

SEVENTH PACIFIC REGIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE WORKSHOP

Auckland, New Zealand, 22–26 May 2017

Theme: SAR governance, coordination, response and prevention

OUTCOME

1. The Seventh Pacific Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) workshop was held in Auckland, New Zealand, and was jointly hosted and organised by the Government of New Zealand with the support of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Pacific Community (SPC).
2. The workshop was attended by representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America and Vanuatu.
3. The workshop was also attended by partners and observers which included, the Badan SAR Nasional (National Search and Rescue Agency Republic of Indonesia), Carnival Australia, CLS (Collecte Localisation Satellites) Australia, the International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF), Kordia, Maritime New Zealand, McMurdo, New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand SAR Secretariat, Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police Secretariat, and United States Coast Guard.
4. The welcome and opening remarks were delivered by the Director of Maritime New Zealand, followed by a key note address from the Deputy Director Transport of SPC, emphasising the challenges of Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs) in responding to maritime accidents and the necessity to work collaboratively to implement effective SAR services. The representative of IMO recalled the fundamental humanitarian obligation of assistance to be provided to any person in distress at sea, and the necessity to provide SAR services aligned with international standards. The SAR authorities of New Zealand welcomed the workshop, recalling the necessity to strengthen and enhance regional cooperation to improve SAR capabilities in the Pacific region and highlighting the single unified approach of SAR in New Zealand.

The workshop:

4. Expressed its deep gratitude to SPC and the government of New Zealand for the excellent arrangements made in hosting the workshop, and IMO for its continuous support in relation to SAR in the Pacific region.
5. Recognised that the maritime SAR technical arrangement for cooperation among PICTs that supports international life-saving in the Pacific Ocean (SAR TAfC) establishes a regional framework for SAR coordination, communication, cooperation and planning. The workshop also noted that it has been signed by nine countries and territories so far and applauded the signature by Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Solomon Islands.

6. Applauded Fiji as the fifth member of the Pacific Search and Rescue Steering Committee (PACSAR SC).

WORKSHOP OUTCOME

7. Recognised the vital role of all SAR partners including non-governmental organisations and private sector for the delivery of effective SAR services in the Pacific region.
8. Acknowledged the leadership role of the PACSAR SC in creating an enabling environment for regional collaboration and the delivery of effective SAR services in the region, and committed to maintain communication with the PACSAR SC secretariat.
9. Building on the 2015 roadmap of the Sixth Regional SAR Workshop, adopted the four pillars and measures of the PACSAR SC Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to measure progress in improving the SAR capacities and capabilities of PICTs.
10. Endorsed the PACSAR SC Strategic Plan 2017-2021, committed to promote the plan at the highest level of PICTs governments to ensure progress in its implementation by 30 June 2018, and agreed each PICT will identify and provide their specific needs to the PACSAR SC to facilitate a consistent regional technical cooperation response.
11. Committed to provide SAR data into the SPC Regional Data Repository.
12. Agreed to the drafting of a paper for submission to IMO subject to normal country approval process updating IMO on progress and seeking ongoing support for SAR technical assistance in the Pacific region for NCSR5.
13. Recognised and thanked IMO for its continuous engagement and commitment in SAR issues in the Pacific region, encourages for that to continue, and requested the international maritime community to further assist in responding to the specific challenges PICTs face in delivering effective SAR services.
14. Agreed to share and build an index of good SAR prevention practices.
15. Note the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Plan and the need to harmonise Aviation and Maritime SAR.
16. Recognises the importance to safe navigation in responding to SAR incidents, encourages PICTs to consider risk assessments in this area to ensure assets can operate safely in all areas if needed.