

The 22nd Meeting of The ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-Group of APANPIRG
Agenda Item 5: provision of ATM/AIS/SAR in the Asia/Pacific Region, including
associated CNS matters

Indonesia's Comment on Australia's Paper:
IMPROVING SAR CAPABILITY IN THE ASIA/PACIFIC REGION

1. As mandated by IMO and ICAO Convention, the contracting states must ensure the existence of proper SAR services in its respective area of responsibility, including setting up international/regional cooperation on SAR arrangement.
2. International SAR Forum has been convened successfully by Indonesia National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) on 19-20 July 2011. The forum was attended by 143 participants representing search and rescue related authorities from 20 countries and 7 organizations in Asia-Pacific region, including representatives from 7 ASEAN member countries, i.e. Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The forum provided a platform for dialogues and experience sharing among concerned agencies on SAR related issues within Asia Pacific countries. At that forum, 2 (two) representatives from ASEAN Secretariat were also present as expert speakers to deliver presentation about understanding the importance of ASEAN cooperation on SAR.
3. The international SAR Forum has come up with some recommendations, regarding regional cooperation SAR, among others are : :
 - a. ASEAN can consider reviewing the 1972 Agreement for The Facilitation of Search for Aircraft Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Aircraft Accidents and the 1975 Agreement for the Facilitation of Search of Ships in Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Ship Accidents.
 - b. ASEAN can consider developing regional capability on SAR operations by building on the existing mechanism and the establishment of a regular forum for SAR cooperation.
4. Following up such recommendations, Indonesia has been seeking the possibility to establish SAR cooperation on ASEAN level. Through several meetings such as *Air Transport Working Group (ATWG)* and *Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG)* Indonesia has proposed the idea of establishment of ASEAN SAR forum as a platform of coordination and cooperation by SAR authorities in ASEAN countries (Terms Of Reference of ASEAN SAR Forum is as attached). The proposal was then brought up to the 23rd Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) in Bandung, Indonesia, 22-24 May 2012, which has agreed to convene

a meeting of experts of Member States' national SAR agencies to discuss the way forward of reviewing the SAR agreements and the establishment of ASEAN SAR Forum.

5. In view of that, Indonesia strongly supports and very much welcome Australia's initiative to establish an Asia/Pacific Regional SAR working group (APSAR/WG) which reports to the ATM/AIS/SAR/SG