

## **Chairman's Summary – INSARAG Asia Pacific(AP) Regional Meeting 2017**

### ***Session 1 – Opening Statements, Adoption of Agenda, Report on Issues Arising***

On 9th of February 2017, the INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) meeting was opened by Ybhg. Dato' Abd. Rashid Harun, the Director General of Malaysia's National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA), Mr Zainal Azman the Deputy Director General of NADMA and INSARAG AP Chair, and Mr. Jesper Lund, Chief of Emergency Services Branch (ESB) and Field Coordination Support Section (FCSS) of OCHA, the INSARAG Secretariat.

Mr Zainal summarized the key achievements and on-going work of INSARAG in 2017, outlined the highlights for 2018, and reflected on issues to be discussed in the upcoming sessions, while Mr Jesper Lund appreciated the strong leadership and support from the Regional Chairs and Vice Chairs, and the Working Group members.

The meeting, was attended by 95 participants from 31 Member States and Organizations - Annex A including Regional Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Working Group Chairs and representatives, National policy and operations focal points, and representatives from AEME and Americas participating. Representatives from OCHA's regional office for the Asia Pacific(ROAP), Indonesia and Philippines, also attended. The meeting was co-facilitated by Malaysia and OCHA's FCSS in its capacity as the INSARAG Secretariat. The presentations, resource materials and products for the respective sessions are available in the INSARAG website: <http://insarag.org>. The meeting Agenda was adopted by participants - Annex B.

### ***Session 2- Review of AP in 2016 and Key Updates and Developments in INSARAG in 2016***

Mr. Zainal reflected on the activities and achievements undertaken by the AP group in 2016, and Mr Lund highlighted the key issues arising from the INSARAG Steering Group(ISG) meeting of 2017. Chairman Summaries of the ISG and other regional meetings are available in the INSARAG website.

### ***Session 3 – INSARAG AP Earthquake Response Exercise 2017, in Malaysia***

Mr Zainal provided an update on the just concluded exercise with 200 international participants from 45 countries and agencies, and another 200 local participants from 24 agencies participating. He described the benefits of the exercise in particular, testing and refining the national response plans in such major disasters as a very important step to strengthening disaster response readiness for Malaysia, and valuable lessons were learnt from the coordination arrangements with both national and international stakeholders. Details of the INSARAG Earthquake Response Exercise(ERE) package for use by national teams and the exercise are available at <http://insarag.org>. A video on the highlights of the exercise can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/pv73elHd1J4>.

### ***Session 4 – Working Groups Update***

The INSARAG Working Group Chairs and representatives provided an update on their ongoing work to make INSARAG fit for the future. The work of the INSARAG working groups are available for review in the INSARAG website.

### ***Session 5 – ASEAN ERAT/AHA Centre in the INSARAG SIMEX 2017 and Regional Response Arrangements***

The Executive Director of the ASEAN AHA Centre, Ms Adelina Kamal shared the regional response arrangements of ASEAN's AHA Centre and the ERAT team in first response during sudden onset disasters in the ASEAN region and beyond. She further stressed the important partnership engagements and participation with UNDAC and other stakeholders in the INSARAG ERE or SIMEX that just concluded earlier in the week to strengthen operational interoperability for effective coordination and response.

### ***Session 6 - Topics arising from ISG 2017: Discussions and Proposals from the AP Group***

Mr. Winston Chang, OCHA-FCSS, Office of the INSARAG Secretariat, and facilitators from the OCHA Regional and Country Offices and INSARAG working group members, facilitated the breakout discussions on the 5 main topics, and the outcomes of the discussions with participants opinions are summarized in ANNEX C.

### ***Session 7 – Discussions and Proposals on the AP Workplan 2018 from the AP Group***

Mr. Winston Chang, OCHA-FCSS and from the INSARAG Secretariat, recalled the INSARAG Strategy 2017-2020 approved at the ISG 2017 meeting and thanked member states for their feedback and the regional chairs for contributing to the finalized document, developed from the INSARAG global meeting of 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) side event outcomes. **The ISG having endorsed the Strategy 2017-2020**, requested each regional group to develop their regional work plan based on the Strategy. It is on this guidance from the ISG that The AP group discussed and developed the AP workplan for 2018.-in ANNEX D. The INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Group Strategic Plan 2016-2020 developed by the region will be updated through consultations by the Secretariat, led by the OCHA ROAP office and with countries in the region. The details of the plan is in ANNEX D1.

## Chairman's Summary – INSARAG Asia Pacific(AP) Regional Meeting 2017

### **Session 8 – Chairman's Summary of Key Decisions and Directions for 2017**

Mr Jesper Lund and AP Chair Malaysia, summarised the **key recommendations from the AP meeting 2017. This will be brought to the ISG in 2018 for consideration. The Opinions from Participants are (with further follow-up discussion to make it matured):**

1. The AP Troika notes the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNWP) in Geneva, – the AP Chair and members welcomes this and plan to participate in February 2018
2. In summary, the views arising from the AP group discussions are:
  - i. **Pre-Greening IERs** – recommends a separate checklist be developed, cost efficient, higher quality assurance beyond “minimum” standards expected;
  - ii. **Light Team** – A light classification process for INTERNATIONAL Light Teams to ensure quality assurance – details of which are proposed to be developed by the LT-QA WG and for regional consultations and at the Team Leaders meeting and ISG during HNPW;
  - iii. **National Accreditation**- Simplify the document and re-table at the next AP meeting. 5 AP member countries indicated their interest to adopt the NAP system and requested support in this regard – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines. Guidance and support will be needed to move this forward.
  - iv. **UCC - 01/01/2018 – READY from 01/07/2018, with a 6-month grace period from 01/01/2018-30/06/2018.** Training completed/ongoing for Australia, New Zealand, Singapore. With additional training opportunities, slots should be considered for other classified teams in the region;
  - v. **Kobo** – based on AP Regional Exercise further testing is required to ensure the platform is stable. A training package will be developed (by December 2017) and rolled out to ensure teams can take guidance and prepare their teams.
  - vi. **INSARAG Guidelines 2020**– Co-Chair concept proposed, invitations will be shared with the network and interested countries. Consultations with member states to ensure buy-in. Keep format, with core paper version/electronic operational manual.
3. **AP Workplan 2018** -On guidance from the INSARAG Strategy for 2017-2020, the AP group discussed the 2 Goals and the INSARAG Preparedness plan for the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific workplan (Annex D1), drafted in 2016, will be updated with inputs from member states, to ensure direct linkage between actions and the Regional Strategy; led by OCHA ROAP and be finalized by member states for discussion at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership week in Geneva 2018;

### **Session 9- Welcoming the AP Troika 2018 and Other Announcements**

The AP group thanked Malaysia as the outgoing chair for 2017, and welcomed the AP Troika for 2018 where Japan will be the AP Chair, and Australia as the incoming chair, and Malaysia as the outgoing chair. The representatives thanked the AP group for their support and commitment to support INSARAG's mandates and workplans and to achieve these in 2018 with the strong support and commitment from the AP group.

### **Closing Statements**

Mr. Lund, the Secretariat, reiterated his appreciation to Malaysia for the commitment and dedication of the NADMA and Facilitators and the FCSS team working hard behind the scenes months prior, in the back to back event of AP Earthquake Exercise and the Regional Meeting. He further thanked member states for their kind support to the INSARAG activities and active contribution to the discussions. Mr Zainal thanked the Secretariat for co-organizing the back-to-back AP Exercise and meetings 2017. He thanked China and United States, for their strong support to the events and commended the tireless staff and colleagues from NADMA Malaysia, and closed the meeting. The next Regional Meeting will be held in Japan in the second half of 2018.

### **ANNEXES:**

Annex A: Participants List

Annex B: Meeting Agenda

Annex C: Discussions and Proposals from the AP Group on ISG Topics Arising for regional discussions

Annex D: Discussions and Proposals on the AP Workplan 2018

Annex D1: INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Group Strategic Plan 2016-2020