



INSARAG USAR Team Leaders Meeting

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia,

20-22 March 2012

Chairman's Summary

Opening Remarks

The annual meeting of INSARAG USAR Team Leaders was held in Queensland, Australia from 20-22 March 2012. The Government of Australia hosted the meeting, which was organised by AUSAID, Queensland Fire and Rescue Services and the Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS-INSARAG Secretariat), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Geneva.

Opening remarks were made by Mr Alan March, Humanitarian Coordinator and Assistant Director General, Humanitarian Readiness and Preparedness Branch of AusAID; Mr Lee Johnson, Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services; and Mr Terje Skavdal, Chief of the FCSS, OCHA-Geneva.

Terje Skavdal, on behalf of OCHA and the participants expressed appreciation and thanked the Government of Australia for hosting this meeting.

Participants Introduction and Adoption of Agenda

A total of 78 participants, from 30 countries and organisations attended the meeting (*see Annex A*).

The meeting adopted the agenda unanimously (*see Annex B*).

Meeting Proceedings

Day 1 – 20 March 2012

Update from the INSARAG Secretariat

Terje Skavdal updated the meeting on the main events that have occurred within INSARAG since the 2011 Team Leaders meeting that was held in Costa Rica. Areas reported on include the outcomes from the INSARAG Steering Group and UNDAC Advisory Board

Meetings held in Geneva in February 2012, the 2011 meetings of three regional groups, other regional events and USAR responses to the New Zealand and Japan earthquakes.

He also appraised the meeting on the upcoming key events scheduled by INSARAG in 2012. Participants were informed on the outcomes of the INSARAG Governance Discussions and the completed UNDAC review. The participants are also strongly encouraged to contribute relevant articles and information in the **new INSARAG Homepage: <http://www.insarag.org>**.

Technical Lessons Learned from Japan and New Zealand Earthquakes of 2011

New Zealand, represented by Mr Jim Stuart-Black, provided the meeting with a brief on the key lessons from the international USAR response to the Christchurch Earthquake.

Japan, represented by Mr Yukio Yoshii from Japan MoFA, provided the meeting with an update of the Japan Tohoku Earthquake.

Australia, represented by Mr John Cawcutt from Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and Mr John Denny from New South Wales Fire Services (who responded to both disasters), shared lessons from a responder's perspective.

Both New Zealand and Japan, on behalf of their Governments and affected people from their respective countries, stated their appreciation and thanks to Governments and USAR teams who responded to their request for international assistance.

Details of the discussions are in Annex C.

Update from the INSARAG Training Working Groups:

- Mr Dewey Perks (Chair- Training Working Group) gave a presentation on behalf of the Training Working Group. He updated the meeting on the activities of the TWG over the last year and gave a look-forward of its planned activities into 2012-13.
- Mr Trevor Glass (Chair - Medical Working Group) gave a presentation on behalf of the Medical Working Group. He updated the meeting on the activities of the MWG over the last year and provided an overview of the Technical Guidance Notes that the MWG has been developing.
- Mr David Norlin (Chair – Operations Working Group) gave a presentation on behalf of the Operations Working Group. He informed the meeting on the products developed and an opportunity later in this meeting to share and discuss the products during the workshop segment.

The Chairman's Summaries of the 3 Working Groups that met in the margins of the Team Leaders meeting, including their work plans are available on the Virtual OSOCC.

INSARAG External Classification/Reclassification and Lessons Observed during the 2011 IECs/IERs

Terje Skavdal and Winston Chang of the INSARAG Secretariat updated the meeting on the IEC/R developments in 2011 and expressed appreciation for the support from IEC member countries for contributing suitable classifiers.

IEC Team Leaders and Classifiers, who attended the IEC/Rs from 2011, shared key lessons pertaining to the process.

(IEC/R 2011 Lessons Learned are captured in Annex D)

The IEC/R Handbook of 2012 was presented by Dewey Perks, Chair of the TWG, and was welcomed by the INSARAG Team Leaders for adoption in IEC/Rs of 2012. Minor amendments were made to the IEC checklist of 2012 in Annex A of the IEC/R Handbook. The IEC/R Handbook, as with the INSARAG Guidelines, remains a living document and will be updated as appropriate. ***The finalised version of the 2012 IEC Handbook will be available for download from the VOSOCC and <http://www.insarag.org> .***

An IEC/R Course for IEC Team Leaders and Mentors will be conducted in the UK from 11-15 June 2012. Selected IEC Team Leaders and Mentors will be invited to participate in this pilot training.

The UAE and China have offered to translate the IEC/R Handbook into Arabic and Chinese respectively.

The Day 1 meeting adjourned at 1730 hrs.

DAY 2 – 21 March 2012

INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting Workshops

The INSARAG Secretariat reconvened the meeting and explained the format of the workshop break-out sessions for the day; a total of 5 workshops were conducted during the morning and afternoon. The concept behind the workshops was to capture input from the participants and to formulate ideas and strategies for the way forward, across a number of issues affecting INSARAG and operational issues in international disaster response, information management and coordination.

The workshops covered the following areas:

Workshop 1: Assessment Search and Rescue Levels (led by the OWG)

Workshop 2: Information Management (led by the OWG)

Workshop 3: Coordination Structure (led by the OWG)

Workshop 4: INSARAG Governance Review led by the Secretariat (and assisted by the TWG)

Workshop 5: USAR Medical Operations (led by the MWG)

(The outcomes of the workshops are presented in Annex E)

The Day 2 Meeting adjourned at 1730. An official dinner hosted by Australia was organised in the evening for participants.

DAY 3 – 22 March 2012

Technical Visit to Queensland Fire and Rescue Services Training Academy

The meeting moved to a field visit to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Services Training Academy, where the participants had a first-hand appreciation of Australia's impressive national and international disaster response arrangements, capabilities and training facilities.

Reports from the Workshops

Facilitators from the 5 Workshops presented a summary of the key areas discussed and their recommendations from the previous day's workshops.

Following the feedback from this TL meeting and the subsequent amendments proposed in this presentation; that the Technical Note regarding the coordination structure, ASR levels and IM tools as presented by the OWG is endorsed and will become part of an implementation plan in the next work cycle.

The Outcomes and Recommendations from the 5 Workshops are presented in Annex E.

Technical Experience Sharing Workshops

Participants were given an opportunity to attend any 2 technical workshops from the following:

- USAR in Cold Conditions (by Finland)
- Practical Steps in Building USAR Capacity (by Sweden and Netherlands)
- Lessons Learned from Deploying Search and Rescue Dog Teams (International Rescue Dog Organisation-IRO)

The INSARAG Secretariat thanked all the presenters and summarised the challenges ahead for the INSARAG community and the work to be done.

The Outcomes and Recommendations from the “Lessons Learned from Deploying Search and Rescue Dog Teams” and “Practical Steps in Building USAR Capacity” are presented in Annex F. Further information regarding the other workshop can be requested from the respective facilitators of the workshop.

Next Meeting

China offered to host the INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting in 2013, in the SzeChuan Province, to coincide with the 5th Anniversary of the SzeChuan Earthquake of 2008. Chile also offered to host the 2013 Team Leaders Meeting.

The date and venue of the 2013 meeting will be confirmed and announced by the INSARAG Secretariat at the beginning of 2013.

Participants provided suggestions for possible agenda items for the 2013 meeting as follows:

- INSARAG Guidelines Revision for 2015 edition
- Approach to technical standards and operational procedures for INSARAG
- USAR Coordination methodologies in earthquake response
- Outcomes of the Governance Structure
- Innovation and Technological Advancements in USAR

The INSARAG Secretariat encouraged the participants to submit further suggestions to the 2013 agenda to the INSARAG Secretariat by 31 December 2012, for consideration.

Meeting Closure

The INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting 2012 adjourned on 22 March at 1730hrs.

ANNEXES

- 1 The list of participants (**Annex A**)
- 2 The Meeting Agenda (**Annex B**)
- 3 Technical Lessons Learned from Japan and New Zealand Earthquakes of 2011 (**Annex C**)
- 4 IEC/R 2011 Lessons Learned (**Annex D**)
- 5 Outcomes of the 5 Workshops (**Annex E**)
- 6 Technical Experience Sharing Workshops –Search Dog Workshop (**Annex F**)

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE ADVISORY GROUP
Annual Meeting of the INSARAG USAR Team Leaders
Australia, 20-22 March 2012**



AGENDA

19 March 2012 (Monday):		
Time	Event	Responsible
1500-1700	Preparatory Meeting for the Facilitators of the "IEC Classifiers Training of Trainers"	INSARAG Secretariat and facilitators
Whole day	Arrival of INSARAG USAR Team Leaders Meeting Participants and Registration	Host Country
1730-1900	Registration open for participants	Host Country
1900-2030	Welcome Reception (casual attire)	Host Country

20 March 2012 (Tuesday): USAR Team Leaders Meeting		
Time	Event	Responsible
0730-0830	Registration open for participants	Host Country
0830-0930	Official Opening 'Welcome to Country' ceremony Speakers: Alan March (AusAID) Lee Johnson (QFRS) Terje Skavdal (INSARAG)	Host Country
0930-0945	Participants Introduction and Adoption of the Agenda	INSARAG Secretariat
0945-1000	Group photo	Host Country
1000-1030	Coffee Break	
1030-1130	Update of INSARAG activities in 2011/2012 (including INSARAG Governance Review Process and UNDAC Review Results)	INSARAG Secretariat
1130-1230	Technical Lessons learned from Japan and New Zealand Earthquakes of 2011	INSARAG Secretariat and Facilitators
1230-1330	Lunch	
1330-1500	INSARAG Working Group Updates: - Training Working Group - Medical Working Group - Operations Working Group	INSARAG Working Groups
1500-1530	Coffee Break	

1530-1630	INSARAG External Classification and Reclassification Process and IEC/IER Handbook – Update and Discussion	INSARAG Secretariat and Facilitators
1630-1745	Lessons Observed During 2011 IECs/IERs	IEC/IER USAR Teams
	Dinner (own arrangements)	Participants

21 March 2012 (Wednesday): USAR Team Leaders Meeting		
Time	Event	Responsible
0800-0830	Registration desk open	Host Country
0830-0900	Introduction to the INSARAG Workshops	INSARAG Secretariat and facilitators
0900-1230	INSARAG Workshops (one hour rotating workshops-participants will participate to all the workshops) 1) Assessment, Search and Rescue Levels 2) Information Management 3) Coordination Structure Coffee break to be taken from 1000 to 1030	INSARAG Secretariat and facilitators
1230-1330	Lunch	
1330-1600	INSARAG Workshops (one hour rotating workshops-participants will participate to all the workshops) 1) INSARAG Governance Review 2) USAR Medical Operations Coffee break to be taken from 1430 to 1500	INSARAG Secretariat and facilitators
1715-2130	Official Dinner	Host Country

22 March 2012 (Thursday): USAR Team Leaders Meeting

Time	Event	Responsible
0730-1300	<p>Technical visit offered by the host country (further information will be provided)</p> <p>Morning tea is provided</p> <p>The visit starts with the development of key outcomes of the meeting: Development of Key Outcomes of the Meeting - Identification of proposed agenda items for INSARAG TL meeting 2013 - Identifying the venue for the INSARAG TL meeting of 2013 <i>(The Chairman Summary will be prepared by the Secretariat and sent to participants in the days following the meeting)</i></p>	<p>Host Country</p> <p>INSARAG Secretariat and Facilitators</p>
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1530	Report-out of Workshops	INSARAG Secretariat and facilitators
1530-1600	Coffee Break	
1600-1730	<p>Technical Experience Sharing Workshops (45 minutes workshops-participants may participate in any preferred workshops)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USAR in Cold Conditions - Practical Steps in Building USAR Capacity - Lessons Learned from Deploying Search and Rescue Dog Teams from your USAR team 	INSARAG Secretariat and Facilitators
1730-1745	Any Other Business	INSARAG Secretariat and Facilitators
1745	Closure of the Meeting	INSARAG Secretariat

Technical Lessons Learned from Christchurch, New Zealand and Tohoku, Japan Earthquake of 2011

Key Lessons from the Christchurch, New Zealand Earthquake of 2011:

- Managing political and social expectations – moving too quickly from life-saving to recovery would be detrimental. Morally teams should be sensitive to the complexities and feelings of the population.
- On site search markings need consistency and teams need greater familiarity on the chapter in the INSARAG Guidelines on Marking Systems.
- Accountability – Government of NZ required documentation to confirm that buildings were searched and that there were no further live victims to be found. Since most of the searches were made by national and IEC teams, there was no doubt as to the professional work undertaken in the search operations, and their recommendations were accepted.

Key Lessons from the Tohoku, Japan Earthquake of 2011:

- Using Liaison officers dispatched by affected country and their own embassy for teams – important to alleviate language challenges, and coordinate with local/national rescue teams.
-
- UNDAC team's flexibility in supporting the Japan MoFA was relevant and effective, and welcomed; UNDAC team is effective in information sharing between the affected country and assisting countries.
-
- Self-sufficiency definition needs clarification – affected country should clarify the contents of self-sufficiency for team.
-
- The affected county should clarify the contact point for acceptance of international assistance. In this regards, Virtual OSOCC is a good platform.

Australia, represented by John Cawcutt from Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, and John Denny from New South Wales Fire Services, who responded to both disasters shared lessons from responders' perspective.

Key Lessons from an international team perspective (Australia):

- International Response – very swift decision making process, immediate response, smooth deployment with support from the affected government authorities.
- On site Coordination was very good.
- Familiar with the NZ systems , familiarity Australia and New Zealand was a strong bonus, security , hygiene and logistical support went very well.
- Coordination briefings - well-coordinated. LO for OSOCC and Police DVI team.

- Team morale – needed to manage when teams were asked to undertake non-traditional USAR roles.
- Needed to listen with the heart to the affected victims, which can be equally important to the core lifesaving mission.
- Confirmed task force structure.
- Importance of partnerships.
- International response was crucial to boost morale of national teams, already fatigued from the sudden onset response.
- Beyond the rubble – a valuable concept - important tasks needed beyond life-saving phase to assist in the recovery of the community. Closure important for the affected community. Given the reduce ability for teams to operate autonomously that occurs during the active rescue phase of USAR operations, teams need to be willing to operate under a more regulated LEMA structure. This may include some delays in tasking from the LEMA.

This may lead to team morale issues which need to be managed via comprehensive briefings.

It is important when conducting beyond the rubble activities, that USAR teams are aware of the need for local communities to own the recovery process. Crucial to this is taking time to listen to the stories that victims have and need to relate. Such activities which can be equally important to the core lifesaving mission and assist with mental health recovery of affected individuals.

Also important are support tasks that teams can do in assisting in re-establishing local business, such as moving stock and retrieving official documents, such as medical records. There is the potential in the future to be able to quantify in monetary value such activities.

The beyond the rubble activities that were undertaken confirmed the existing USAR team structure as suitable to undertake this type of work.

Importance of partnerships and bilateral agreements were critical in preparing the environment for rapid deployment and integration into LEMA operating structures. International response was crucial to boost morale of national teams, already fatigued from the sudden onset response and reduced the burden on already overstretched systems in country.

Lessons from the IEC/R of 2011

- Tele-conferences facilitated by the Secretariat, with the IEC Team Leader, IEC Team and Mentor are useful and to continue for all IECs.
- IECs should encompass USAR activities through a continuous scenario that simulates an actual disaster and is not an individual demonstration of a particular requirement.
- IEC teams should not rehearse a particular exercise activity but are expected to conduct the decision making process prior to a particular operation, around a constantly evolving earthquake disaster scenario.
- IEC teams are expected to meet the minimum team composition as referenced in the INSARAG guidelines, and ensure that all functions are filled. Medium teams ranging from 34 to 37 persons have been observed as meeting the “bare minimum” as required of an INSARAG medium team, and are not encouraged.
- IEC teams preparing the Portfolio of Evidence (PoE), should strive to ensure relevant information is given to provide a robust explanation of the team. They are welcomed to request from the Secretariat examples of “good and comprehensive” PoEs (with the approval from said team) since this document will provide the IEC classifiers with an important first impression of the team.
- Teams undergoing the IEC should be prepared to expect sudden injects or additions to the on-going scenario from the IEC Team, with the objective of testing if the USAR team can overcome the challenges and adapt accordingly.
- If a team preparing to undergo an IEC not satisfactorily provide sufficient evidence on the relevant documentation as stated in the PoE, the IEC Team Leader, in consultation with the Mentor and Secretariat, may postpone the IEC.
- The role of the USAR team leader is not to do “everything” from overall command and control, to simulation of the “next exercise scenario”.
- Some teams have during the IEC included additional “side operational events” i.e. water rescue, CBRN, etc. Teams who do so will be reminded that the IEC team will not take into account the additional operations that fall out of the IEC context.
- The final decision if an USAR team is successful in their IEC or not, will fall solely with the IEC Team, with the INSARAG Secretariat fully supporting this decision.
- The key areas that the IEC team will be looking out for in a IER can be found in Annex J of the IEC/R Handbook.
- USAR teams preparing for an IEC/R are strongly advised to participate in on-going IECs as observers, to fully appreciate the requirements of an IEC/R.
- Joint IECs need careful planning and coordination, and may lead to unwanted pressure and competition between the teams.

Workshop 1

Outcomes of the Assessment, Search and Rescue Levels Workshop:

- Level 2 Sector Assessment; concern that tech search and/or dogs could cause delays
- New Wording proposed;
- *'The use of canine or technical search at this level is optional but it should be remembered that their use will potentially slow down the process. A decision should be made based on the situation regarding the speed of assessment needed and the resources available'*
- A suggestion was made that the building triage matrix needed reviewing
- OWG recommends - That this is added to a future WG TORs
- Any revision can be added in to the relevant 'tools' when decided
- This does not stop approval of what is currently in the Technical Note and IM tools
- Any new marking system includes victim marking
- Can we implement the proposed ASR Levels as published as soon as possible

Workshop 2

Outcomes of the Information Management Workshop:

IM Concept

- Step by step approach for implementation
- Direct critical information to LEMA through out the whole coordination structure

IM Tools

- Proposed identification code of forms needs to be improved to avoid confusion with levels of ASR
- Information processed during USAR operations must be stored and available for post mission review
- IM Platforms for processing data are to be studied
- Map Datums must be specified
- **VO modifications**
- Precaution must be taken not to rely exclusively in Information Technology, but maintain robust field oriented tools.
- Scope of information management needs to relate to other humanitarian efforts.
- Should there be a separate VO for USAR operations on the ground? Who should access it?

Workshop 3

Outcomes of the Coordination Structure Workshop:

- There were concerns about creating a system within a system (UCC)
- Must be compatible with the overall humanitarian response and coordination system (UNDAC, OSOCC)
- Concerns about limited resources from USAR teams
- Need to enhance USAR coordination capacity
- Need USAR coordination expertise
- Include these considerations in work package (Roles & Responsibilities)
- To revise the terminology and organogram



- The following concepts were well received:
- Principles
 - Span-of-control, Adaptability, Scalability Sector Coordination concept
- Sectorisation concept
- Sector and Worksite identification systems
- USAR teams identification system

- Proposal for approval by this Team Leaders meeting:-
- *That following the feedback from this TL meeting and the subsequent amendments proposed in this presentation; that the Technical Note regarding the coordination structure, ASR levels and IM tools as presented by the OWG is endorsed and will become part of an implementation plan in the next work cycle.*

Workshop 4

Outcome of the INSARAG Governance Review Workshop

Objectives

Facilitation of a workshop to discuss the role of the Team Leaders within the INSARAG Governance structure led by the Secretariat and supported by the Training Working Group.

- To further develop the Governance structure of INSARAG, following the outcomes of the “INSARAG Governance strategic discussion paper.”
- To consider how the outputs from the three Working Groups are utilised.
- To discuss what constitutes the INSARAG minimum standards.

Discussion Areas:

Q1. What is your expectation of the Secretariat within the governance structure?

Comments from Team Leaders:

- It is generally felt that the Secretariat has moved away from its core duties (secretariat role) and functions (decision making).
- The Secretariat should have the options to take decisions.

Q2. Do we need to separate INSARAG policy from technical guidance?

- What is the role of the TLs in the development, production and approval of INSARAG documents?
- Does the IEC/R handbook become the operational minimum standard?
- What is the relationship between a technical guidance note and examples of best practice?
- What is the change process for INSARAG operational standards?
- Guidelines should be focussed towards policy and supported by technical guidance notes.
- Documents purpose should be defined.

Comments from Team Leaders:

- It was felt that separating policy from technical guidance would be a beneficial to Team Leaders.
- Team Leaders should have an input on policy but final sign off should remain with the Steering Group.
- Technical Guidance notes should be a standard agenda item on the Team Leaders meeting.
- The annual Team Leader's meeting should focus on technical standards.
- Team Leaders should be the ultimate sign off for technical guidance documents.
- Information (TGN) should be sent out prior to the TL's meeting to gain understanding, and bring clarification points forward to the meeting, before sign-off.
- The author (s) of the TGNs should be available at the TL's meeting to answer any questions and provide clarification prior to sign-off of the document.
- The sign-off process needs to be formalised and structured within the guidelines.
- TLs agree to the dividing of policy and support the introduction of TGNs and other supporting documentation.
- TLs agree that the IEC handbook becomes the minimum operational standards.

Q3. What is the role of the TLs in the decision making process?

- Terms of Reference
- Organisational structure and membership
- Chairmanship and selection process
- Ex Officio membership of the Secretariat
- Frequency of meetings and locations
- Decision making processes

Comments from Team Leaders:

- Team Leader's meeting is the best platform for discussion and making decisions.
- TLs should have decision making mandate.

Q4. What is the composition of the Working Groups?

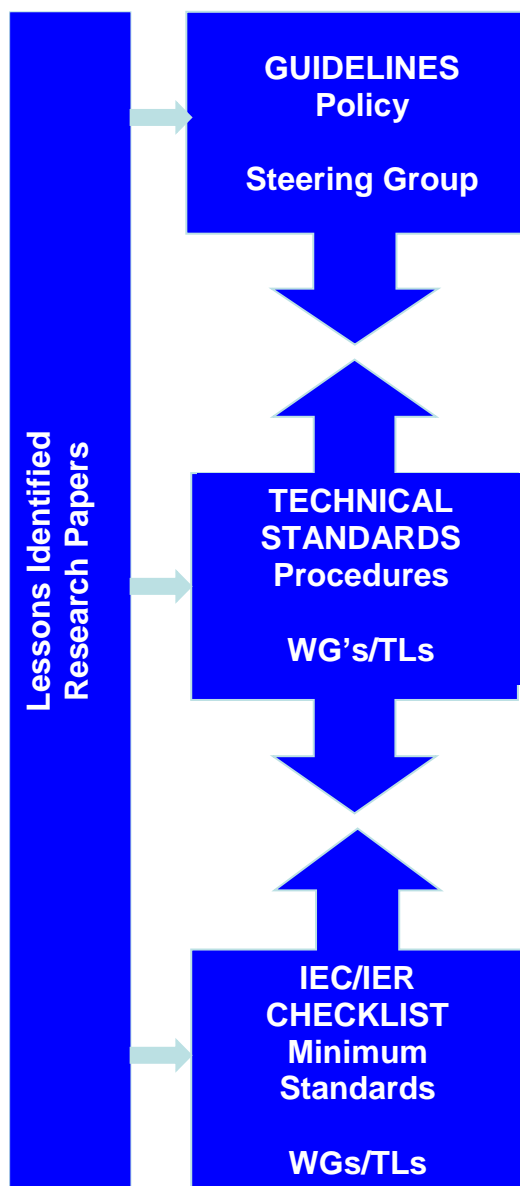
- TOR
- Representation of the groups (regionally, classified/not classified, Subject Matter Expertise)
- Term of office
- Selection criteria
- Chairmanship and how appointed
- Ex Officio membership of the Secretariat
- Frequency of meetings and locations

Comments from Team Leaders:

- It is more important that the working groups comprise those who have subject matter expertise rather than be more inclusive to members/countries.
- Consider having an observer programme attached to the Working Groups rather than expand the membership. This is seen as being beneficial to potential new members.
- Team Leaders should set priorities for the Working Groups.

- Working Groups should have a business plan established for their activities.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a Working Group for capacity building development.
- It is beneficial to have a turnover of staff within the Working Groups, however turnover of members should be planned to avoid losing the knowledge base from within the Working Groups.
- Consider smaller ad hoc working groups set up for task and finish projects.
- Explore other ways of exchanging information between the Team Leaders; it is too long to wait for a yearly meeting.
- Team Leaders need to work closer with the Working Groups.
- Good products are being delivered by the Working Groups.

Suggested Structure for documents (Jim Stuart Black)



Workshop 5
Outcome of the USAR Medical Operations Workshop

- The MWG provided an overview of the medical guidance notes produced to date and where they can be located on the web i.e. www.insarag.org.
- The MWG provided an overview of medically related issues that have been submitted through various INSARAG activities to the MWG for potential future attention.
- There was unanimous agreement by the USAR Team Leaders that the MWG should address the issues as highlighted below.
 1. Current evidenced-based Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) for USAR
 2. USAR response to disasters with the potential for radiation exposure
 3. USAR response to disasters with the potential for asbestos exposure
 4. USAR response to disasters in extreme environments (extreme heat; extreme cold; altitude)
 5. USAR response to earthquakes that result in tsunami's
 6. Medical issues with regard to ethical and medico-legal considerations when responding to a developed country versus a developing country
 7. Medical aspects of "Beyond the Rubble"
- It was recommended that the MWG prioritize its work schedule based on activities that have the most impact on the well-being of the USAR team e.g., addressing the medical aspects of USAR operations in extreme climates and altitude
- In addition to the issues highlighted above, the MWG was requested to address the following:
 1. Transportation of patients extricated from the rubble pile in the absence of local ambulance services (requested by USA)
 2. Expanding point 3 above to include other inorganic compounds e.g., carbon fiber (requested by QLD, Australia)
 3. Impacts of extreme climate on search dogs (requested by IRO)
 4. Combining points 2 & 3 above into one guidance note that addresses the medical aspects of HAZMAT in USAR operations (requested by Austria)
 5. Medical evacuation of ill or injured USAR personnel (requested by INSARAG Secretariat). This would need to be done in consultation with the OWG as it has an influence on USAR Coordination Cell (UCC) activities
 6. Nutrition and hydration during USAR operations (requested by NSW, Australia)
- It was recommended that in addition to the work that has already been completed by the MWG, the list of current activities it is working on should also be posted on the web so that USAR teams are aware of what is on the agenda and can therefore contribute to the development of guidance notes.
- Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) made the MWG aware of two research projects it is currently involved in i.e. the use of negative pressure respiratory protection in USAR operations and USAR operations in tropical environments. It has offered to share the results of these projects with the MWG and assist in the development of guidance notes pertaining to these two issues.

**Technical Experience Sharing Workshops
“Lessons Learned from Deploying Search and Rescue Dog Teams”
Workshop Discussions**

Key topics discussed:

Size of dog capacity

- Different understanding of adequate team size for rescue dog teams in medium/heavy teams as this is dependent on team structure/ availability of trained teams.
- The current position of 2 teams for medium and 4 teams for heavy seemed to be agreed, however it was highlighted that this was not sufficient to maintain an effective operational capability over a period of 7-10 days for individually USAR teams. However, it was agreed that quality search dog teams should be deployed and not quantity just to make up team numbers.

Capacity of dog handlers

- Dog handlers should be trained in other functions/roles in order to be able to assist within the USAR team other than as dog handler.
- In addition, the dog handlers should be trained to have a better understanding of USAR operations, as they are often not familiar/confident within the USAR working environment.

Duration of dog deployment

- This question has to be answered on an individual basis and is influenced by factors such as weather, conditions of the dog, and experience of the search dog team itself.

Optimizing efficiency of search dogs

- The efficiency of search dog operations could be increased by a better understanding of the dog team as a ‘search tool’ by USAR teams.
- Areas of improvement could be health and condition issues.
- Further integration of search dog teams into the USAR team training programmes.

Quality of search dogs from IEC certified teams

- It was felt that search dog capacity at IEC classifications were based at the lower end of the minimum standard.
- IEC checklist seems to be too general and ideally needs to be modified to reflect specific outcomes required by the search dog teams to demonstrate competency.
- The advisory notes are used to give input on areas that could be further developed.
- In the future it would be useful to look into the training systems in which to build on search dog team resources.

Immediate area search

- Disaster structures (e.g. Japan or storm scenarios) have shown that immediate area search is a topic that should be considered and discussed by the USAR teams for inclusion into USAR search dog team standards.

“Practical Steps in USAR Capacity Building” Workshop Discussions

The workshop was facilitated by David Norlin, Sweden, with support from Camille Michel, Netherlands, Anders Öberg, Sweden and Trevor Glass, Australia.

The workshop started with reflections of the outcome of the previous capacity development workshop at the Team Leader Meeting in Costa Rica 2011. These recommendations have been considered when the paper Guiding Principles for Capacity Development of Urban Search and Rescue was written during the Swedish Chairmanship of the Africa/Europe/Middle East Region in 2011. The paper is now available in English and Spanish at www.insarag.org.

An introduction to the three levels of Capacity Development was made, i.e. Enabling Environment, Organisational Level and Individual Level. Four guiding principles were presented;

1. Capitalize Existing National Capacities
2. Ensure Ownership
3. Equal Partnership
4. Technical and Functional USAR Capacities

After that, MSB Sweden shared experiences from capacity development projects in Pakistan and Tajikistan. The Pakistan project was a large program sized project aiming at establishing USAR teams in three different cities, whereas the Tajikistan project was at a smaller scale focusing on establishing three USAR groups of which two are for national response.

Netherland shared their experience of support to Indonesia in development of their USAR Capability. Indonesia already has a strong national organization for search and rescue which served as the framework wherein the Dutch support was delivered.

Due to lack of time the intended group work was cancelled and the workshop concluded after a discussion of the importance of acknowledging USAR as a highly competent rescue resource, residing at the top of emergency response capability within a country. Having a basic emergency response service in place in advance, serving as a foundation, before developing USAR is vital in order to establish and maintain a robust and sustainable USAR capability.

-END-