
Proposed enhancement to the INSARAG External Reclassification (IER) Framework



SCOPE

- Background
- Aim
- Key Considerations
- Current IER Framework & Challenges Faced
- Proposed Enhancements
- Potential Benefits
- Road Map for Discussion



Background

- Obligation for all classified teams to commit in supporting the sustainability of the IEC/R process
- At the INSARAG IEC Workshop 2011 (Singapore), the Secretariat highlighted the challenges of the existing classification system viz:
 - a) Shortage of experienced classifiers to meet the demand for IEC/R
 - b) Unbalanced provision of classifiers from certified teams
 - c) Donor fatigue



Background

- Chairman's Summary recorded during the INSARAG Steering Group Meeting in early 2013 highlighted the need for review of the IER viz :

“Singapore welcomes the review of the INSARAG External Reclassification (IER) process taking note of the heavy financial burden on countries sending classifiers and for countries preparing for a resource intensive exercise. Singapore suggested that the team's commitment and engagement to INSARAG and their response to international disasters can be counted in this review. Singapore as Chair of the INSARAG Asia-Pacific region, requested to participate in this review.”



Aim of This Proposal

- Highlight the key requirements of the current IER processes
- Propose enhancements to the IER processes



Key Considerations

- Continued compliance to the INSARAG Guidelines in promoting Preparedness, Capacity Building and Participation in INSARAG Activities;
- Sustainability of the IER processes; and
- Team to be re-certified is not new



Current IER Framework

- Pre-Screening by the INSARAG Secretariat 12-months before reclassification to establish if team has fulfilled obligations expected on an INSARAG classified team since its last classification
- * *Pre-Screening Considerations whether the team*
 - has deployed to any USAR emergencies since it was last classified
 - has attended any major USAR exercises
 - has deployed in the configuration in which it was classified
 - regularly attended INSARAG activities such as the Regional INSARAG Meetings, Annual USAR Team Leaders Meeting, Participation in INSARAG Working Groups
 - provided IEC/R classifiers
 - has undertaken any INSARAG related capacity building activity or mentorship of another USAR team undergoing IEC/R



Current IER Framework

- **Selection of Classifiers**
 - appointment of lead classifier 12 months prior to reclassification
 - identify team members based on specific requirements of the IER exercise
- **Application Processes**
 - submission of a comprehensive POE
 - submission of self assessment IER checklist
 - Proposed conduct of a scenario based FieldEx involving a continuous tactical USAR operations that lasts up to 36 hours
- **Engagement of Mentor / Mentoring Team**
 - bilateral USAR Team support, and/or
 - professional consultant



Challenges Faced

- Subjectivity of the Pre-Screening Process
- Availability of Classifiers
- Cost involved
(especially for the conduct of the scenario based FieldEx and engaging the mentor/mentoring team)



Sustainability

IEC/R Timeline (2014)

Date	25-27 March	25-27 March	7-12 April	10-12 May	26-30 May	26 June - 6 July
Country	France	France	Poland	Iceland	Romania	Ukraine
Team Name	UISSC 1	UISSC 7	USAR Poland	ICE-SAR	RO-USAR	Mobile Rescue Team
Event	IEC Heavy	IEC Heavy	IER Heavy	IER Medium	IEC Medium	IEC Heavy

Date	August	11-14 September	27-30 October	27-30 October	November	December
Country	China	UK	Switzerland	Morocco	Qatar	Norway
Team Name	CISAR	UK ISAR	Swiss Rescue	USAR	QSART	NORSAR
Event	IER Heavy	IER Heavy	IER Heavy	IEC Heavy	IEC Heavy	IER Heavy



Costs

- Expensive to prepare and run the present framework
- It costs around \$200, 000 (excluding costs of personnel involved) to undertake this exercise
- Money could be better used to enhance the overall emergency preparedness of the country



Proposed Enhancements

Evaluation Matrix

1. Checklist to evaluate the USAR team's performance based on
 - *deployment , preparedness and capacity building activities*
 - *participation in INSARAG activities*
 - *award points for various levels / frequency of participation*
- **Stress the importance of annual exercise**
- **Need to re-look whether the field deployment exercise is still valid, if yes whether must it be 36-hour**

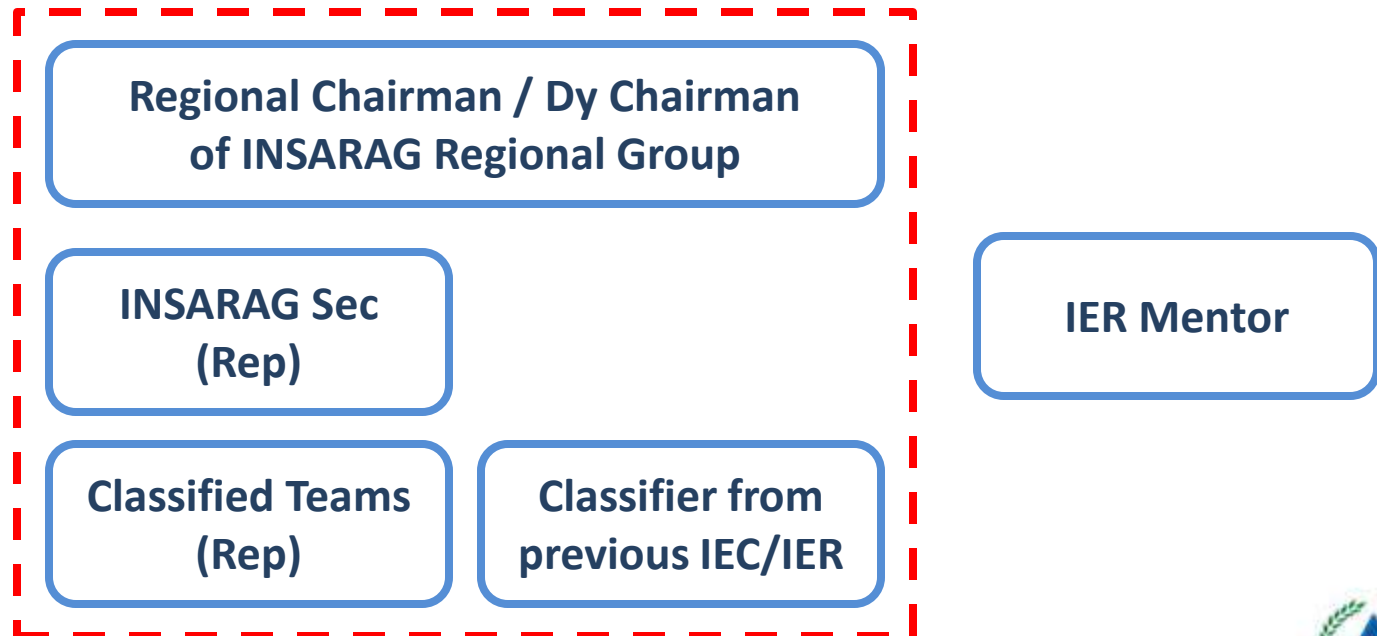
USAR Team Pre-IER Screening Checklist

Assessment Criteria	Weightage	Points	Frequency	Raw Score [#]	Weighted Score [@]
DEPLOYMENT	40%	40 pts / deployment			
		10 pts / best practice			
PREPAREDNESS	20%	5 pts / annual exercise conducted			
		10 pts / participation in Regional or UN Simulation Exercise			
CAPACITY BUILDING	20%	10 pts / new initiative			
		10 pts / new development			
		10 pts / involvement in Regional Capacity Building & Disaster Management development			
PARTICIPATION IN INSARAG ACTIVITIES	20%	30 pts / Regional Chairmanship			
		10 pts / Classifier participation in a year			
		10 pts / Mentor participation in a year			
		10 pts / Involvement in INSARAG Working Group			
				Final Score	

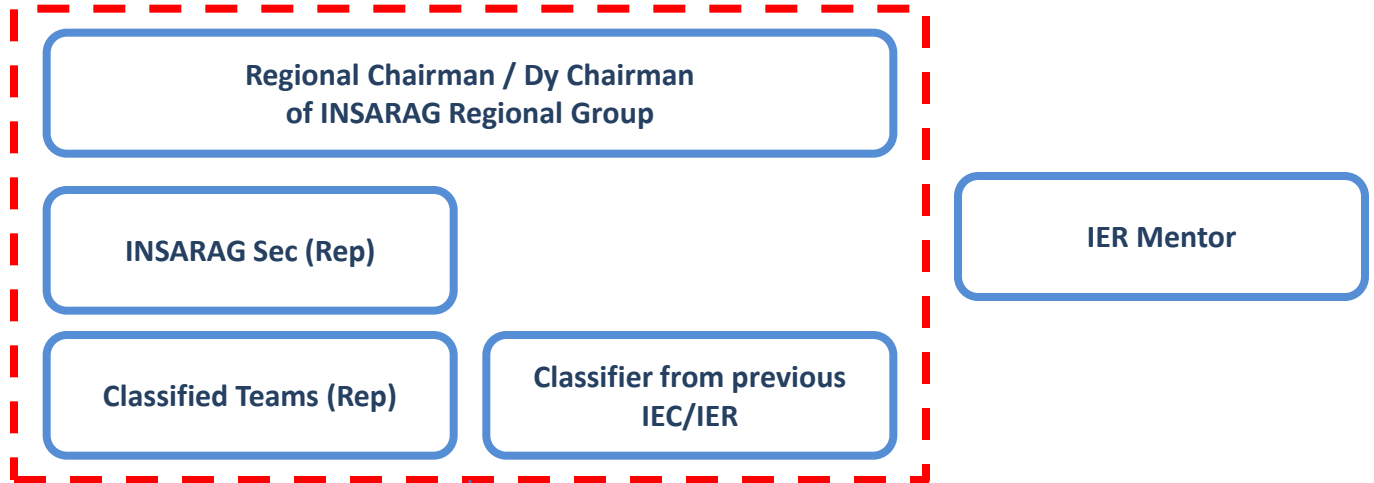
Proposed Enhancements

2. Creation of Panel of officials to review the USAR team's performance and assess IER application

PANEL of OFFICIALS



PANEL of OFFICIALS



Decision

Category A

Category B

- IER is conducted at the 5th year
- Validation of POE / Self Assessment Checklist

- IER is conducted at the 5th year
- Validation of POE / Self Assessment Checklist / Site Audit
- Full Deployment Exercise

Potential Benefits

- provide an objective, effective and sustainable classification system
- motivate countries and teams to fulfill the set criteria
- promote effective emergency preparedness, cooperation and response activities between classified teams
- encourage active participation of all countries in the region
- promote ownership within each regional group
- sustain future classifier requirements for IEC and IER



Potential Benefits

- create opportunities for member countries to discuss USAR related issues, regional cooperation and capacity building activities
- build ownership of the IER system beyond USAR readiness, capabilities and development issues
- impetus to develop a more cohesive emergency response system and mechanism to provide assistance to one another during a major disaster
- opportunity for the Regional Chairman to play a pivotal role in charting the path of their respective regions



Road Map



Comments From Team Leader & Asia Pacific Regional Meeting

Positive and constructive comments from the participants:

- the proposal has the potential to save resources
- necessary to review the need for an exercise
- prevent teams with the capability to run away with points by conducting too many exercises
- Factor the turnover rate of team members as many teams would have inducted new members over the years leading to the classification
- review carefully the members of the proposed Panel of Officials
- need a lot of work not to lose the good things from the system currently
- consideration for a longer perspective for IER next time i.e. 7-8 years instead of 5 years
- there will still need to be a system to show evidence of a USAR team's quality



Thank You

