



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**TWENTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE
ASIA/PACIFIC AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APANPIRG/22)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 5-9 September 2011

**Agenda Item 3: Performance Framework for Regional Air Navigation Planning
and Implementation issues**
3.2 ATM/AIS/SAR
**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.

Strategic Objectives:

A: Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety

C: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport –

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

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Government of India has already established SAR Agreement with Government of Bhutan for the cooperation of SAR Services.

2.2 India has taken initiatives to establish SAR Agreements with other adjoining States by inviting them to India for the ATS Coordination Meeting held in New Delhi, in which the neighbouring countries; Nepal, Sri Lanka, Oman and Thailand have participated. The need and importance on Search & Rescue Agreements was discussed broadly covering 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; and
- Joint exercises both over marine and land areas.

2.3 India urged the neighboring States to take initiatives to formalize the Letter of Agreements.

2.4 Recently Bangladesh was invited to India and the meeting was held from 20th July to 22nd July 2011 for resolving various issues. The concerned issues related SAR Agreements (as in sub para 2.2) were also discussed and it was emphasized to expedite the process of signing the LOA in this regard.

2.5 Further coordination with the Search and Rescue Agencies is being initiated for finalization of SAR Agreements with the other neighboring states.

2.6 In the recent past extensive search and rescue operations were required in two helicopter accidents in the Southern and North Eastern part of India. There were difficulties in carrying out the SAR due to dense forest, mountainous terrain, bad weather and non-functioning of existing system of locating the accident site. The extensive SAR operations were carried out and in one of the accidents the site was located with the help of the signals of the last mobile telephone call made by one of the occupants of the helicopter. The existing LOA with the adjacent country expedited the process of SAR on the border area. As the helicopters are not using the pre-determined path, there is a need to evolve a system which could ensure in expeditious search in case of such accidents to save the lives.

2.7 ELT beacons are vital component of SAR System. India has created data base of ELT Beacons (406 MHz) with details of the owner to expedite the identification of the ELT under distress which helps in narrowing down the probable location. Presently India has registered 2656 ELT Beacons and to encourage the ELT registration there is an online facility for registration with Indian Mission Control Centre (INMCC). The INMCC communicating the distress signals to user community is located at ISTRAC, Bangalore.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the initiative taken by India for establishment of SAR Agreements with Neighboring States;
- b) urge concerned States to formalize the SAR Agreements;
- c) discuss the measures to expedite Search and Rescue in remote and difficult terrain areas; and
- d) encourage the operators to register all ELT Beacons for effective SAR operations.