted.

2. Recommendations:

- The meeting emphasized the need for increased efforts to improve knowledge of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) among regulatory authorities, airline operators, SAR services, and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs).
- It was recommended that states implement educational programs and develop procedures to handle ADT notifications effectively. A checklist of considerations for responding to ADT notifications was also proposed.

Asia Pacific Regional Readiness for Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT)

3. Future Actions:

- The APSAR/WG/9 meeting proposed updating the survey questions and conducting a re-survey to assess the progress made by states in preparing for ADT implementation.
- The meeting also discussed the importance of continuous collaboration and information sharing among member states to ensure a cohesive approach to ADT readiness.

These discussions and recommendations are part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the region's preparedness for autonomous distress tracking and improve overall SAR capabilities.

SAREX in the APAC reported to the APSAR WG/9

1.SAREX 2024 in Guwahati, India:

Details: This exercise aimed to enhance the coordination and effectiveness of SAR operations in the region. It involved multiple countries and focused on improving interoperability and readiness for real-life SAR scenarios.

2.Implementation Status of SAREX with Neighboring Countries in Japan:

Details: Japan provided updates on the implementation status of SAR exercises conducted in collaboration with neighboring countries. These exercises are crucial for ensuring seamless SAR operations across borders.

3.Malaysia-Indonesia Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX MALINDO) 2023:

Details: This exercise highlighted the collaborative efforts between Malaysia and Indonesia to improve SAR capabilities and coordination. The outcomes and lessons learned from this exercise were shared during the meeting.

APSAR WG/10 in 2025

- Tentatively in April, May 2025
- Seim Reap, Cambodia





Thank You!