



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Second Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force
(APSAR/TF/2)**

Singapore, 27 – 30 January 2014

Agenda Item 2: Review Outcomes of Related Meetings

**IMO REGIONAL SEMINAR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
GLOBAL SAR PLAN, COLOMBO, SRI LANKA, 2 TO 4 JULY 2013**

(Presented by the International Maritime Organization)

SUMMARY

This paper provides information on an IMO regional SAR Seminar held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 2 to 4 July 2013.

Strategic Objectives:

A: *Safety*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

1.2 Search and Rescue (SAR) is an important safety related matter and IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) is responsible for the development of regulations, recommendations and guidelines related to SAR. MSC has delegated the most of the work to the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR). This Sub-Committee meets once a year and during these meetings the Sub-Committee delegates the technical work to its SAR Working Group.

1.3 To promote the harmonization of aeronautical and maritime SAR, ICAO and IMO have jointly established the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR (JWG). The JWG is established to develop recommendations and information to support the responsible IMO Sub-Committee and/or ICAO, as appropriate, on any matters pertinent to harmonization of international maritime and aeronautical SAR. In IMO, the JWG is instructed by, and reports to, the NCSR Sub-Committee.

1.4 IMO adopts international shipping regulations but it is the responsibility of Governments to implement those regulations. IMO has developed an Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (ITCP) which is designed to assist Governments which lack the technical knowledge and resources that are needed to operate a shipping industry safely and efficiently. IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee (TCC) is responsible for the ITCP and the Technical Cooperation Division of the IMO Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the by TCC agreed activities.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 In terms of Technical Co-operation activities, IMO had planned for a regional SAR seminar to be organized for some Asian countries, to take place in 2013. At the beginning of 2013, the IMO Secretariat was in the process of organizing a SAR Seminar for the South Asia countries in a region including Sri Lanka. At around the same time, the IMO Secretariat participated at the 1st Meeting of ICAO's Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force (APSAR/TF/1), held at the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand from 5 to 8 February 2013.

2.2 In considering the outcome of APSAR/TF/1, the IMO Secretariat noted that ICAO had also identified South Asia as the area of main concern. Taking into account the outcome of APSAR/TF/1, the IMO Secretariat decided to invite Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand for the SAR Seminar. Furthermore, the IMO Secretariat considered it to be much more efficient and effective in taking a joint maritime and aeronautical approach and to organize the Seminar for maritime and aeronautical participants. It was, therefore, decided to invite maritime, as well as aeronautical participants and to fund the activity from IMO's ITCF.

2.3 Accordingly, the Regional Seminar on the implementation of the Global SAR Plan was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 2 to 4 July 2013. All invited 9 countries participated.

Objectives of the Seminar

2.4 The three-day seminar was to provide an opportunity for national authorities in South Asia, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to enhance their understanding of regional issues, establish or improve their SAR services while promoting co-operative approaches in the region through open discussions and exchange of views and experiences.

2.5 The main objectives of the seminar were to provide a better understanding on the requirements for the ratification/accession to the maritime SAR Convention with a particular emphasis on the needs for satisfactory co-operation and collaboration at regional level. The seminar also aimed to identify the capacity building needs in the region, as appropriate.

Aeronautical participation at this Seminar

2.6 In pursuance of an IMO/ICAO harmonized approach to the implementation and improvement of SAR services, the invitation was also extended to representatives of the aviation sector. As a result, 13 representatives from the aviation sector, including the chairman of the APSAR/TF and the chairman of the ICAO/IMO JWG, attended the seminar.

Seminar Programme

2.7 The programme of the Seminar is given at **Appendix 1**.

2.8 After two IMO consultants, in co-operation with the IMO Secretariat, had established the programme for the seminar, the IMO Secretariat managed to involve guest speakers from the following organizations:

- the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA);
- the United States Coast Guard (USCG);
- the Hong Kong, China Government Flying Service (GFS); and
- the International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF).

2.9 In total 25 presentations were made over the period of 3 days (1 by each participating country, 6 by the guest speakers, eight by the IMO consultants and two by the IMO Secretariat). During the last two days, two very productive discussion sessions were held. At the end of the seminar, the representatives of all 9 countries agreed on a list of recommendations, as given at **Appendix 2**.

Conclusion

2.10 According to the feedback from many participants, the Seminar was a success. Much needful information had been exchanged and contacts between countries, organizations and persons had been established and/or strengthened.

2.11 Furthermore, the co-operation between IMO and ICAO, which has increased after APSAR/TF/1, has shown to be an effective way towards the efficient implementation of SAR services in developing countries. In this regard it is worth mentioning that the fifth Pacific regional Maritime SAR Workshop & Exhibition, under the flag of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and sponsored by IMO, held in Fiji from 3 to 7 June 2013 was also attended by representatives from the aviation sector and had also been regarded as being a very positive step forward on the way towards capacity building in the field of SAR.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided.

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Appendix 1

**Regional seminar on the implementation of the global SAR plan
Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2 to 4 July 2013**

PROGRAMME

FIRST DAY - Panel Chairman: Sri Lanka

Time	Event	Speaker
0845-0900	Traditional opening function	
0900-0910	Welcome speech	Sri Lanka
0910-0915	Opening remarks	IMO
0915-0930	Current Situation of ratification of Maritime SAR convention and delimitation of SRRs in the region	IMO
0930-0950	SAR System of Bangladesh	Bangladesh
0950-1010	SAR System of India	India
1010-1030	SAR System of Indonesia	Indonesia
1030-1100	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1100-1120	SAR System of Maldives	Maldives
1120-1140	SAR System of Malaysia	Malaysia
1140-1230	Obligations under Maritime SAR Convention (establishing RCC, delimitation of SAR Region, and SAR cooperation), followed by Q&A	IMO
1230-1400	<i>Lunch</i>	
1400-1445	Brief on GMDSS, followed by Q&A	IMO
1445-1530	Brief on Cospas-Sarsat, followed by Q&A	IMO
1530-1600	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1600-1700	SAR case study: Regional co-operation - Similarities and differences in ferry disasters (Scandinavian Star and Estonia)	IMO

SECOND DAY - Panel Chairman: IMO

Time	Event	Speaker
0900-0920	SAR System of Myanmar	Myanmar
0920-0940	SAR System of Pakistan	Pakistan
0940-1000	SAR System of Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
1000-1020	SAR System of Thailand	Thailand
1020-1050	<i>Coffee Break</i>	

Time	Event	Speaker
1050-1130	SAR Cooperation in the Baltic	IMO
1130-1230	Group Discussion on the need of enhancing SAR cooperation in the region, such as establishment of agreements, regular liaison meeting, workshop, joint SAREX, improving existing national SAR services, identification of needs for capacity building	Facilitator: Panel Chairman
1230-1400	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1400-1445	Mass Rescue Operation, followed by Q&A	IMRF
1445-1530	Passenger Vessels Vs. SAR (MSC Circ. 1079: SAR Cooperation Plan; SAREX), followed by Q&A	IMO
1530-1600	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1600-1700	SAR case study (Bravery Award in 2006), followed by Q&A	Government Flying Service of Hong Kong

THIRD DAY - Panel Chairman: IMO

Time	Event	Speaker
0900-0930	Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR	IMO JWG Chairman
0930-1000	Brief on Chicago Convention – Annex 12 and the SAR Task Force for the Asian/Pacific region	Task Force Chairman
1000-1030	SAR System of Australia	Australia
1030-1100	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1100-1130	Cooperation between ARCC and MRCC (Hong Kong example)	IMO
1130-1230	Group discussion on issues related to maritime and aeronautical SAR and continuation of the discussion of yesterday on the need of enhancing SAR cooperation in the region	Facilitator: Panel Chairman
1230-1400	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
1400-1500	What is a successful SAR Operation (group discussion after presentation)	IMO
1500-1530	Brief on International development on Maritime SAR (to highlight COMSAR meetings), followed by Q&A	IMO
1530-1600	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
1600-1645	Group Discussion, Q&A and adoption of the seminar conclusions	Facilitator: Panel Chairman
1645-1700	Closing remarks	Sri Lanka

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Appendix 2

Regional seminar on the implementation of the global SAR plan Colombo, Sri Lanka, 2 to 4 July 2013

RECOMMENDATIONS

The representatives of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand at the end of the Seminar agreed and recommended to:

1. consider ratification of, or accession to, the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979 at the earliest possible time for countries which are not yet parties to that Convention;
2. notify information to IMO on the availability of SAR services, taking into account COMSAR.1/Circ.55, as soon as possible if not already done so, and keep the information up to date on a regular basis;
3. notify information to IMO on the availability of shore-based facilities in the GMDSS, taking into account MSC.1/Circ.1382/Rev.2, as soon as possible if not already done so, and keep the information up to date on a regular basis;
4. keep record of all SAR activities and as such built up statistics for national use as well to be used in communication with IMO and ICAO, as appropriate;
5. take into account Resolution 1 of the International Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, stating that aeronautical search and rescue services have been established by the Contracting States to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and that close co-operation between maritime and aeronautical search and rescue services is essential;
6. establish bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, so as to facilitate and expedite the efficient conduct of search and rescue operations;
7. consider, as appropriate, operational arrangements with another State on the delivery of Cospas-Sarsat alerts;
8. consider, as appropriate, operational arrangements with another State on the delivery of Inmarsat alerts and the promulgation of SAR information via SafetyNET;
9. evaluate SAR and GMDSS facilities and identify actions to be taken to improve the existing situation;
10. take account of the requirements for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System in any national plan, to improve maritime radiocommunications to support the search and rescue organization;

11. develop a short and long term programme for training of search and rescue personnel;
 12. conduct national, bilateral and multilateral SAR exercises and use lessons learned to identify capacity building needs; and
 13. request, as appropriate, either individually or in co-operation with other States of the South Asia Region, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization to provide technical assistance, in particular:
 - 13.1 to assess the existing situation and provide recommendations for improvement; and
 - 13.2 in the field of capacity building, provide training for search and rescue personnel.
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