



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

THE ICAO/IMO JOINT WORKING GROUP ON SAR

(Presented by the United States of America)

SUMMARY

This paper provides an update on information and events discussed at APSAR/TF/1 regarding the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group (JWG) on SAR.

Strategic Objectives:

A: *Safety*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background information of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group (JWG) on SAR, including its terms of reference was discussed in APSAR/TF/1. Also provided was advice on possible roles for the JWG to have in support of SAR efforts within the Asia/Pacific Region. The JWG has held one session since APSAR/TF/1 and this paper provides an update on information provided in the JWG report to ICAO and IMO.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The twentieth session of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on Search and Rescue (JWG 20) was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 23 to 27 September 2013. Its report to the ICAO and IMO can be found on the JWG web site maintained at ICAO Headquarters. The report is being submitted for formal IMO review and approval at IMO's Navigation, Communications and SAR (NCSR) Subcommittee meeting scheduled for 30 June – 4 July 2014 in London, United Kingdom. The JWG 20 report is available on the IMO meeting web site as paper "NCSR 1/19".

2.2 The ICAO Asia/Pacific SAR Task Force was specifically discussed within the JWG 20 report and will be further discussed at the IMO NCSR meeting. Items which may be of particular interest to the Asia/Pacific region include:

- a) Australia submitted a working paper which provided an overview of APSAR/TF 1 and its outcomes.
- b) JWG 20 requested that the output of the 2014 TF meeting be submitted to the JWG.

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- c) JWG 20 supported the need to improve the “Sample SAR Coordinating Committee agreement” appendix and looked forward to reviewing the proposal emanating from the work of the APSAR/TF for incorporation into the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (IAMSAR) Manual. (Singapore and the United States submitted the proposal on behalf of the APSAR/TF/1 findings.)
 - d) JWG 20 supported the need to improve the “Sample SAR Agreement” appendix and looked forward to reviewing the proposal emanating from the work of the APSAR/TF for incorporation into the IAMSAR Manual. (Singapore and the United States submitted the proposal on behalf of the APSAR/TF/1 findings.)
 - e) JWG 20 agreed that a SAR global web site would be beneficial to the SAR community. [Both ICAO and IMO agreed that it was not feasible at this time for either one of them to maintain such a web site.]
 - f) The aeronautical member from Canada agreed to provide a working paper at JWG 21 (convening 22-26 September 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand) with a proposed list of documents and publications which should be held by an aeronautical, a maritime and a joint RCC (joint meaning both aeronautical and maritime).
 - g) JWG 20 report includes the action item requested of the IMO: “note the JWG’s and the IMO Secretariat’s involvement in the ICAO Asia/Pacific SAR Task Force, aiming at enhancement and improvement of SAR capabilities within the Asia/Pacific Region and adjacent regions”.
 - h) Other operational or administrative topics, such as datum marker buoys (referred to as ‘drift buoys’ in an ICAO report).

2.3 APSAR/TF/1 discussed several ideas on what the JWG and the Asia/Pacific region could do to together to advance SAR. Many of those ideas are listed below. The APSAR/TF/2 may want to review these ideas to consider progress made, modifications to make, or new ideas to add:

- a) Recurring exchange of reports.
- b) Access to the JWG website.
- c) JWG SAR experts within the region to serve as coordinating point for Asia/Pacific Region.
- d) Asia/Pac Region representative(s) attend JWG sessions, especially when held within the region.
- e) SAR findings of Asia/Pac ATM SG and APSAR TF are sent to the JWG.

2.4 The Asia/Pacific region has a major role in the global SAR system. The ATM/SG (the prior APANPIRG ATM/AIS/SAR SG) has a long record of addressing SAR issues and having its voice heard in ICAO/IMO JWG meetings. In turn, the Asia/Pacific SAR Task Force (APSAR/TF) and its follow-on work should greatly assist in establishing the process to implement solutions identified for the Asia/Pacific Region. The ICAO/IMO JWG can assist both of these forums in a supporting role and also, as appropriate, advocate the Asia/Pacific regional solutions as global solutions.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) develop a process to stay informed of ICAO/IMO JWG findings and a method for submission of State or regional issues for discussion at the JWG to enable IMO and ICAO consideration; and,
- b) encourage Asia/Pacific States to participate in ICAO/IMO JWG meetings, including the 22-26 September 2014 JWG meeting at the ICAO Bangkok Office,

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