

Teleconference of the Regional Chairs, Global Chair and Secretariat

SUMMARY

14 August 2013, 1530-1645(GMT+1)



Participants

Amb Toni Frisch – INSARAG Chairman

Regional Chairs:

Yong Meng Wah, Anwar Abdullah (Singapore – Asia Pacific)

Albrecht Broemme, Thomas Hönicke (Germany – Africa/Europe/Middle East)

Sigifredo Perez Fernandez (Costa Rica - Americas)

Terje Skavadal, Winston Chang, Christophe Schmachtel (INSARAG Secretariat)

INSARAG Chairman Ambassador Toni Frisch welcomed the participants and opened the teleconference of the INSARAG Regional Chairs.

1 INSARAG Guidelines Review Process Update

Terje Skavdal reported on the first meeting of the INSARAG Guidelines Review Group in Geneva 11-13 June 2013, and provided an update on the review process.

Guidelines Review Group Structure and Composition: Chairman: Amb. Manuel Bessler, Americas: Dewey Perks (USA), Sebastian Mocarquer (Chile), AEME: Peter Wolf (Germany), Marwan Mader Al-Sumi'at (Jordan), AP: Anwar Abdullah (Singapore), John Denny (Australia), 2 Team Leaders (tbc), Technical Consultations: VOSOCC, UNDAC-OSOCC, Technical Search, INSARAG Working Groups, IFRC

Proposed Structure: The reviewed Guidelines will be structured into 3 Volumes (Vol I: INSARAG Policy Guidelines, Vol II: INSARAG Operational Guidance, Vol III INSARAG Field Guide) and a library of Technical References

Milestones: - 17.12.2013: Announcement of two TL by the Secretariat to work on development of Volumes II and III
 - 12.02.2014: Presentation of first draft of Vol. I at ISG in Geneva, - 25.03.2014: Second formal meeting (3-days) of GRG, - 26.08.2014: Third formal meeting (3-days) of GRG in GVA **Final Version of Volumes I,II and III**,
 - 09.2014: Final presentation to TLM; potential endorsement of Volumes I,II and III, - 10.2014: Final presentation to RG Meetings, - 01.2015: Fourth formal GRG meeting (3-days) in GVA (Final Amendments), - 02.2015: Final presentation to ISG, - 08.10.2015: 2nd Global Meeting in UAE: **Official Release of Volumes I,II and III**
 The current INSARAG Guidelines remain valid until the revised version is endorsed by the ISG.

Action Point: The GRG led by Amb Manuel, Amb Toni and Terje and the GRG participants, will be at the INSARAG Team Leaders and Regional Group meetings to lead briefings and discussions.

2 Upcoming INSARAG Events and Activities

-Three annual Regional Meetings are coming up. Terje Skavadal and Toni Frisch encouraged the respective regional chairs to participate in all Regional Meetings for the purpose of networking and cross sharing of best practices. Details are in the INSARAG website (www.insarag.org). Regional Chairs will receive invitations to all regional meetings.

-Two Regional Earthquake Response Exercises are coming up. Peru 01.-04. October, Malaysia 04.-08. November.

-Following up on the original proposal made by Germany to have a face-to-face meeting between the Global Chair, the Regional Chairs and the Secretariat, Sigifredo Perez Fernandez offered to host this meeting in the margins of the Regional Group meeting in Costa Rica (3-5 December) covering food and accommodation costs for participants. Albrecht Broemme also proposed the Regional Meeting 19-20 Nov in Tunisia as an alternative for this meeting.

Action Point: Regional Chairs are strongly encouraged to inform their respective regions on these activities and to encourage participation. Regional Chairs will feedback to FCSS on their preference to

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have the face-to-face meeting of the INSARAG Regional Chairs to be held in either Tunisia or Costa Rica (stay for an additional ½ day), for planning by 31 August.

3 Capacity Building

Terje Skavdal briefed on the rising number of East European countries are applying for IEC while the first step is to ensure alignment of their national capacities to Chapter G of the INSARAG Guidelines. He stressed the need to establish dialog to better explain the importance of national capacity building as laid out in Chapter G of the INSARAG Guidelines. Discussions are ongoing with suitable IEC teams in the region and together plan to visit these countries and better advise them on the USAR capacity building process.

Action Point: FCSS will update all on the confirmed plans of this mission.

4 IEC/IER

Winston Chang briefed on the upcoming IEC/IER events: 2013 – 3 IERs, 2 IECs / 2014 – 6 IERs, 6 IECs. The IEC/R Team leaders have already been identified and will now be engaged with the teams in 2014. Classifier positions are also filling up and reminders have been sent to IEC teams that have yet to nominate classifiers. Details of the IEC/R are in <http://insarag.org>.

Regional chairs are strongly encouraged to use the regional meetings as platforms to stress the importance of IEC teams to actively participate in the IEC/R process through nomination of suitable classifiers and to plan and budget for these events.

Action Point: Regional chairs are strongly encouraged to convey this message in their regional meetings. FCSS will update all on the status of contributions at the regional meetings.

5 Regional Issues

Christophe Schmachtel informed about the process, initiated by the INSARAG Secretariat, to map the national USAR capacities in the Americas Region. An initiative that might serve as a model to share with the other regions.

Action Point: The Americas region will provide details on this initiative and discuss it in the next meeting of the regional chairs.

The FCSS calendar of activities was also shared with all. The meeting concluded at 1645(GMT+1) with words of thanks by the INSARAG Chair and Secretariat to all participants.

(Recorded by : Stefan Brunner, FCSS)