

Agenda Item

Indonesia's Information Paper
The 23rd ASEAN Maritime
Transport Working Group
Myanmar,

ASEAN SAR FORUM

I. BACKGROUND

As mandated in the 1974 SOLAS Convention and the International Civil Aviation Convention, individual countries have a responsibility to ensure the availability of SAR services right in their respective territories. Besides the said convention above, convention SAR maritime in 1979 also agreed to the necessity of cooperation among countries in the field of SAR.

On ASEAN level, regional SAR cooperation is essential since ASEAN countries are located at strategic areas that makes the traffic flow very hectic and therefore increase the risk of transport accidents. Accident is a trans-boundary problem so that it requires collaborative efforts to perform a quick, reliable and accurate SAR services.

SAR Cooperation in ASEAN has been established through 2 (two) agreements:

- a. The Agreement for the Facilitation of Search of ship in Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Ship Accidents on 15 May 1975 has been signed by Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Lao PDR;
- b. The Agreement for the Facilitation of Search for Aircraft in Distress and Rescue of Survivors of Aircraft Accidents on 14 April 1972 has been signed by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

On 19-20 July 2011 in Bali, Indonesia, an International SAR Forum has been convened successfully by Indonesia National Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas). 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.

One of the recommendations of the forum is the possibility of establishment of a regular forum for SAR cooperation.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the establishment of ASEAN SAR Forum are as follows:

- a. As a platform of coordination between SAR-related institutions in ASEAN countries to enhance cooperation in order to achieve the efficient SAR operations, through:
 - 1) Establishment of a common approach
 - 2) Simplification of clearance procedures for joint operation
 - 3) Formulation of a technical cooperation agreement
- b. Agreed to the establishment of cooperation through regular meetings of the forum once a year to strengthen cooperation, exchange information and experience.
- c. As the forum to discuss and agree the implementation of concrete Regional SAR cooperation such as:
 - 1) Education and training for all ASEAN SAR personnel;
 - 2) To conduct joint exercise regularly based on incident simulations;
 - 3) Undertaking workshops and seminars on capacity building;

III. PARTICIPANTS

The forum will be attended by official representatives of the authorized institution in the field of maritime and aviation SAR from ASEAN countries.

IV. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

The forum will address issues on .

1. Discussion on the basic element of search and rescue for example; the cornerstone of law authorities and infrastructure, communication facilities and competent resources in coordinating and operational functions;
 - a. Determine SAR responsible area;
 - b. The role and empowerment of SAR units in SAR organization
 - c. Determine the equipment and supplies in the SAR operation and to optimize SAR facilities when disaster happened
2. SAR System in ASEAN countries, including coordination mechanism.

3. Cooperation Procedures between member states in the field of SAR including:

Cross-border Cooperation, harmonization of standards, the management of the State of danger, rescue operations are safe and efficient operating procedures, implementation of the National SAR optimally, sending information effectively, and the simplification of the procedure.

V. FUNDING

The member states will bear the cost of hosting and organizing the forum alternately each year.

VI. CLOSING

By conducting ASEAN SAR Forum, it is hoped that the responsible institution in the field of Maritime and Aviation SAR in ASEAN member states will be able to meet and exchange information to strengthen SAR cooperation in ASEAN Region.

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