

Meeting Overview

More than **157** participants from over **57** countries and organisations working on urban search and rescue (USAR) gathered for the annual International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Team Leaders Meeting in Tokyo, Japan from 7 to 9 September 2016 (**Annex A**).

This meeting was hosted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and co-organised by Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as the INSARAG Secretariat located within the Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS) in the Emergency Services Branch (ESB) of OCHA Geneva.

Summary of Presentations and Discussions

Official Opening - Mr. Minoru Masujima, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan, welcomed the participants for the Team Leaders meeting. He introduced that Japan was one of the most disaster-prone countries, and hosted the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction three times, in 1994, 2005 and 2015 with a strong willingness to contribute to disaster risk reduction in the world. He also reiterated the Japan's contribution to the INSARAG activities, and recently, it was agreed that Japan would take the role of the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Chair 2018.

Mr. Winston Chang, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA-FCSS, welcomed all the participants and thanked Japan, especially the JICA colleagues, for hosting the Team Leaders meeting and their hard work for making the meeting a successful one. He conveyed apologies from Mr. Jesper Lund, the Chief of OCHA-FCSS, for his absence due to conflicting schedules and sends his best wishes to the meeting. He further reiterated the Japan's continuous support to the INSARAG activities such as hosting the first INSARAG Global meeting in Kobe in 2010 and recognised the Working Group members for their contributions and representing the voice of the team leaders in the regional and steering group meetings. He encouraged productive conversations for a fruitful discussion. Mr. Chang facilitated the introduction of all the participants, and the agenda for the Team Leaders meeting was adopted (**Annex B**).

1. INSARAG in 2015-16 - Mr. Chang, OCHA-FCSS and the INSARAG Secretariat, introduced a series of updates about INSARAG events since the last Team Leaders Meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in October 2015. The INSARAG community responded to the earthquake in Ecuador in April and Italy in August 2016 (including the information exchange through the Virtual OSOCC), and the lessons will be uploaded at the INSARAG website. In 2016, the INSARAG will organise 2 IECs, 8 IERs, 3 Regional Exercises and 2 USAR Capacity Assessment Missions, and contributed to a side-event in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Turkey in May in collaboration with WHO EMTs. Mr. Alfonso Lozano Basanta from the European Union (EU) welcomed teams from the participating states of the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) to use the EU exercise MODEX platform for their IEC/Rs and based on INSARAG's requirements. The 2015 INSARAG Guidelines has been translated into several languages, and is available at the INSARAG website or mobile phone applications. The Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE) package, which was used and reviewed at the Exercises in Turkey and Indonesia, is available at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B97MT6Gv8rSzLUInMDhNMThIYzQ>

He further highlighted the increasing number of the IERs, and reported that the global and regional chairs have supported greater ownership from teams to manage their own IERs from 1 January 2017. He introduced the revised INSARAG Strategy 2017-2020, incorporating elements from the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS). The strategy will be discussed at the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting in Geneva in 6-7 February 2017 (as part of Humanitarian Partnership Network Week).

2. Update from Working Groups Chairs- Work done

i. Guidelines Review Group (GRG) -Mr. David Sochor from Switzerland, on behalf of Ambassador Manuel Bessler, the Chair of the Guidelines Review Group (GRG) and the INSARAG Global Chair, introduced the activities of the "transitional" GRG 2015-2018. Discussions are ongoing regarding the implementation of the Guidelines 2015. This may include topics such as Light Teams, National Accreditation System, National Capacity Building, Beyond the Rubble, USAR Coordination Cell (UCC) Concept and KoBo into the Guidelines 2020. The GRG is also reviewing the handover documents for the 2018 GRG team. The point of contact for feedback for the GRG is Winston Chang (OCHA-FCSS), Sebastian Mocarquer (Chile; Americas region), Young Ern Ling (Singapore; Asia-Pacific region) and Peter Wolff (Germany; Africa, Middle-East, Europe region).

ii. Light Teams Working Group (LTWG) -Mr. Arjan Stam, from the Netherlands and the Chair of the Light Team Working Group (LTWG), updated the ongoing discussions among the LTWG. The LTWG is composed of the members from all the 3 regions, and had the first meeting in Geneva in June. The focus of discussion is on Light

teams for international deployment, which has the 5 components of Management, Search, Rescue, Medical and Logistics with the capability to contribute to coordination function, and thus, specialized light team (e.g. search dog specialized team) is out of LTWG's mandate. Further discussion will be held in the break-out session, and LTWG will welcomed participant's feedback.

iii. Medical Working Group (MWG) - Dr. Anthony Macintyre, from the United States and the Chair of the Medical Working Group (MWG), updated their activities such as completion of the first responder training package in collaboration with IFRC, and collaboration with WHO on alignment of USAR medicines and Emergency Medical teams (EMTs). MWG drafted a concept paper for the alignment of USAR medicine and EMTs and will propose their recommendations in the ISG 2017. Recommendations from MWG included the recommendation to use IEC/R for the 'proxy' classification of USAR Medical component.

iv. Training Working Group- Mr. Dewey Perks, from the United States and Chair of the Training Working Group (TWG), updated the activities of the TWG. The TWG members met 5 times in 2016 and have been working finalising the development of the UCC training course. Participation on the UCC course is by invitation only, and requires nomination by the INSARAG Policy Focal Points, and target audience is limited to team leaders, operations/plans managers, from the IEC-classified teams.

All INSARAG Working Group meeting summaries and products are available in <http://insarag.org>

- 1. KoBo updates** - Mr. Peter Wolff from THW Germany, provided an update on the trial results from KoBo Toolbox in recent INSARAG earthquake exercises. KoBo is available on PC, Tablet, Smartphones and Android Apps, and he reiterated the advantages of using KoBo in the USAR coordination such as easier and faster data collection and analysis. The link to KoBo Toolbox will be added in the Virtual OSOCC discussions when responding to disasters, and the data collected by KoBo will be available at Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX). KoBo will continue to be tested and practised at the INSARAG Exercises and UCC courses. INSARAG teams are strongly encouraged to test the tool in trainings and exercises.
- 2. Break-out discussions** - Mr. John Cawcutt from Australia, moderated the break out discussion topics and facilitators. The four break out discussions were organised as listed below. All the participants were divided into 4 groups, and the groups rotated covering all the four topics:
 - Group 1: IER Revision
Facilitated by the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Group (Kevin Walsh (Australia) and Yosuke Okita (OCHA-FCSS))
 - Group 2: UCC Concept and Training
Facilitated by the TWG members
 - Group 3: Light teams
Facilitated by the LTWG members
 - Group 4: National Accreditation Process
 - o Facilitated by INSARAG Americas Group (Sebastian Mocarquer (Chile))

The summary of the discussions is in **Annex C**.

- 3. Introduction of Japanese Technology** - Yamaha introduced the Jet Rescue boat and Clealink introduced various state of the art technologies for rescue applications. Stalls were set up at the meeting for interested participants. Product pamphlets were available in the participants' kit.

Briefing for Day 2: Mr. John Cawcutt provided a briefing for 8 September, starting with the continuation of breakout discussions immediately at 0830hours. The meeting adjourned at 1715hours.

8 September - The break out discussions continued in the morning.

- 4. Lessons from Ecuador Earthquake** – The session was facilitated by Mr. Scott Schemerhorn from the US and representatives from Chile: Sebastian Mocarque, Bomberos de Chile, Mexico: Ricardo De la Cruz Musalem, General Director of Civil Protection, UME Spain IEC (Medium) Team: Major Ivan Herreras Hernandez, shared on their deployment lessons. A post exercise workshop was organised and a study commissioned on the Ecuador response. This document will be available from <http://insarag.org> in English soon and will be shared with the global community.
- 5. Technical “Hands-On” Break-out Sessions** - The four hands-on break-out sessions were organised as follows:
 - Group 1: New Developed Technology for USAR Responders
Facilitated by Matt Keogh (UK) and Alois Hirschmugl (EU)
 - Group 2: RDC Key Issues

- Facilitated by Tsukasa Katsube (Japan), Mareike Illing (Germany) and Yosuke Okita (OCHA-FCSS)
- Group 3: KoBo Scenario Exercise
- Facilitated by Peter Wolff (Germany), Rosli Shaari (Malaysia) and Winston Chang (OCHA-FCSS)
- Group 4: Beyond the Rubble
- Facilitated by David Sochor (Switzerland)

The summary from the sessions are available at **Annex C**.

6. Rescue Activities by Japanese Firefighters

Mr. Mitsuhiro Shinmura from the Japan Fire and Disaster Management Agency shared on their response capabilities in national emergencies. More details available from this link: <http://www.fdma.go.jp/en/>

9 September - Development of Chairman’s Summary and Closing Statements -

Mr. Chang (OCHA-FCSS) shared the draft Chairman’s Summary in plenary with all participants. FCSS will circulate the draft Chairman’s Summary for comments and the finalised summary will be available on the INSARAG website and VO in the first week of October.

- Recommendations to Working Groups :
TWG is requested to design and conduct the IEC/R TL and mentors training in 2017 and to facilitate the analysis of lessons learnt from past IEC/Rs – FCSS will share these with the TWG.

- Hosting of TL Meeting and UCC Course
 - a. Turkey proposes to host the TL meeting in 2017 or 2018. And the UCC course for 2017 –second course for AEME;
 - b. Romania offered to host the TL meeting in 2018 or 2020;
 - c. Indonesia offered to host the TL meeting in 2017;
 - d. UK SARAID offers training facilities for UCC course in 2017.
- The European Union shared the calendar of exercises with scenario for USAR teams and EMTs in the current cycle of MODEX as follows and encourages UCPM INSARAG classified teams engagement. Contact point: Juan-Alfonso at <LOZANO-BASANTA@ec.europa.eu>.

Italy	Denmark	Estonia	Sweden	Portugal
4-7 October 2016	8-11 December 2016	27 Feb-2 Mar 2017	24-27 April 2017	12-15 June 2017
Algeria USAR	Belarus USAR	tbc	tbc	tbc
Belgium MUSAR	France HUSAR	tbc	tbc	tbc
NL HUSAR	UK HUSAR (UK ISAR)	tbc	tbc	tbc
Luxembourg TAST	-/-	tbc	tbc	tbc

- The Working Group Chairs and Team Leaders will be consulted 3 months prior for suitable topics for the next TL meeting agenda once this is confirmed.

Closing Remarks - Mr. Kenichi Tomiyoshi, Vice-President, JICA, congratulated the participants for the fruitful meetings in the last three days. He emphasised the importance of national capacity building and better coordination of USAR activities to minimise the damage caused by natural disasters and strengthening of the network. He expressed his sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone for participating and for their contributions in the successful meeting.

ANNEXES:

- Annex A: Participants List
- Annex B: Meeting Agenda
- Annex C: Summary of Breakout Discussions