International Civil Aviation Organization

The Second Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM Sub-Group (ATM /SG/2)

Hong Kong, China, 04-08 August 2014

Agenda Item 6: AOP, MET, AIM, SAR

SAR ACTIVITY SHARING OF INFORMATION USING THE INTERNET

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents that a SAR coordination system of Japan, which was developed to share information between organizations concerned in Japan, and was planned to have a new function to improve the sharing of information of stakeholders SAR activities. The new Web function, seems to be an effective means to share information not only among State's organization but also among States participating in an international SAR activity, such as like the SAR of Malaysia Flight MH 370.

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   In Japan, the SAR services is performed in cooperation with five organizations; the Ministry of Defense, Japan Coast Guard , National Police Agency, Fire and Disaster Management Agency and Civil Aviation Bureau. In order to smoothly perform SAR services, a SAR coordination system which consists of network and computers was developed and terminals of the system were available at the headquarters of these organizations. Headquarters share information related to SAR activities. The SAR coordination system was deployed in 1981 for enhanced Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) services, which was triggered by Japan Airlines Flight JL123 accident.

1.2   However, the terminals are not installed at SAR units of those organizations. Headquarters need to send SAR information, which could be obtained from the coordination system, to each of their SAR units by fax or e-mail. Therefore, sharing of information was not efficient.
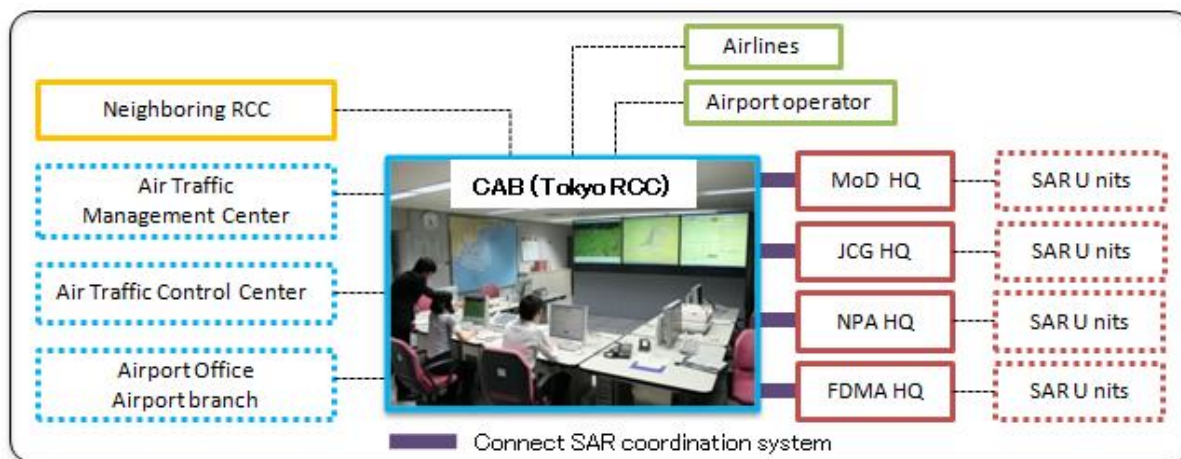

Figure 1: Framework of SAR Activity in Japan

1.3   In order to solve this problem, in this year, Japan was planning to expand the SAR coordination system so that SAR units can view the SAR information directly on the Internet. As a result, it is expected that more rapid SAR responses will occur. Japan considers that using the Internet is an effective means to share information simultaneously to many stakeholders.
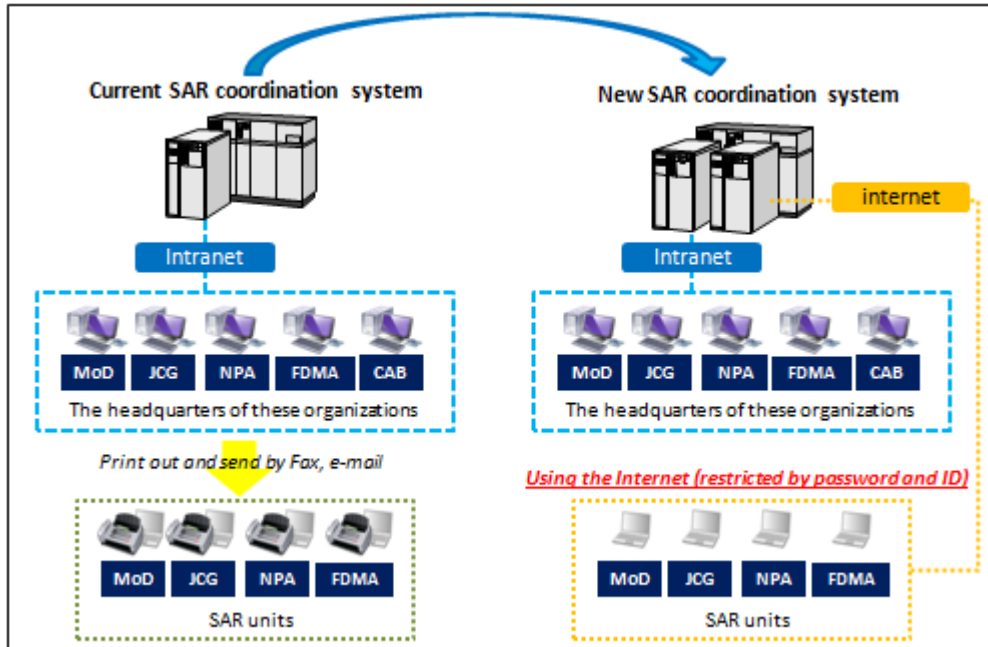

Figure 2: SAR Activity Information flow

1.4   Because the SAR activity information needed to be protected from alteration, the access to the website would be restricted by password and ID. In light of the governance, all of the stakeholders are public officials so they are required by service regulations to ensure confidentiality.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1   Many States have cooperated in the search activities of Malaysia Flight MH 370. In such a case, Japan considers that a State which is responsible for search activity would desire information, such as the available facilities and available times etc. of other States which are willing to participate in the search activity, and that the States with the intention to cooperate in the search activity also would want to have information, such as what resources are expected to be provided.

2.2   Using the Internet appears to be an effective means to share information even for international SAR activities. It would enable States to have the same information at the same time, and as a result of that, it may allow search activity to be conducted more rapidly and reduces the time required for communications.

2.3   Discussion about the using the Internet by the APSAR/TF is expected. When positive comments are obtained, it could be included in the draft regional "Search and Rescue Plan".
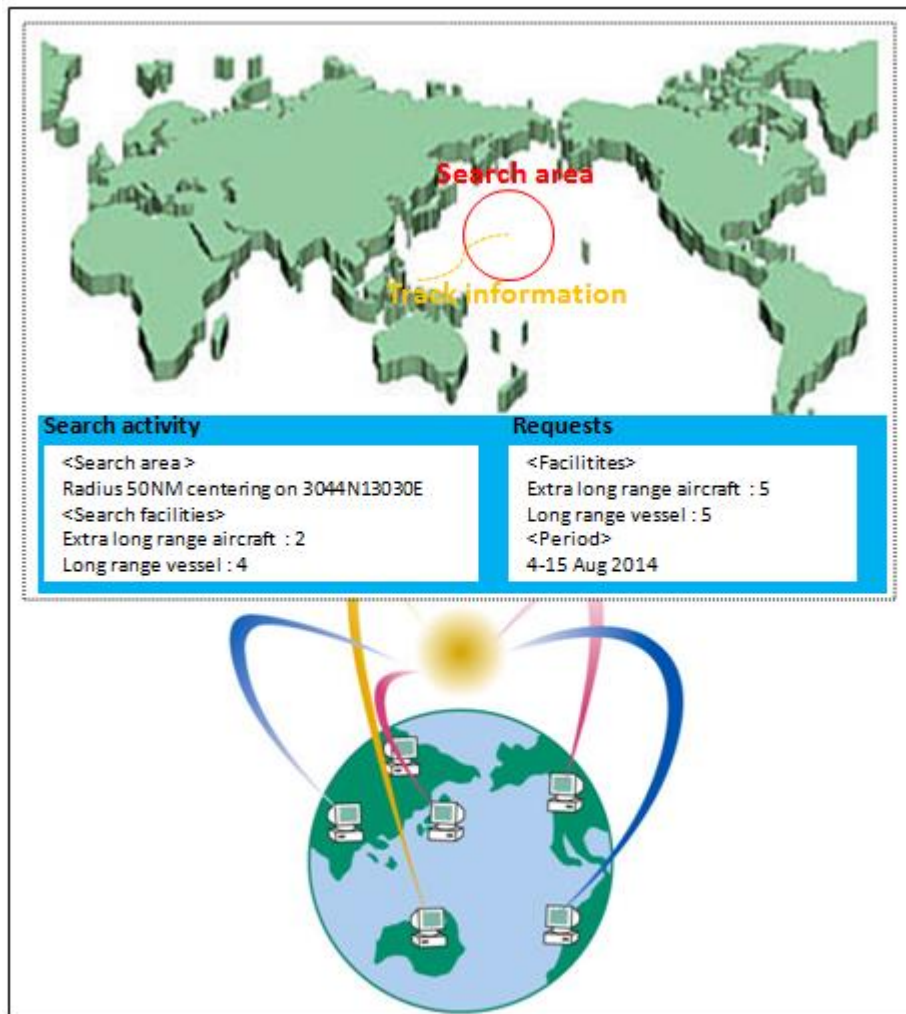.

Figure 3: SAR Activity Sharing of Information Using the Internet
(Image)

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) note the information contained in this paper;

b) recommend that the next APSAR/TF consider including the sharing of information using Internet technology for international SAR activity within the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan; and

c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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