

## INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting

26-27 October 2022  
Chairman's Summary



**INSARAG** | 30  
Preparedness Response YEARS

### Overview

The 2022 INSARAG Asia-Pacific (AP) Regional Meeting was held face-to-face in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26-27 October 2022. With the support of the INSARAG Secretariat, the meeting was hosted by the Republic of Korea through the Korean National Fire Agency (KNFA), the INSARAG AP Regional Chair for 2022. A total of 57 participants from 12 countries, as well as from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), an inter-governmental organization in ASEAN region, and OCHA were in attendance. Additionally, this meeting has the special meaning of the first in-person INSARAG AP Regional Meeting after the COVID-19 pandemic. The list of participants is enclosed in [Annex A](#).

During the meeting, all participants had the opportunity to share the new developments and priority topics in AP region as well as global updates. Most importantly, the tailored Regional Workplan and Priorities for 2022 and 2023 were discussed based on the INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

Before the meeting was closed, all participants also celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of INSARAG's GA 57/150 of 16 December 2002 by reviewing not only INSARAG's history and achievements but also discussing the way forward. The meeting agenda is attached in [Annex B](#).

### Session 1: Opening Statements, Regional and Global Updates

Mr. Yil Lee, INSARAG AP Regional Chair, INSARAG Policy Focal Point of ROK, and Director General of 119 Response Bureau, KNFA, welcomed and thanked all participants to the meeting. He underscored the importance of mutual understanding and cross-border cooperation among member states in this age of facing various uncertain disasters. He also encouraged participants to share experiences, lessons learned, and suggestions for better responses and a better future.

By welcoming all the participants to the first physical AP Regional Meeting after the pandemic, Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, INSARAG Secretary, expressed his appreciation to the KNFA for hosting this event. He highlighted the importance of the INSARAG Network in the Asia-Pacific region and emphasized its partnership and collaboration in Emergency Response.

Ms. Haruka Ezaki, INSARAG AP regional Focal Point, presented the INSARAG Global Updates and she highlighted various regional priorities and global events in 2022. Director Mr. Hakguen Kim, Rescue Division of KNFA, shared the progress and activities on the Regional Workplan 2022.

Mr. Emi Frizer, Deputy Director of SAR Operation of BASARNAS from Indonesia gave a comprehensive presentation on Asia-Pacific regional Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE) that was held in Bali, Indonesia, from 5-9 September 2022. He emphasized that this joint exercise, which was attended by 200 participants from 19 countries and 6 international organizations, provided all the AP members with a good opportunity to be able

to identify each team's capacities and capabilities as well as review national and international coordination mechanisms.

## Session 2: INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026, Regional Workplan and Priorities for 2022

Mr. Ian Duncan, INSARAG Operational Focal Point of New Zealand, the incoming AP regional chair for 2023, stated on AP 2023 regional plans and informed the timing for the upcoming AP regional meeting, which was scheduled in Christchurch, in October 2023. He proceeded with the session by dividing all participants into four groups for breakout sessions to share ideas and make suggestions on the regional consultation on the 2023 Workplan. Four leading facilitators from the AP region guided each group for further discussion on the following topics. Each group had a chance to visit each topic for 30 minutes.

- Topic 1: Quality Standards
- Topic 2: Localization
- Topic 3: Regional Position on Flexible Response
- Topic 4: Partnership

## Session 3 & 4: Breakout Session Review

Mr. David Lewis from Australia facilitated Topic 1 supported by Mr. John Cawcutt: Quality Standards. Participants in this group exchanged views on the revised IER system and proposed the development of a new IER checklist to consider joint IERs and mentorship, share IEC/R post-mission reports with the INSARAG network, as well as developing an IEC/R handbook. Further on the discussion, the recommendations were made on wearing the INSARAG patch even in case of non-USAR deployment is acceptable. In addition, the INSARAG Asia-Pacific member states support the development of a new reclassification checklist as there may be more scope to pre-green or 'accept' for IER.

Mr. Joseph Kaleda from USAID, United States, assisted by Susana Quiambao from the Philippines Office for Civil Defense, led the Topic 2 : Localization (IRNAP, First Responders). The first topic of discussion covered was an update of the IRNAP activity from the three INSARAG regions and processes. This included TSG and TRG roster arrangements and training. The next topic was the First Responders Programme Version 2.0. The training curriculum was revised to have an approach of "no knowledge" as a starting point and reduce technical language along with adding more visuals to the training. Feedback from the groups was that this focus was well received and needed in many countries that currently do not have something similar already in place. One major point from the groups was to change the name of Version 2.0 to "Community First Responders Programme" as this is focused on community responders versus the professional responders, which was the main target of Version 1.0. The groups were also concerned that safety and risk assessment training for community responders should be included in the training. The third point that participants had discussions on was incorporating how to integrate persons with disabilities in localization response. All groups found this is a relevant topic but concluded this to be a very local incorporation into training and response. There was also discussion of how, as the community responders become better trained, more focus can be added to include persons with disabilities.

Topic 3: The Asia-Pacific Regional Position on Flexible Response was facilitated by Mr. Ian Duncan from New Zealand. Mr. Otty Rusinarsetyo, co-chair of Flexible Response sub-working group, also supported this session.

With an explanation of definitions between 'Beyond the Rubble' and 'Flexible Response', there was a discussion on whether INSARAG should contain additional capabilities for responding to different types of disasters other than Urban Search and Rescue or establish a separate advisory group dealing with those disasters. Asia-Pacific member countries still support Flexible Response, and it should be managed by INSARAG rather than establishing a separate advisory group. All member states agreed that current and recognized standards should be used for flexible response capabilities, with working groups developed to determine the details. Most member states were in favor of a staged implementation, on an opt-in basis, where a process of prioritization of additional capabilities should take place.

As the representative from one of the leading intergovernmental organizations in ASEAN region, Ms. Agustina Tnunay from AHA Centre guided Topic 4: Partnership. The key discussion of this topic was "How to enhance regional opportunities for effective cooperation". Participants agreed that mutual communication and information sharing are very important factors to strengthen and develop a partnership, leading to better collaboration and coordination among stakeholders. For better communication, it was recommended to establish a proper platform to share information.

### **Session 5: Summary of outcomes from Day 1**

Director Mr. Hakuen Kim, Rescue Division of KNFA, delivered the summary of outcomes from Day 1, followed by a statement from Ms. Haruka Ezaki on INSARAG's great catch-up during the two years of the pandemic, emphasizing that INSARAG had constantly communicated with Asia-Pacific members through a remote network such as a webinar.

### **Session 6: Regional Workplan and Calendar of Activities for 2023**

Mr. Ian Duncan, incoming Asia-Pacific regional chair, led the discussion on the Asia-Pacific regional Workplan and Calendar of activities for 2023. Regarding technical meetings and training of Asia-Pacific region, Indonesia's IEC and South Korea's IER are planning to be conducted in October 2023. IEC/R leadership course is scheduled for Jan 2023 in the Netherlands. Australia will host the next Asia-Pacific Regional ERE, the timing of which will be confirmed in due course. Mr. Duncan commented that if any country is planning to organize training courses which will be open to / require INSARAG member's support, they can approach him as regional chair.

### **Session 7: IRNAP Implementation in Asia-Pacific region**

Mr. Jae-Chul Sim from South Korea, Mr. Chew Keng Tok from Singapore, and Mr. Craig Monrad from New Zealand gave presentations on the implementation of IRNAP in Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Emi Frizer from Indonesia led the discussion as a moderator. Starting with the introduction of the Asia-Pacific INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) Working Group, its structure, its relationship with INSARAG National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG), and the progress of the IRNAP WG were shared with participants. Singapore was the first country to have successfully implemented IRNAP in the Asia-Pacific region, which was completed on 16 Oct 2022. Mr. Chew Keng Tok shared the lessons learned and recommendations from the process of IRNAP in Singapore. These include while adopting the IRNAP checklist as part of the PoE, PoE is written in a familiar format to Technical Support Group (TSG) and Technical Recognition Group (TRG) for a better comprehensive understanding of a national framework. Due to the access restrictions on national documents, printed documents were made available during the on-site visit for TSG and TRG by tagging and marking those documents with IRNAP checklist serial numbers. It is also recommended that Pre-Green and/or reduced checklists for IEC/R classified teams need to be considered. Mr. Monrad, as TSG lead of Singapore IRNAP, also emphasized the importance of proper documentation because the number of TRG is smaller than IEC/R classification team. He also commented that since the USAR framework and operational contexts vary in

different countries, it is important to focus on the process and interpretation rather than the wording of each IRNAP checklist component.

### Session 8: 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the INSARAG's GA 57/150

Moderated by Ms. Haruka Ezaki, INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Focal Point, GA 57/150 was reviewed, emphasizing effectiveness and cooperation among member states. The process of INSARAG evolution was also reflected, and another good opportunity was offered to all participants to identify the power of INSARAG network. Most participants agreed that the GA resolution is still valid and relevant to INSARAG. The outcome of this session will be utilized for the anniversary campaign taking place in December 2022.

### Session 9: Summary of Meeting Outcomes and Closing statements

The Meeting outcomes are:

1. Global and regional updates 2022 were shared with all participants coming from 12 countries and 1 organization.
2. AP network discussed the regional priorities in the topics of Quality Standards, Localization, Flexible Response, and Partnership
  - Quality Standards: standard Review of IER system: joint IERs, new checklists, POE submission (annual self-evaluation of field exercises), etc.
  - Localization: First Responders Training Ver.2.0: community responders training, consideration of safety, and disabled.
  - Flexible Response: Asia-Pacific position: support the concept and start with listing the deployable capacities. -> to report to the Flexible Response working group
  - Partnership: Information sharing, participating exercise, more collaborations
3. Regional Workplan 2023 was discussed and some of the timing of key activities are already shared. More information will be incorporated to the calendar by New Zealand: AP chair 2023
4. IRNAP implementation was discussed with the example of Singapore IRNAP taken place last week. Lesson Learned and Recommendation were shared. Further to discuss at both regional & global IRNAP working groups.
5. Reviewed the GA resolution 57/150 and made reflection of the process of INSARAG evolution and strengthening of the network. Reminded the power of INSARAG network.

In closing, the Troika made the following statements:

Air Marshal Henri Alfiandi from Indonesia, Outgoing Regional Chair, expressed his gratitude to Asia-Pacific member states, INSARAG Secretariat, and the host country, Republic of Korea through his pre-recorded video greetings. He also highlighted the importance of cooperation in the region to strengthen the partnership and national capabilities.

Mr. Yil Lee, 2022 Asia-Pacific Regional Chair, thanked all members of the Asia-Pacific Region and INSARAG Secretariat for their efforts to make the meeting a success. While expressing his appreciation for the Indonesian's great leadership in 2021, he gave his assurance that New Zealand will do a great job for the chairmanship in 2023.

As the INSARAG Secretary, Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa closed the 2022 INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting by thanking all present participants for their active inputs and the KNFA for the great hospitality during the meeting. He further expressed deep appreciation for the strong commitment of the INSARAG network and

encouraged member states to see in New Zealand next year.

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**Annexes:**

Annex A: The List of Participants

Annex B: Meeting Agenda