



INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 – Day 1

7-8 August 2025
Tokyo, Japan



1

Welcome and Official Opening

Opening Statements



Mr. ANDO Naoki

Senior Vice
President, Japan
International
Cooperation Agency



Mr. TAGUCHI Kazuho

Director Humanitarian
Assistance and
Emergency Relief
Division, International
Cooperation Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign
Affairs



**Mr. Sebastian
Rhodes Stampa**

INSARAG Secretary
and Chief Emergency
Response Section,
OCHA Geneva

Introduction of participants

Adoption of Agenda

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Time	Agenda
Day 1: Thursday 7 August 2025	
Session 1 09.00 - 09.45	Welcome and Official Opening Opening cultural event Opening of INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome statement<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. ANDO Naoki, Senior Vice President, <i>Japan International Cooperation Agency</i>• Mr. TAGUCHI Kazuho, <i>Director, Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</i>• Remarks by Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, <i>INSARAG Secretary</i> Introduction of participants Adoption of Agenda
09.45 - 10.15	Tea/Coffee Break
Session 2 10.15 - 11.00	Global and Regional 2025 Workplans and Updates Global Update: Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, <i>INSARAG Secretary</i> and Ms. Haruka Ezaki, <i>INSARAG Secretariat</i> Asia-Pacific Regional Update: <i>INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Chair</i>
11.00 - 11.10	Technical Break

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Session 3 11.10 - 12.40	<h2>Host Country Session - Capacity Building</h2> <p>Introduction of Session purpose and speakers By Ms. SAKAMAKI Eriko, <i>Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team, Japan International Cooperation Agency</i></p> <p>Keynote speech: Sharing Japan's Initiatives, Japan International Cooperation Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Prof. NISHIKAWA Satoru, <i>Senior Advisor on Disaster Reduction Strategy, Japan International Cooperation Agency</i>• Speaker: Ms. UEDA Natsumi / Ms. TANAKA Yuki, <i>Sentinel Asia Secretariat, Satellite Applications and Operations Center, Space Technology Directorate I Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency</i> <p>Panel session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing IRNAP Initiatives<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Mr. Yunqiang Li, <i>Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Emergency Management of China</i>• Sharing Efforts to Strengthen the Relief System in Disaster Affected countries<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Ms. Jennifer Noble, <i>A/g Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Preparedness and Response Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia</i>• Sharing Efforts to Strengthen the Relief System in Fiji<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Ms. Litiana Naidoleca Bainimarama, <i>Manager, Emergency Planning and Coordination Unit, National Disaster Risk Management Office, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management of Fiji</i>• Q&A and Conclusion
12.40 - 14.00	Lunch

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Session 4 14.00 - 15.45	<p>Asia-Pacific Regional Workplan 2026 Consultations (plenary briefing followed by breakout discussions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objective 1: Quality Standards<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitator: Mr. Craig Stolte, Superintendent, Queensland Fire Department, Disaster Assistance Response Team, Australia• Note taker: Mr. Safrizan bin Suhaini, Head of Logistics Section, Special Malaysia Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team, National Disaster Management Agency• Strategic Objective 2: Localization<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitator: Mr. Winston Chang, IRNAP Advisor, Ministry of Emergency Management of China• Note taker: Mr. Ken Cooper, Assistant National Commander, Operations Department, Fire and Emergency New Zealand• Strategic Objective 4: Partnerships<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitator: Mr. MINATO Yusuke, Senior Deputy Director, Afghanistan Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency• Note taker: Mr. Jeremy Stubbs, Chief Superintendent, Technical Capability Department, Fire and Rescue New South Wales <p>*Online breakout room will be facilitated by Mr. Wahyudi L. Putra, <i>Directorate of Operations, BASARNAS</i> and Ms. Haruka Ezaki, <i>INSARAG Secretariat</i>. The note will be taken by Ms. Apassara Suwanprasert, <i>INSARAG Secretariat</i></p> <p>Reference document: INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026</p> <p>**Breakout timetable: 1st round: 14.15 – 14.45, 2nd round: 14.45 – 15.15, 3rd round: 15.15 – 15.45</p>
15.45 - 16.15	Tea/Coffee Break

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Session 5 16.15 - 17.15	Plenary: Finalization of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workplan 2026 and Development of Asia-Pacific Regional Calendar 2026 and Onwards Reporting back of breakout discussions Long-term regional planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Chair – informal and running sheet• AP ERE Hosts• AP Training Plan
17.15 - 17:30	End of Day 1
18.30 - 20.30	Group Photo Official Dinner

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Day 2: Friday 8 August 2025	
Session 6 09.00 - 09.10	Recap of Day 1 and Agenda of Day 2
Session 7 09.10 - 10.10	Plenary: Governance Review Consultations Briefing on the ISG decisions and consultations Summarize the outcome of the consultations Reference document: INSARAG Governance Review Concept paper on Thematic Area 2, 3 and 7
10.10 - 10.40	Tea/Coffee Break

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Session 8 10.40 - 11.45	<h2>INSARAG Deployment in 2024/2025</h2> <p>Response Overview: Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, <i>INSARAG Secretary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Papua New Guinea Landslides, May 2024<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Mr. Craig Stolte, Superintendent, Queensland Fire Department, Disaster Assistance Response Team, Australia• Vanuatu Earthquake, December 2024<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Mr. Ken Cooper, <i>Assistant National Commander, Operations Department, Fire and Emergency New Zealand</i>• Myanmar Earthquake, March 2025<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speakers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Chew Keng Tok, <i>Director, Training Department, Singapore Civil Defence Force</i>• Mr. Li Li, <i>Director, International Rescue and Cooperation Department, National Earthquake Response Support Service, Ministry of Emergency Management of China (Online)</i> <p>Facilitated by Ms. Haruka Ezaki, <i>INSARAG Secretariat</i></p>
Session 9 11.45 - 12.30	<h2>INSARAG Guidelines Review</h2> <p>Mr. John Cawcutt, Guidelines Review Group Co-Chair</p>
12.30 - 14.00	Lunch

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Session 10 14.00 - 15.20	Asia-Pacific Regional Inputs to the Draft INSARAG Strategic Plan 2026-2030 (plenary briefing followed by breakout discussions) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout 1: Values and Operational Norms• Breakout 2: Quality Standards and Flexible Response• Breakout 3: Strengthening Localization and Bolstering Partnerships and Technological advancements <p>Reference document: Draft INSARAG Strategic Plan 2026-2023</p> <p>*Breakout timetable: 1st round: 14.08 - 14.32, 2nd round: 14.32 - 14.56, 3rd round: 14.56 - 15.20</p>
15.20 - 15.50	Tea/Coffee Break
Session 11 15.50 - 16.20	Plenary: Regional Asia-Pacific Strategic Plan Summary Discussion <p>Reporting back the breakout discussions</p>

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting 2025 - Agenda

Session 12 16.20 - 16.40	Member States Announcements and Presenting the New Troika 2026 Call for Incoming Chair 2026/Regional Chair 2027 Announcements by Member States Announcement of 2026 Troika
Session 13 16.40 - 17.20	Key Regional Meeting Outcomes and Closing Address Summary of the meeting outcomes Roadmap for the IGM 2026 Statement of outgoing chair Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. IIMURA Tsutomu, <i>Director General, Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team, Japan International Cooperation Agency</i>• Mr. IWATA Shinya, <i>INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Chair 2025</i>• Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, <i>INSARAG Secretary</i> Exchange of tokens

Tea/Coffee Break



The Meeting will resume at 10.15

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Global and Regional 2025 Workplans and Updates

Global and Regional 2025 Workplans and Updates

1

Humanitarian Reset

Working Groups Updates

ISG 2025 Summary and Update

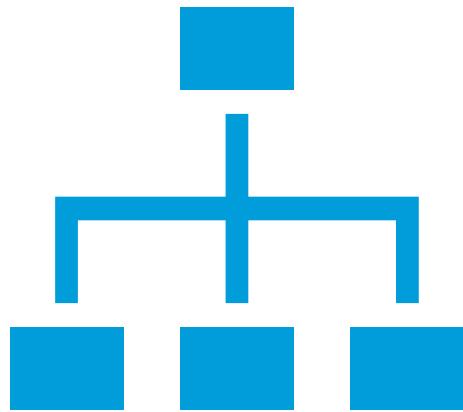
INSARAG Regional Updates
from AEME and Americas

2025 IEC/Rs

2.1

Humanitarian Reset

Humanitarian Reset



Restructuring



Travels



Budget

2.2

ISG 2025 Summary and Update

ISG 2025 Summary and Update

- The secretariat would once again like to thank everyone who participated in the INSARAG Steering Group meeting in Geneva in March.
- During this important meeting the ISG endorsed several items. Among others, an extension of the Search and Rescue in Flood Response Working Groups was endorsed, a new model of funding for the ICMS was endorsed in principle, and the Governance Review reached a conclusion on several areas of Annex I, and on all recommendations of Annex II.
- Three Thematic Areas of Annex 1 are still under process - Area 2: Decision-Making Mandate, Area 3: Accountability and Compliance and Area 7: Localization – that will be further discussed tomorrow.

20th Anniversary of the IEC/R Process

- 2025 is a very special year, as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the IEC/R Process. The Hungarian National Directorate General for Disaster Management has created an excellent publication, showcasing our classified teams, and the journey it takes to become classified.
- The publication was launched during the joint INSARAG and WHO EMT Event during the Humanitarian Network and Partnership Week in March, celebrating our joint efforts in Quality Assurance.
- The Publication is available on the [INSARAG Website](#).



2025 ISG Chairman's Summary

[Available at INSARAG.org](https://insarag.org)

ISG 2025 Chairman's Summary



The INSARAG Secretariat would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all participants of the 2025 INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting. Your active engagement, valuable insights, and continued commitment to strengthening international urban search and rescue (USAR) coordination have made this year's meeting a success.

The **ISG 2025 Chairman's Summary** is now available. This document captures the key discussions and decisions agreed upon during the meeting. The ISG 2025 Chairman's summary can also be found together with previous years Chairman's summaries [here](#).

Thank you once again for your contributions and continued support of the INSARAG network.

INSARAG Steering Group Meeting
Chairman's Summary
25 March 2025

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) held its annual INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) meeting on Tuesday 25 March 2025, at the CICG in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was conducted both in person and online, with the participation of Global, Regional, and Working Group (WG) Chairs, National Focal Points, and the INSARAG Secretariat. This event was part of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) 2025, which brought together almost 2000 participants during the face-to-face week.

The ISG Meeting was chaired by **Ambassador Dominik Stihart**, the INSARAG Global Chair and Deputy Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Head of the Humanitarian Aid Department and Head of the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. The ISG participants were greeted by Ambassador Stihart, **Mr. Ramesh Rajasingham**, Director of the Coordination Division and Head and Representative of OCHA Geneva, and **Ms. Sarah Muscroft**, Chief of the Response Support Branch. The event was facilitated by the INSARAG Secretariat with 81 participants attending in person and 59 participants attending online, representing 34 countries and 9 Organizations, plus observers. The list of participants is available at [Annex A](#).

Sustainable Funding Model ICMS

The 2025 ISG acknowledged the need for a new model of funding to ensure continued development and operational effectiveness for ICMS 3.0 and, in principle, endorsed the presented funding proposal.

The funding proposal includes each team covering the cost of a five-year ICMS use for EUR 7,500, or EUR 1,500 yearly for five years, covering access, maintenance, training, and support.

The license fee will cover:

- Full access to ICMS and its features
- Development of new versions and maintenance of ICMS
- Online training modules
- Development of Face-to-face training courses
- Operational support from the IMWG Technical Support Team during major deployments

In order to facilitate the license fee payment, NED-01 has been asked by the Secretariat to act as Treasurer of the funds and will coordinate the whole payment process.

Asia-Pacific Feedback on ICMS

- **Japan, Australia, and Malaysia** have expressed their support for the model, with the understanding that payment procedures must be flexible. **Singapore** is in-principle agreeable to it, subject to the inclusion of clear provisions on the management of funds, including expected surpluses from newly certified teams over a 5-year period, in the contract details.
- **South Korea** has adopted a neutral stance on the matter, proposing to impose the license fee exclusively on classified heavy teams while ensuring full access for medium and light teams. South Korea believe that this approach could attract more teams to the INSARAG network from the AP region, where the number of teams participating in the network is currently limited.
- **Thailand** recognizes the importance of ICMS funding in maintaining the system's sustainability. However, they pointed out that the fixed cost of EUR 7,500 for five years could be a financial challenge for some developing countries. Thailand suggests using a tiered payment system based on the country's GDP. Thailand also inform that the national budget for 2025 and 2026 have already been finalized and that they expect to be able to secure their budget for the ICMS starting in fiscal year 2027.
- Regarding other countries, no reactions were received from them by the deadline. Therefore, it can be assumed that they did not oppose the model.

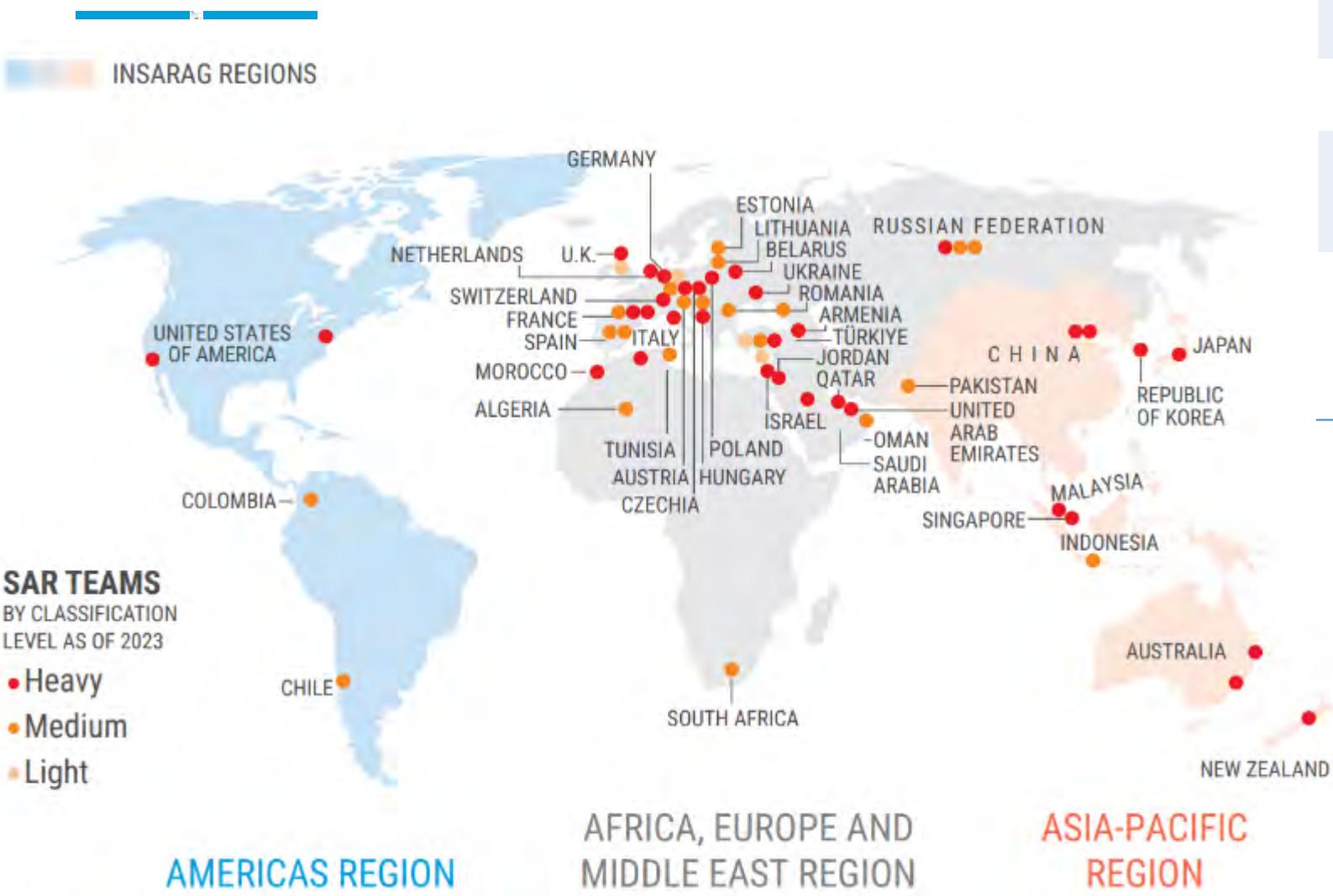
INSARAG Global Simulation Exercise (2026)

- International simulation exercise under the INSARAG framework (Enhanced Earthquake Response Exercise)
- Qatar in Q2-Q3 of 2026.
- Three regions have been encouraging, and the network would welcome a Global Simulation Exercise in 2026.
 - **For the Asia-Pacific region, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, and Thailand have all expressed their interest in participating.** However, concerns have been raised by Japan regarding the feasibility of conducting an effective exercise given the expected high number of participants. Australia appreciates advocacy for virtual attendance options, given the time and cost of travel, not just for Australia but also for potential Pacific attendees.
- This exercise will be the first of its kind, bringing together regional and international USAR teams, humanitarian actors, and government agencies under a realistic deployment and humanitarian coordination scenario.

2.3

IEC/Rs 2025

58 Classified teams to date



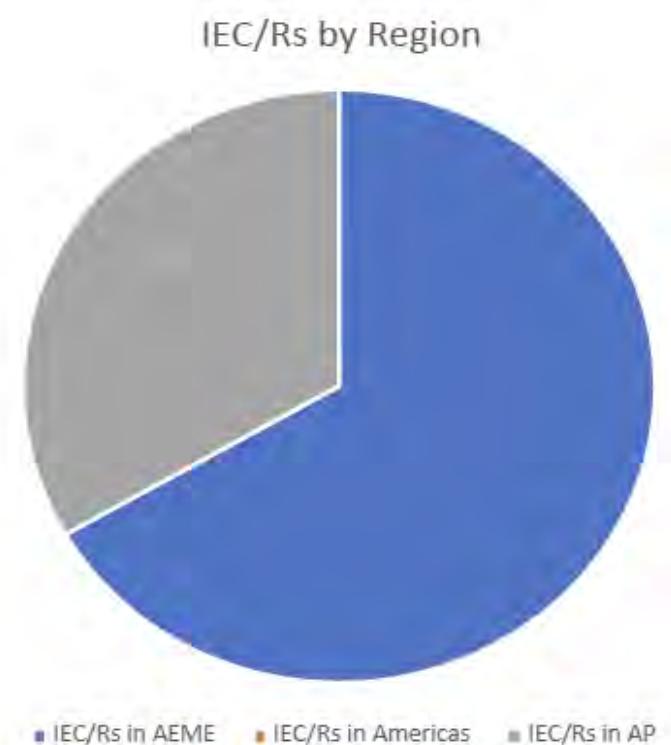
Region	Light	Medium	Heavy	Total
AEME	4	17	22	43
Americas	-	1	3	4
Asia-Pacific	-	2	9	11
Total	4	20	34	58

In Asia-Pacific: 11 Classified Teams

- **9 Heavy:** AUS-01, AUS-02, CHN-01, CHN-02, JPN-01, KOR-01, MAS-01, NZL-01, SGP-01
- **2 Medium:** INA-01, PAK-01

2025 IEC/Rs

#	Tentative dates	Team	Level
1	27-31 January with MODEX	Netherlands (NED-01)	IER Heavy
2	31 March - 4 April	France (FRA-02)	IER Heavy
3	14-16 April	Poland (POL-01)	IER Heavy
4	24-30 May	China (CHN-01)	IER Heavy
5	24-30 May	China (CHN-02)	IER Heavy
6	11 - 15 August	Belarus (BLR-01)	IER Heavy
7	19-22 August	Singapore (SGP-01)	IER Heavy
8	1- 6 September	Ukraine (UKR-01)	IER Heavy
9	8-12 September	Australia (AUS-01)	IER Heavy
10	October	Türkiye (TUR-02)	IER Heavy
11	19 - 23 October	Jordan (JOR-01)	IER Heavy
12	4-8 November	Georgia (GEO-01)	IEC Light
13	10-14 November	Thailand (THA-01)	IEC Medium
14	17 - 21 November	Türkiye (TUR-01)	IER Heavy
15	7-11 December	Oman (OMA-01)	IEC Medium > Heavy



INSARAG AP IEC/Rs 2026 and 2027

2026

16-Mar-26	20-Mar-26	Hong Kong,China Search and Rescue Team - Medium	IEC	Asia- pacific	China (Hong Kong)	Hong Kong	In-Person
21-Sep-26	25-Sep-26	Malaysia (MAS-01) - Heavy IER	IER	Asia- Pacific	Malaysia	TBC	In-Person
20-Nov-26	23-Nov-26	Ramunion Rescue Brigade Team (CHN- 11) - Medium	IEC	Asia- Pacific	China	TBC	In-Person

2027

TBC	TBC	Japan (JPN-01) - Heavy IER	IER	Asia- pacific	TBC	TBC	In-Person
TBC	TBC	India (IND-10) - Heavy IEC	IEC	Asia- pacific	TBC	TBC	In-Person

2.4

Working Groups Update

1. Flood Response Working Group

- The WG has concluded actions with the initial WG Terms of Reference 2023-2025
- The Technical Reference Note - Flood Response - Capacity Building has been consulted broadly with INSARAG WGs and TL representatives.
- The Technical Reference Note - Flood Response - Capacity Building has been forwarded to the INSARAG secretariat for final approval and publishing.
- ISG 2025 endorsed the extension of the INSARAG Search and Rescue Flood Response Working Group.
- Primary actions of the WG for 2025
 - Confirm continued participation of WG members
 - Establish 2025-2027 Terms of Reference



The INSARAG Flood Directory
has been published via QR
code

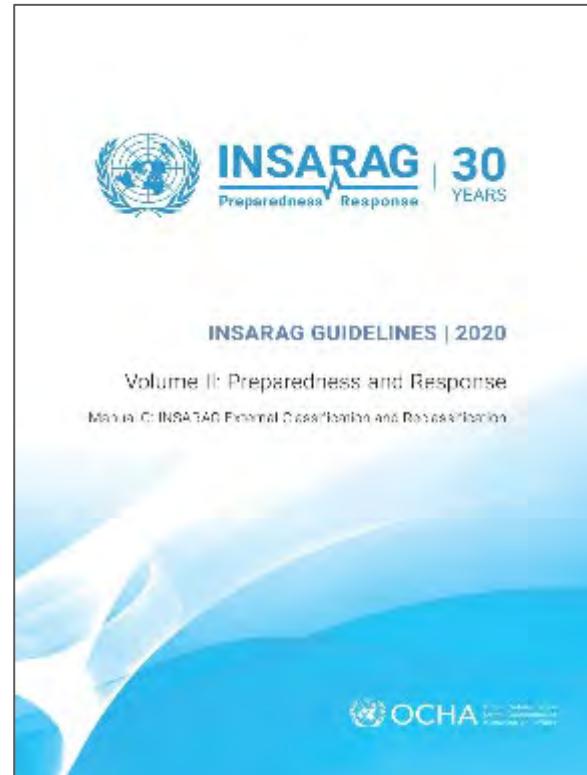
2. IEC/R Quality Assurance Working Group

- 1 The WG is now staffed (9), well balanced and operational
- 2 Review of INSARAG Guidelines Vol II, Manual C
- 3 Review of INSARAG IEC/R Checklist within the 5 year cycle
- 4 IEC/R Checklist to focus on capability (WHAT) more than on method (HOW and Equipment)
- 5 Flexible duration of IEC/R (possible to plan 36 – 48hrs) →Light, Medium, Heavy →on request by team and coordination with IEC/R Cadre
- 6 Review of PoE →Format and content
- 7 Review IEC/R application clarified
- 8 Discuss the support to INSARAG Secretariat during IEC/R Application Process

20th Anniversary of the INSARAG IEC/R System

IEC/R Quality Assurance WG

Reflecting on Two Decades of Quality Assurance in Urban Search and Rescue



Commemorating 20 Years of IEC/R

- A milestone in urban search and rescue (USAR)
- Unique globally recognized Quality Assurance
- Ensuring effectiveness and reliability in disaster relief by quality assurance
- Strengthening global preparedness and response for the responders and the receiving LEMA
- Peer Review-learning from each other
- Enhancing interoperability worldwide



Global Impact

- Growth of INSARAG - 58 Classified USAR Teams Worldwide
- Ensuring quality humanitarian assistance
- Strengthening international cooperation in disaster response
- Developing flexible response

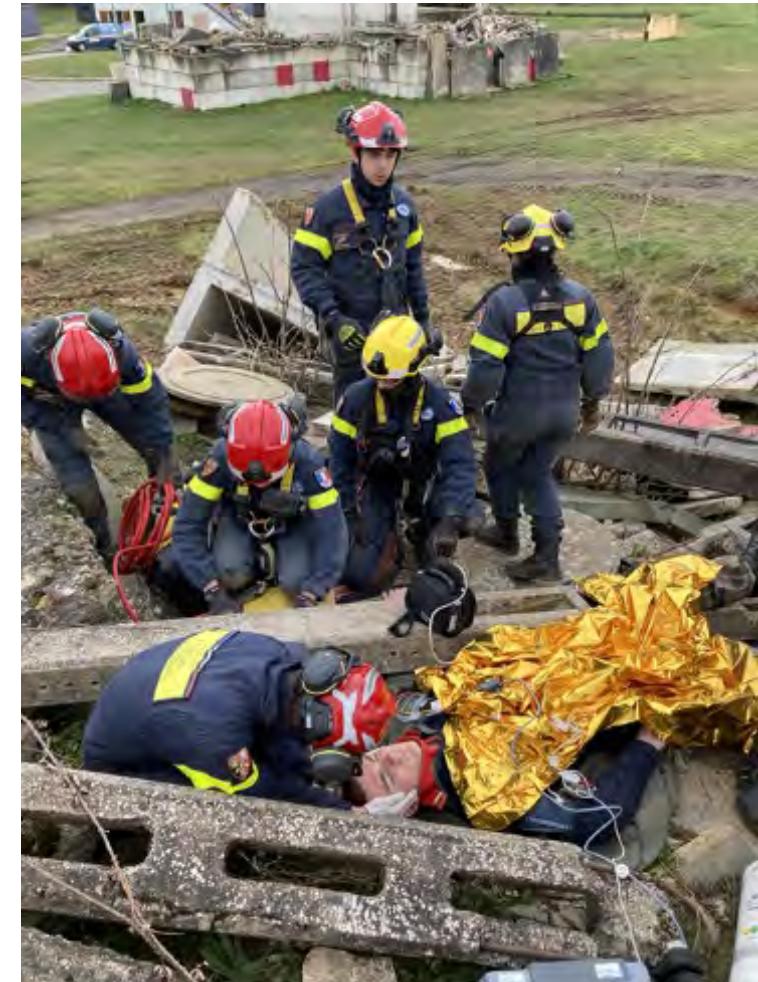


Key Achievements - Advancing Standards & Readiness

- IER all 5 years – 2 years process (INSARAG Guidelines Vol II, Manual C)
- Standardization of USAR capabilities and coordination
- Standardization of the IEC/R process
- 36-42hrs Field-Ex from Mob – Deployment - Demob
- Standardization and objective IEC/R Checklist (Focus n WHAT and not the HOW)
- Fostering cooperation and mutual support – Mentorship (peers)
- Continuous improvement through 5 year reclassification process

The Importance of Quality Assurance - IEC/R A Guarantee of Readiness

- Essential for rapid, effective response
- Ensuring unite de doctrine in response and coordination
- Ensuring interoperability
- Upholding high professional standards - worldwide
- Ensuring preparedness when every second counts



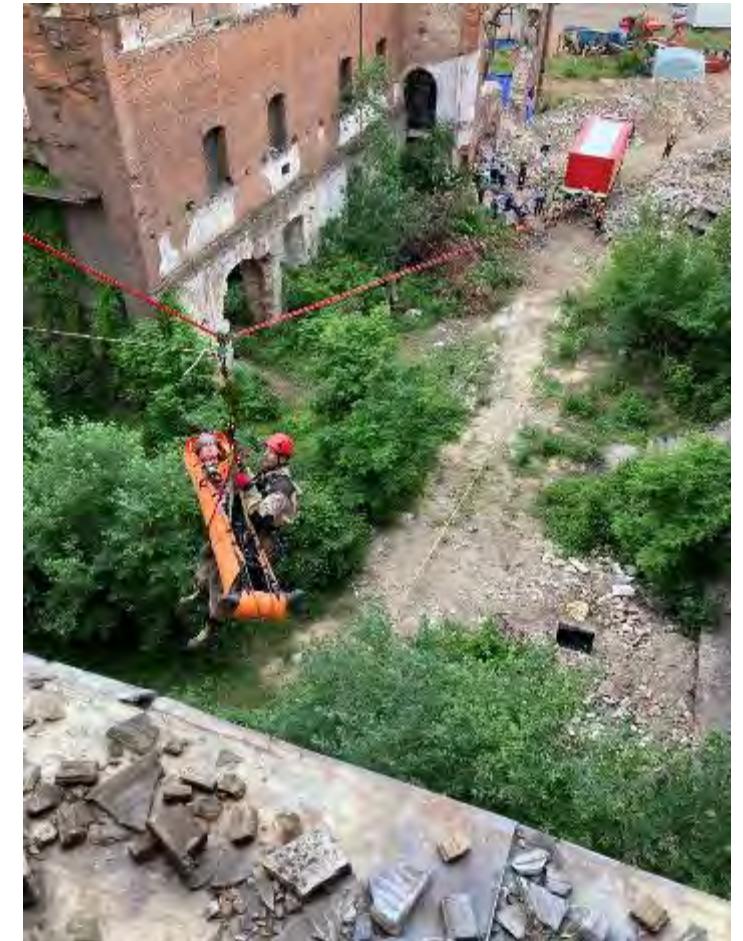
Challenges

- Intensity of resources for planning, preparation and conduct
- Quality of classifiers and mentors - selection & training



Commitment to the Future - INSARAG's Vision Moving Forward

- Continued focus on preparedness and response
- Strengthening cooperation among USAR teams
- Enhancing quality assurance to save more lives
- Mentoring future USAR practitioners - Preparing the Next Generation
- Adapting to evolving disaster challenges and changing humanitarian landscape
- Strengthening the global humanitarian network



Conclusion

- Recognizing 20 years of excellence
- 58 IEC/R classified USAR Teams able to work and perform together
- Reaffirming dedication to professionalism and humanitarian aid
- A future where the global response is stronger than ever



3. National Capacity Building Working Group Update

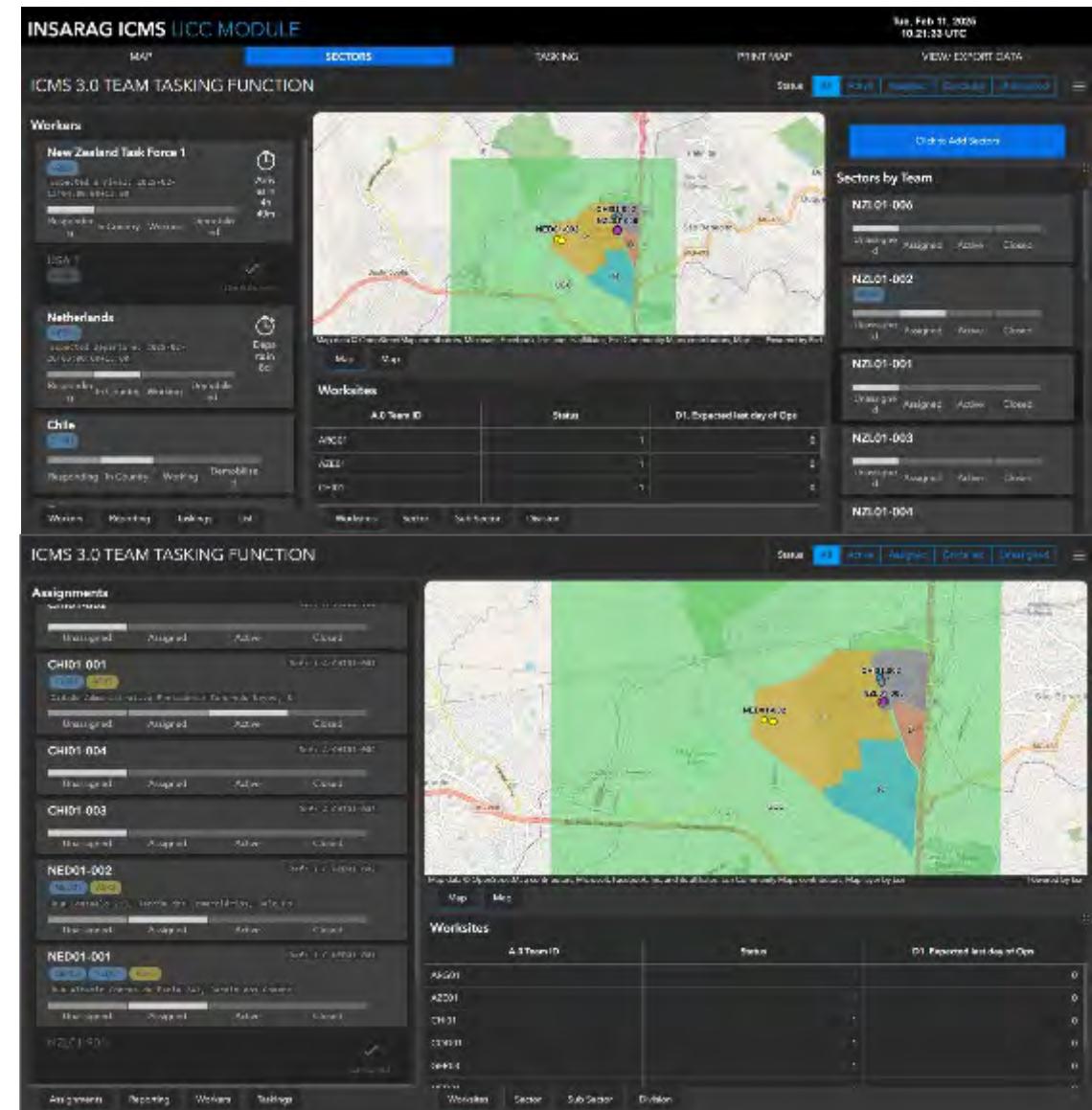
- Manual A: National Capacity Building
 - A new, overhauled Manual A was presented after global consultation
 - New structure to present a holistic approach to national capacity building
 - New topics include national USAR coordination, host nation support, Mult hazard response, and quality assurance.
- INSARAG IRNAP Leadership Course
 - AP Region course delivered in Korea in September 2024
 - Americas course delivered in Canada in May 2025
 - AEME Course planned for 2025 Q4
- Development of additional Guidance notes in 2026:
 - Quality Assurance - IRNAP
 - Urban Search and Rescue Response Capacity Building

- Foster IRNAP adoption
 - Conform regional roster of experts to support IRNAP adoption
 - Encourage and support member states to adopt IRNAP and support the process at the regional level
 - Include national capacity building in regional plans
 - Support IRNAP training by offering to host events, support participants and facilitators
- Community-based response
 - Advocate for the implementation of the INSARAG Community-based response training packages

4. Information Management Working Group

Key activities 2025/2026:

- Sustainable work/funding model
 - Awaiting final sign off and implementation
 - Licence fees
 - ESRI/Microsoft
 - Team workshops and development
- ICMS 3.0
 - Build is nearing initial Alpha testing phase
 - Modules
 - Team
 - LEMA
 - UCC
 - Triage
 - Operations
 - 1st Beta test in Australia – September (AUS01 IER)
 - 2nd Beta test in Denmark – Early 2026
 - Team testing early – mid 2026
 - Training development begins post 2nd beta test
 - Final testing of ICMS 3.0
 - Training of Trainers (UCC) late 2026
 - Delivery early 2027 (TL meeting)
- Other work
 - Satellite AI disaster mapping
 - UAS imagery



5. Training Working Group

Past 12 months

1. Monthly online meetings. On-site meetings: UK and Tunisia.
2. IEC/R Leadership course Jan 2025
3. Dewey Perks resigned as co-chair, Sólveig Thorvaldsdóttir new co-chair.
4. Guideline Review on Manual B, and associated forms and UC handbook. Cooperation with IMWG.
5. Updated mission phases on VO.
6. Initiated network triage consultation.

Next 12 months

1. Monthly online meetings. Next on-site meetings: Iceland, Sept.
2. Triage consultation in progress. Triage Summary report due 15 Jan, 2026.
3. Finish review on UC Handbook after consultation and ICMS 3.0 are ready.
4. Continue to work on recommendations from the After Action Analysis report.
5. Work through suggestions from the TLM in Tunisia.

2.5

INSARAG Regional Updates from AEME and Americas

AEME: Chaired by Czech Republic

- **2 IECs**: GEO-01, OMA-01 (Medium → Heavy)
- **8 IERs**: FRA-02, POL-01, BLR-01, UKR-01, TUR-02, JOR-01, TUR-01, NED-01(Modex)
- **International Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE)**: South Africa
- **Technical Meetings and Trainings** : UC Course Italy (TBC), ICMS course Russia, EU Table-top USAR exercises (Germany, Croatia), EU MODEX USAR Exercises (Poland, Austria), International USAR Exercise in Romania, SIMEX – Switzerland
- **USAR K9 exercise/contest** in Czech Republic 13-15 May
- Flood response:
 - EU flood related Table-Top exercises (Belgium, Slovenia)
 - EU MODEX Floods scenario exercise Bulgari
- Promote broader collaboration between the INSARAG network and the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism, covering areas, but not limited to, preparedness, capacity building, flood response and forest fires;
- Support the INSARAG Secretariat in deeper cooperation with European Union Civil Protection Mechanism in key issues and potential financial support (e.g. ICMS)
- **AEME Regional Meeting and WG meeting**: 4-8 Oct.

AMERICAS: Chaired by Brazil

- Translation of INSARAG documents into Spanish
- **IRNAP** processes follow-up:
 - Panama
 - Honduras
 - Guatemala (re-certification)
 - TSG/TRG regional roster (regular meetings, exchange on IRNAP processes and lessons learned)
- **Americas Regional NCB Group organization**
- **Regional Working Group on Search and Rescue in Flood Response**
 - Support to global WG
 - Analysis of regional practice and capabilities in the region
- **Partnerships**
 - **CEPREDENAC** : Agreement follow-up to strengthen the NAP/INAP processes
 - **OBA**: Implementation of agreement (courses, webinars, Gender & USAR discussion)
 - **Secretariat of EMT (PAHO/WHO)** :Community of practice between USAR medical component and EMT
 - **MERCOSUR**: Explore possible collaboration

Asia-Pacific Region

Briefing on Regional Strategic Plans for 2025 - Asia-Pacific

Strategic Objective 1: Quality Standards

- Meetings
 - New Year Teleconference (16 Jan. Online)
 - Team Leaders and Working Groups meeting (9-14 Feb. @Tunisia)
 - Informal Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting (24 Mar. @Geneva)
 - INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting (25 Mar. @ Geneva)
 - AP Regional Meeting (7-8 Aug. @Tokyo)
- Trainings
 - USAR Coordination Course (@Singapore)
- IEC/R
 - IEC: One team: Thailand (THA-10) Medium
 - IER: Four teams (CHN-01, CHN-02, SGP-01 and AUS-01)

Briefing on Regional Strategic Plans for 2025 - Asia-Pacific

Strategic Objective 2: Localization

- Support countries interested in IRNAP to increase domestic capabilities and resilience.
- Strengthen relationships with Pacific Island Countries.

Strategic Objective 3: Flexible Response

- Encourage communication regarding flexible response within the AP Region.

Strategic Objective 4: Partnership

- Promote and coordinate engagement and partnerships to improve capability of regional countries including regional organization.

Asia-Pacific calendar of events 2025

11 EVENTS in the AP = 35 % of the all INSARAG events

Event	Start Date	End Date	Event Name	Event type	Region	Country	Location	Format
1	16-Jan-25	16-Jan-25	INSARAG New Year Teleconference	Meeting	Global	Switzerland	Bern	Online
2	9-Feb-25	14-Feb-25	INSARAG Team Leader and Working Group Meeting	Meeting	Global	Tunisia	Tunis	In-Person
3	10-Mar-25	14-Mar-25	UC Course (Singapore)	Training	Asia-Pacific	Singapore	Singapore	In-Person
4	17-Mar-25	28-Mar-25	HNPW 2025 (Face-to-face weekat the CICG)	Meeting	Global	Switzerland	Geneva	Hybrid
5	24-Mar-25	24-Mar-25	Informal Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting	Meeting	Asia-Pacific	Switzerland	Geneva	Hybrid
6	25-Mar-25	25-Mar-25	INSARAG Steering Group meeting (ISG)	Meeting	Global	Switzerland	Geneva	In-Person
7	24-May-25	30-May-25	China International Search and Rescue (CHN-01)	IER	Asia-Pacific	China	Beijing	In-Person
8	24-May-25	30-May-25	China Search and Rescue (CHN-02)	IER	Asia-Pacific	China	Beijing	In-Person
9	7-Aug-25	8-Aug-25	INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting	Meeting	Asia-Pacific	Japan	Tokyo	In-Person
10	18-Aug-25	21-Aug-25	Operation Lionheart Contingent, Singapore (SGP-01)	IER	Asia-Pacific	Singapore	Singapore	In-Person
11	25-Aug-25	25-Aug-25	TSG on-site documentation verification and visit of the first self-assessment accreditation exercise	IRNAP	Asia-Pacific	China	Beijing	In-Person
12	8-Sep-25	12-Sep-25	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service TF#1 (AUS-01)	IER	Asia-Pacific	Australia	Brisbane	In-Person
13	10-Nov-25	14-Nov-25	Thailand (THA-10) - Medium	IEC	Asia-Pacific	Thailand	Chai Nat	In-Person
14	1-Dec-25	5-Dec-25	TRG on-site documentation verification and visit of the full-scale accreditation exercise of a MEM USAR team – announcement of results	IRNAP	Asia-Pacific	China	Beijing	In-Person
15	1-Dec-25	5-Dec-25	INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) of China	IRNAP	Asia-Pacific	China	Beijing	In-Person

Technical Break



The Meeting will resume at 11.10

3

Host Country Session – Capacity Building

Sharing the Japanese Experience of Disaster Reduction & Capacity Development

7 Aug. 2025 @ INSARAG-AP



Satoru NISHIKAWA Ph.D

JICA Senior Advisor (Disaster Reduction Strategy)

Professor, Tohoku University IRIDeS



Sentinel Asia

**Space-based international cooperation
for disaster management
in the APAC region**



China's IRNAP Introduction

2025.08



Agenda

1. Introduction of China's IRNAP
2. IRNAP Preparations by MEM
3. IRNAP Timeline and Next Steps Work

From the ISG 2025 Chairman's Summary report by AP Chair, Mr Iwata san:

“...Emphasised the AP region’s commitment to supporting countries in enhancing domestic response capacities through IRNAP....”

Disaster risk in China

- China is among some of the countries in the world that is the most vulnerable to natural disasters. It has experienced almost all kinds of natural disasters in different areas within the country frequently. Over 50% of the population resides in high-risk areas prone to meteorological, seismic, geological and marine disasters.
- The above realities, especially referring to earthquakes, pose significant challenges to China's emergency response system due to their sudden onset, significant damage and impact range.
- Major earthquakes, such as the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, the 2010 Yushu earthquake and the 2013 Lushan earthquake, have enriched our valuable experience in dealing with such catastrophic disasters.



Landslide



Earthquake



Avalanche



Forest fire



Typhoon

Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Relief System



It is also conducive to the improvement of emergency response plans, rescue team building, logistic support, information release, technological support and international cooperation. As a result, China has established a relatively comprehensive and robust system of disaster prevention, mitigation and relief.

Emergency Management Authority

Since the establishment of Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) in 2018, national emergency resources and capabilities have been integrated and optimized accordingly. Rescue forces from various fields, including **safety in production, earthquake rescue, flood control and drought relief, geological landslides, forest and grassland fire prevention** are going to get consolidated to maximize and optimize China's ability to deal with emergencies.



China's Local Search and Rescue Teams

- The entire society has widely participated in and supported the construction of emergency rescue forces, creating a favorable social environment for their development. A Chinese-characteristic emergency rescue force system has been formed, with the National Comprehensive Firefighting and Rescue Force-China Fire and Rescue (CFR) as the main force, the specialized emergency rescue forces as collaborators, and civil forces as auxiliaries.
- This system provides a strong guarantee for the safety of people's lives and property as well as social stability. Meanwhile, These rescue forces, as potential applying teams are promoting the continuous



1. The National Comprehensive Fire and Rescue Team



2. The Specilized Rescue Team



3. The Social Emergency Rescue Forces



4. Grassroots Emergency Rescue Forces

Development of CHINA's NAP Journey

Year	Development
2001	The establishment of China's first professional earthquake rescue team(CISAR), marking the beginning of China's alignment with the NSARAG framework.
2008	After Wenchuan earthquake, China expanded its emergency rescue forces by establishing many comprehensive rescue teams relied on fire rescue, forest firefighting , armed police, and military units.
2014	CISAR passed the IER as a heavy USAR team.
2016	China conducted demonstration of national classification of heavy USAR team for the Gansu Earthquake Emergency Rescue Team (armed police).
2017	The national classification of heavy USAR team for Fujian Earthquake Emergency Rescue Team (firefighting).
2018	Since the establishment of the Ministry of Emergency Management in 2018, China has implemented specific measures to enhance the rescue capabilities for special disasters, including water, mountain, earthquake, aviation, and chemical plant explosions.
2019	China became the first country in Asia which has two international heavy USAR teams.
2025	China International Search and Rescue Team (CHN-01) and China Search and Rescue (CHN-02) has successfully passing their IER in Beijing



Capacity building

- In recent years, different levels of USAR teams across the country have been accelerating their formation.
- The capability of Urban Search and Rescue is one of the most important parts of the national emergency capacity building.
- While aligning with international techniques, these teams have been continuously enhancing their capabilities in high-altitude, very cold or hot regions.

Expert support

- In recent years, a group of experienced experts and coaches have been trained in on-site rescue and practical exercises.
- In the 2024 emergency rescue exercise evaluation, **more than 200 experts** from relevant fields across the country were organized to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the pulled team based on the INSARAG evaluation mode, from documentation to actual exercises.
- Laying a solid foundation for China's subsequent NAP work.



Two international heavy USAR teams in China



The IEC & IER of the two China heavy USAR Teams in 2019



CHN-01 and CHN-02 have successfully passed their IER in Beijing in 2025

Recent International Rescue Missions

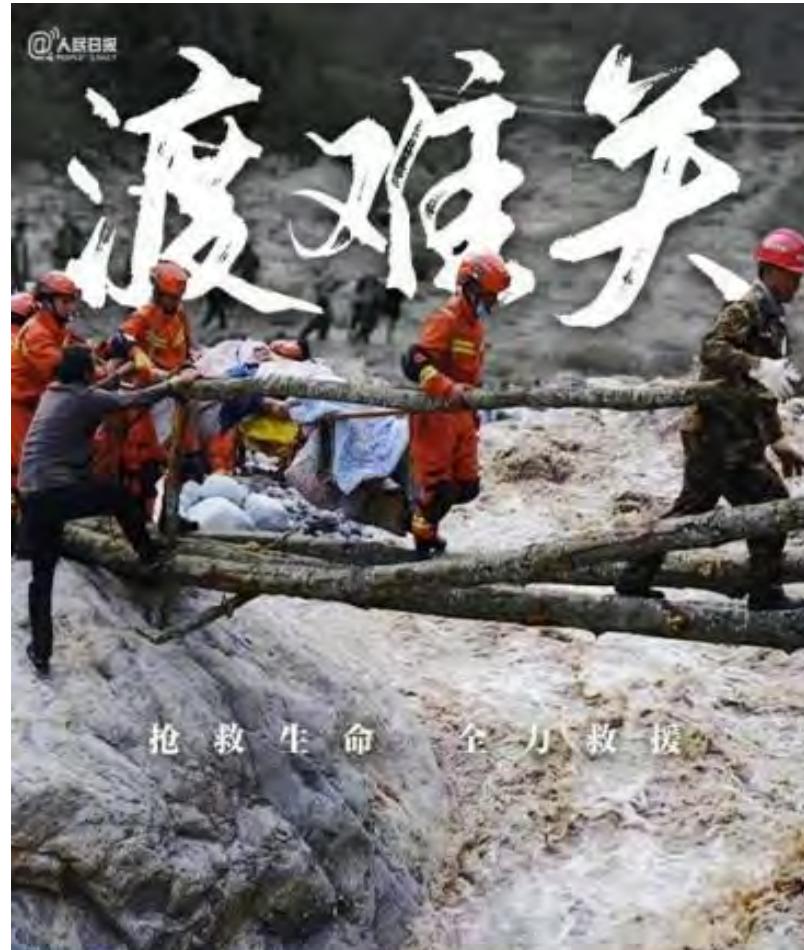


In the 7.9-magnitude earthquake in Myanmar, Chinese rescue teams successfully rescued a survivor trapped for over 120 hours (left) and provided medical treatment (right).

The Chinese rescue team went to Turkey to carry out rescue operations in response to the 7.8-magnitude earthquake.

The China search and rescue team went to the disaster area in Mozambique.

Recent National Rescue Missions



Agenda

1. Introduction of China's IRNAP
2. IRNAP Preparations by MEM
3. IRNAP Timeline and Next Steps

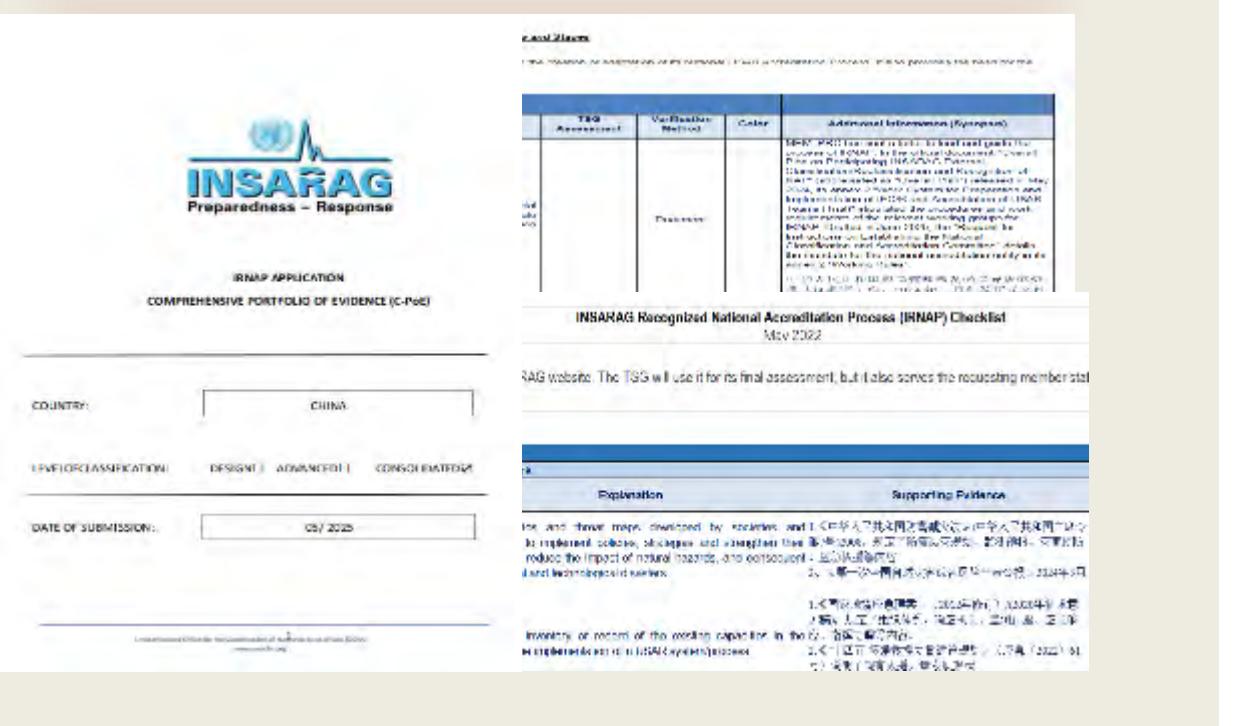
IRNAP Preparations by MEM

1. Official Application for IRNAP



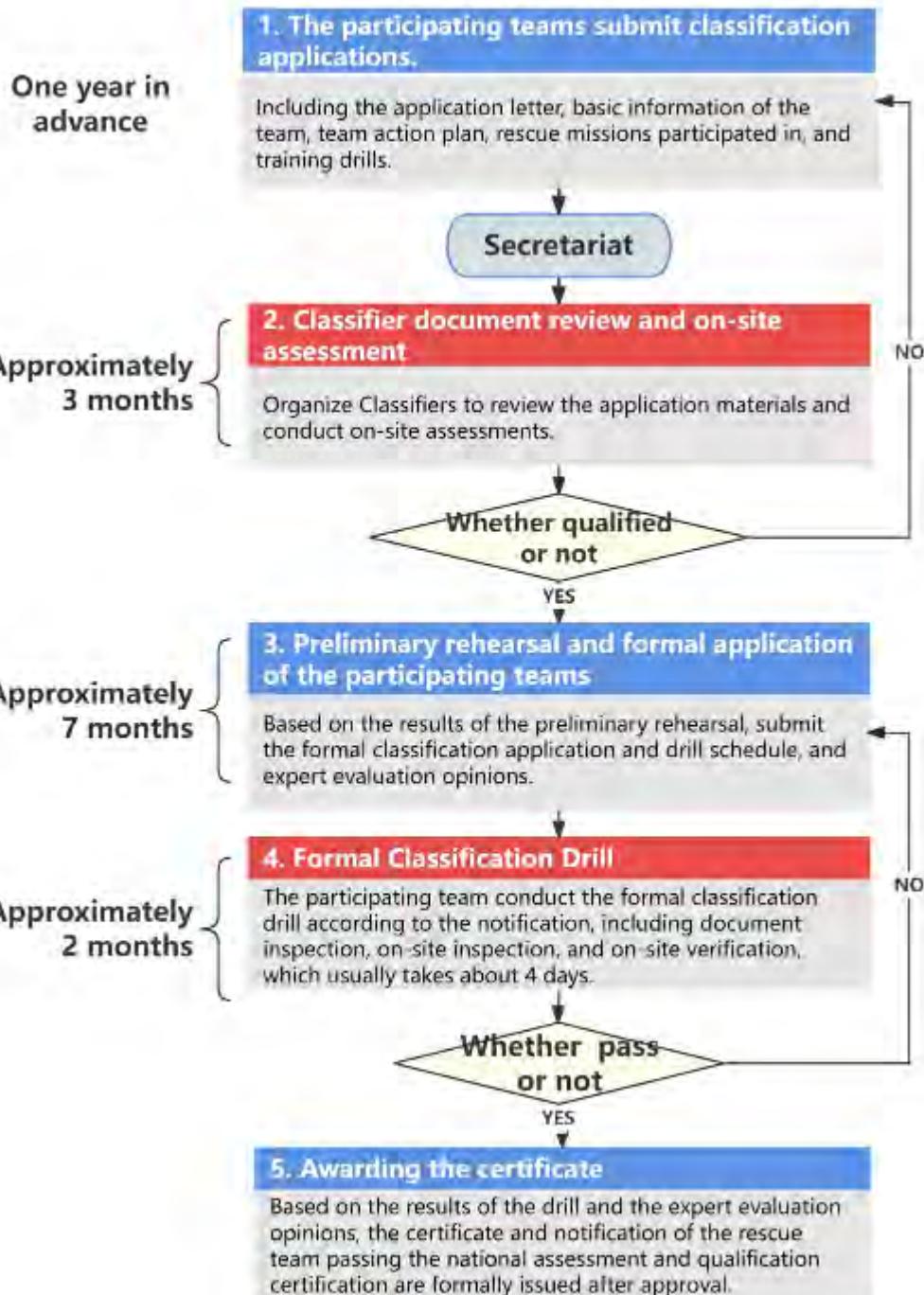
2. Establishment of Core MEM IRNAP Team and advisor.

3. Submit CPOE and self-assessment documents



4. Earthquake Rescue Capability Assessment and Classification Committee of MEM, PRC

- The Working Procedures for National Classification , 5 Stages in total ;
- Based on the actual situation in China, finished the classification checklist, aligned with the INSARAG methodology



Agenda

1. Introduction of China's IRNAP
2. IRNAP Preparations by MEM
3. IRNAP Timeline and Next Steps

IRNAP Broad Timelines

	Key Task	Date	Status	
1.	Development and Implementation of China's NAP	2001 – Pre-Covid	Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Engaging the INSARAG Secretariat and Capacity Building Working Group for advice	2022- present	Ongoing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Application for IRNAP, appointment of IRNAP Core Team and advisors	2024	Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Endorsement of the IRNAP 2024-2025 Timeline by Secretariat, call with TSG	Feb/Mar. 2025	Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Self-Assessment, POE finalisation	Mar. -May	Completed	In Beijing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Support and endorsement from meeting with OCHA at the ISG-HNPW 2025 in Geneva	25 Mar.	Completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Presentation on progress report to AP Regional Meeting	7 Aug.	Japan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Next Steps- Upcoming this month(AUG)

TSG Support Phase -Key Activities			
1	On-site documentation verification and visit	In-Person	24-30 Aug. 2025 (Beijing, China*)
	The first self-assessment exercise	In-Person	27-28 Aug. 2025 (Beijing, China*)

Training Support Group –TSG and Training Review Group –TRG Experts are from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore with INSARAG Secretariat Support.

Next Steps – TRG –Final Endorsement

TRG Recognition Phase- Key Activities			
2	TRG Kick-off Meeting	Virtual	Oct. 2025
3	POE Review and Clarifications	Virtual	Oct. 2025
4	On-site documentation verification and visit of the full-scale exercise of a MEM USAR team – announcement of results.	In-Person	Nov.-Dec. 2025 (Beijing, China*)
5	Final TRG Report	Virtual	By Dec. 2025

**“We welcome the INSARAG AP
Group to observe the IRNAP
Process in end Nov/Dec 2025”**

Thank You



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

CAPACITY BUILDING – AUSTRALIA’S EXPERIENCE

Presented by Jenny Noble
Director Humanitarian Response Planning Section
Humanitarian Division | DFAT Australia
7 August, 2025

OVERVIEW

Evolving context:

- Climate change & environmental security challenges
- Increase in 'Regionality'

Australia's approach:

- Who is in the space? It's broader than INSARAG, but interconnected

INSARAG/Search and Rescue current work:

- Capacity building based on INSARAG framework

Reflecting on Lessons:

- What works well and challenges identified
- Opportunities



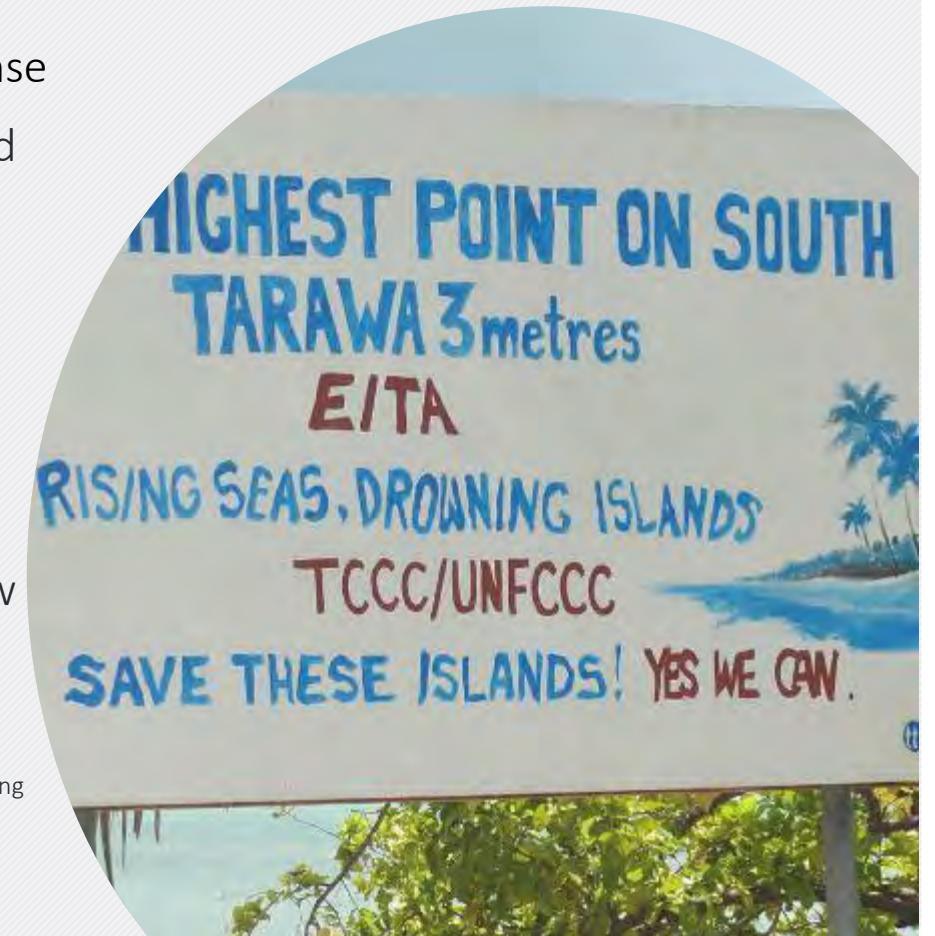
CONTEXT

- Asia-Pacific region is home to ~60% of the world's population, over 4 billion people
- Facing a changing global context: more frequent and intense disasters with climate change placing greater demands on humanitarian response
- We know the region has a high risk of earthquake, tropical cyclone and flooding / storm surges
- **Preparedness and capacity building with, in and for our region is key**

2025 Early Warning*:

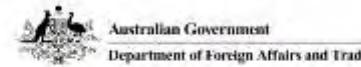
- South Asian Monsoon gradually retreating over the next 3 months
- Likely wetter than normal across Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste
- Drier than normal in parts of central Asia

*Source: July 2025 Humanitarian Early Warning Note by the Humanitarian Stabilisation Operations Team, UK FCDO



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE – AUSTRALIA'S APPROACH

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) leads the Australian Government's responses to international humanitarian crises
- [Australia's Humanitarian Policy](#) prioritises resilience, building readiness and capacity building to better prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises
 - reinforces the international humanitarian system while championing reform
 - aligned with Australia's development and foreign policy efforts to tackle poverty, address climate change, build resilience and work towards greater peace, stability and prosperity
- Australia has the most experience in the Indo-Pacific;
 - where we have our strongest and deepest regional partnerships
 - its where our efforts make the biggest difference
 - we continue to prioritise this region in our delivery of humanitarian assistance
- However, in an interconnected world, events occurring in other regions can impact our own;
 - so we work globally, addressing humanitarian needs where they are most acute and where we can make a tangible difference

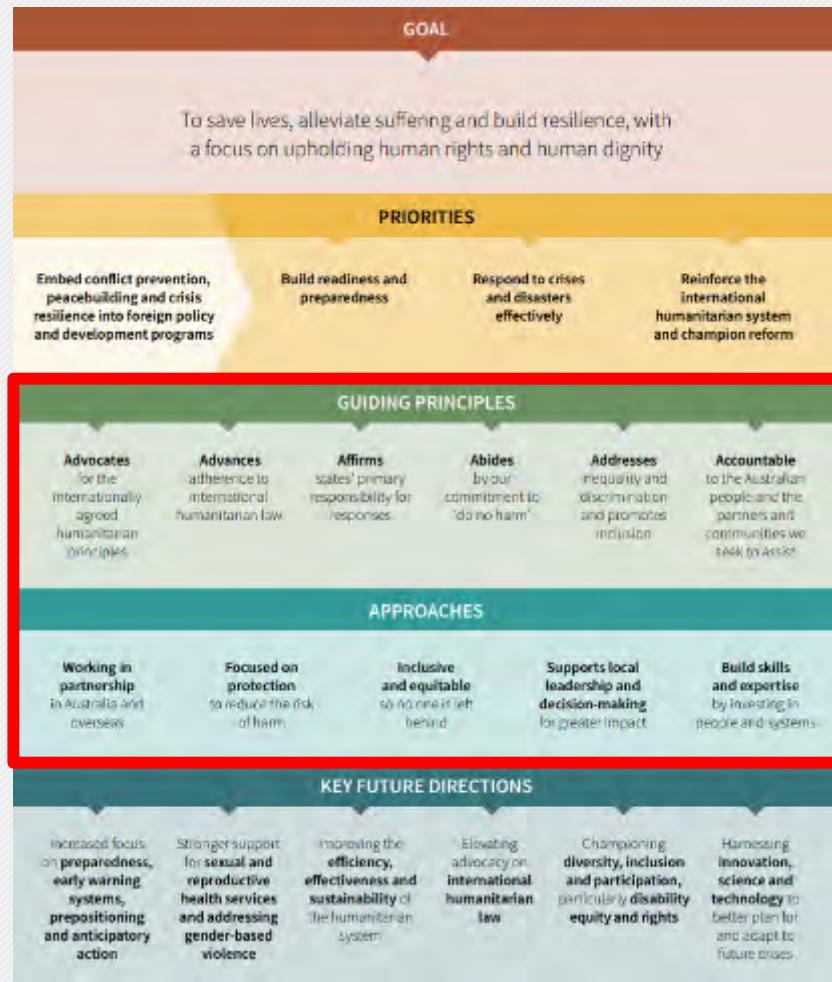


Australia's Humanitarian Policy

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR PEOPLE IN CRISIS



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE – AUSTRALIA'S APPROACH



- Australia's Humanitarian Policy is implemented by:
 - Working in **partnership**
 - Focusing on **protection**
 - Being **inclusive & equitable**
 - Supporting **local leadership & decision-making**
 - Building **skills & expertise**
- Australia will continue to work closely with our **INSARAG** partners on capacity building in support of the Policy aims



HUMANITARIAN CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE PACIFIC

- AHP Disaster READY
- Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program
- Funding Pacific-led initiatives
- Shared lessons
- Virtual training e.g. PSEAH, Protection, GBV in Crises

- INSARAG
- WHO
- Australian Red Cross
- Pacific Policing Initiative & Pacific Police Support Group (PPSG)
- Pacific Response Group (PRG)
- Overseas Post network preparedness
- Civil-military exercises incl with NDMO's

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
Preparedness

CAPACITY BUILDING

Recovery Response

- Australia Assists
- Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP)
- Australian Red Cross
- Bilateral development programs

- 3 x Pacific INSARAG classified teams; AUS-1, AUS02 & NZL-01
- Rapid Response Team (RRT)
- WHO EMT "AUSMAT"
- Power Restoration
- Relief supplies and logistics
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP)
- Pacific Policing Initiative
- Pacific Response Group / Pacific Special Advisory Team (PSAT)
- FRANZ
- Quad Humanitarian Partnership



CAPACITY BUILDING

- Based on international best practice, capacity building across the region must support:

"As local as possible, as international as necessary"



Rehabilitation in Disasters training, Suva Photo: NCCTR



Fiji's National Emergency Response Team (NERT) promoting stronger Pacific-to-Pacific humanitarian assistance responses



DART working with local leadership during the Enga landslide response



Search and Rescue teams from Türkiye and the international stage meeting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Antakya, Hatay Province, Türkiye on 20 February 2023



CAPACITY BUILDING – USAR IN THE PACIFIC

- Pacific NDMOs are investigating emerging risks and the need to build local disaster response capability
- The risk profile is changing with unsealed arterial roads, urbanisation, an increasing industry sector, and high rise and high-density construction now appearing in the region
- Strengthening regional emergency response capabilities will help meet the needs of disaster-affected communities
 - capability building should be undertaken through existing regional mechanisms
 - focus on flexible and responsive capabilities that can work cooperatively throughout the region
 - Respect for States' sovereignty maintained



CAPACITY BUILDING – USAR IN THE PACIFIC



Pacific INSARAG classified teams (AUS and NZ) should leverage peer networks e.g.:

- use knowledge and expertise of members to build capacity in the region
- provide mentoring
- peer reviewing new teams
- share lessons of USAR deployments
- International coordination best practice

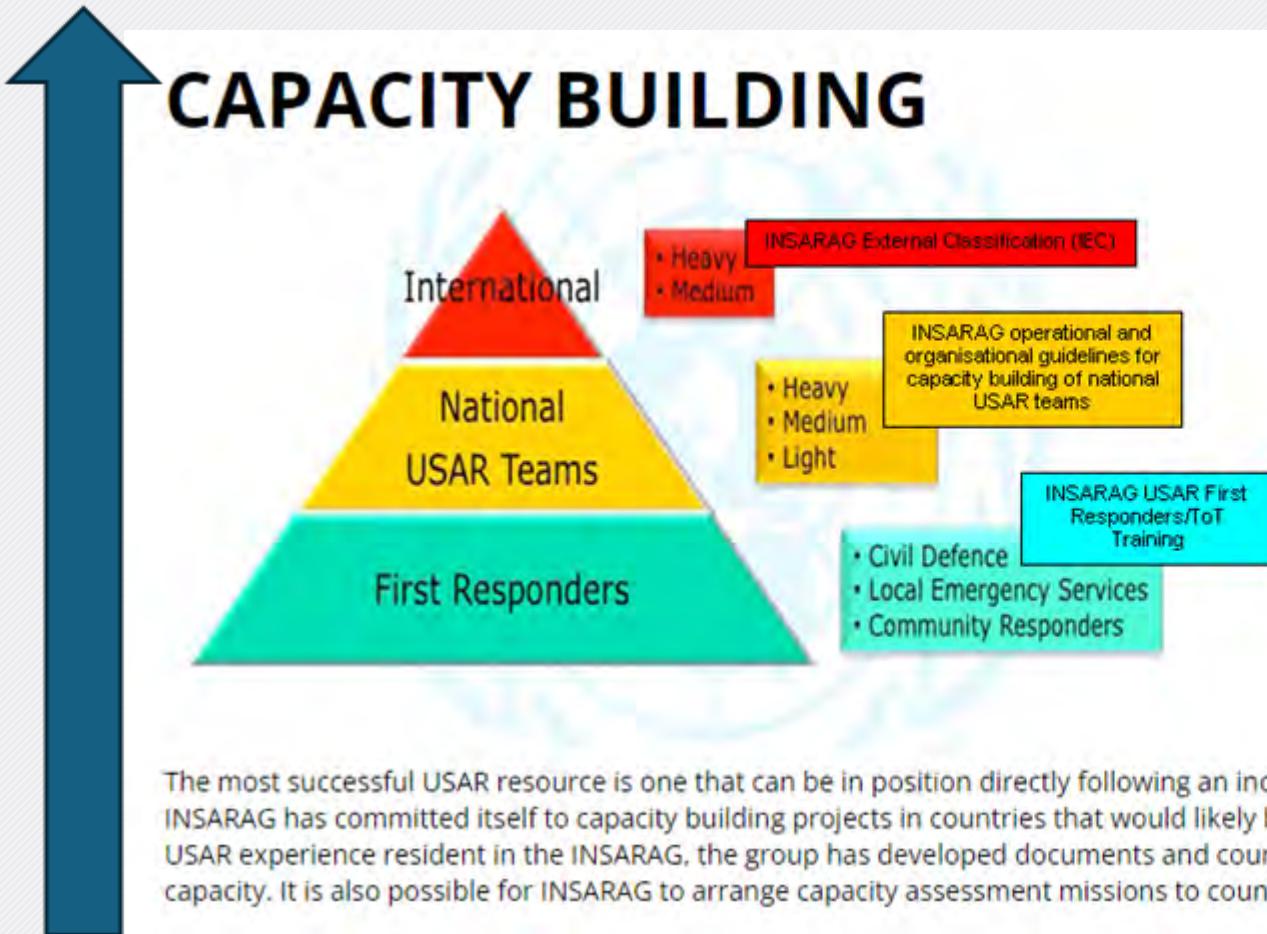


CAPACITY BUILDING – USAR IN THE PACIFIC

- Many Pacific countries already have a twinning arrangement with an Australian or New Zealand fire agency
- The INSARAG capacity building model does not overlap or reduce the need for these agencies to continue with their twinning arrangements
- Ideally, twinning partners and USAR teams would collaborate for shared delivery of some of the identified training needs to ensure the valued relationships are maintained



CAPACITY BUILDING – USAR IN THE PACIFIC



Many areas of capacity building do not require an INSARAG classified team, allowing AUS-1 and AUS02 to work with other Australian Fire agencies and their Pacific twinning partner for skills development and maintenance

The most successful USAR resource is one that can be in position directly following an incident of structural collapse. Understanding this, the INSARAG has committed itself to capacity building projects in countries that would likely benefit from local USAR capacity. Using the wealth of USAR experience resident in the INSARAG, the group has developed documents and courses available to countries wanting to develop local USAR capacity. It is also possible for INSARAG to arrange capacity assessment missions to countries needing review of existing systems or lack thereof.



CAPACITY BUILDING – EMT CASE STUDIES

Pacific Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs), supported by Australian capacity building programs, have successfully led emergency health planning and response operations:

1. Vanuatu EMT (VanMAT) led the emergency medical response to the 7.3 magnitude **earthquake that struck Port Vila** (Dec 2024)
 - o effectively coordinating international support by Fiji, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australian EMTs
 - o This response highlighted the ongoing benefit of regional training and planning to enhance interoperability of Pacific EMTs, and the value of effective regional cooperation
2. EMTs across the region led mass gathering preparation and responses during the **Papal visit to the region** (PNG and Timor-Leste EMTs)
3. Commonwealth Heads of Government (Samoa EMT)
4. Pacific Islands Leaders Forum (Tonga EMT)



CAPACITY BUILDING – CHALLENGES

- Most Pacific countries USAR is under Police, not Fire
- There is evolving regional architecture to work within
 - Opportunities for engagement are lost when regional and international architecture are not linked up
- International mechanisms don't always translate in the Pacific – both systems and standards
 - INSARAG classification is not sustainable in many Pacific countries
 - Costs associated with maintaining cache can also be prohibitive
- Most DART responses in the Pacific are not “neat” SAR or earthquakes
 - Evolving role of DARTs with expertise applied to hydro-meteorological disasters, damage assessment, HAZMAT expertise, incident management or assistance through technology (drones, LIDAR etc)
- Constant goal not to overwhelm local systems



CAPACITY BUILDING – WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

- Benefits for Australia and partner countries in capacity building
- Civil-military exercises including with International SAR partners build relationships and offer field training and lessons sharing
- Working through regional systems is key; PIF, SPC, PIEMA, SPDMM, PIFESA
- Recent development of new regional deployable mechanisms e.g. PPI and PRG
- Using local systems, knowledge and language, PaCIMS, NDMO, local embassy staff
- Increasing appetite for Pacific-to-Pacific responses
- Critical to the development of Disaster Assistance Response Teams are the lessons of diplomacy and working “beyond the rubble”. This is also critical to an affected community’s recovery
- The aftermath of disasters offers capacity building opportunities

CAPACITY BUILDING – OPPORTUNITIES

At the team level:

- Encourage flexibility
- GEDSI
- Mentoring/supporting local regional deployments (beyond traditional INSARAG classifications)



System-wide:

- Strengthen relationships with NDMOs, boosting awareness of available capacity building & deconflicting engagement with other partners
- Improve lessons sharing and best practice across the relief system
- Customised cache that suits local approaches, and is sourced locally
- Invest in staff knowledge and resources to manage capacity building activities and conduct crisis responses





Australian Government
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade



Fiji Disaster Response Preparedness Initiatives

International Search & Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

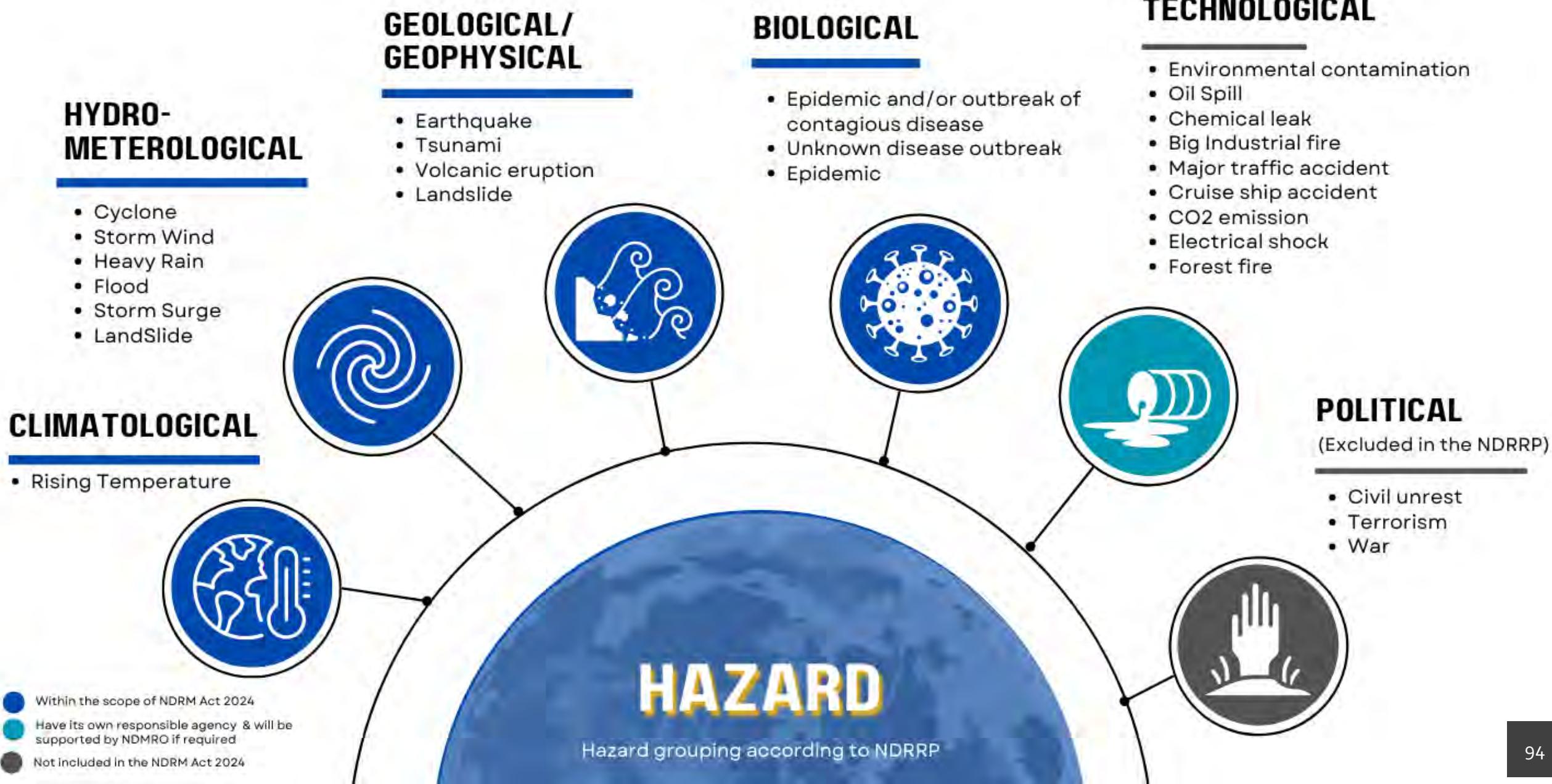




Outline

1. National Disaster Risk Management Arrangement
2. DRM Capacity Building Roadmap
3. National Emergency Response Team
4. Civil-Military Coordination
5. Single Window International Facilitation Team
6. Contingency Planning and Exercises
7. Priorities

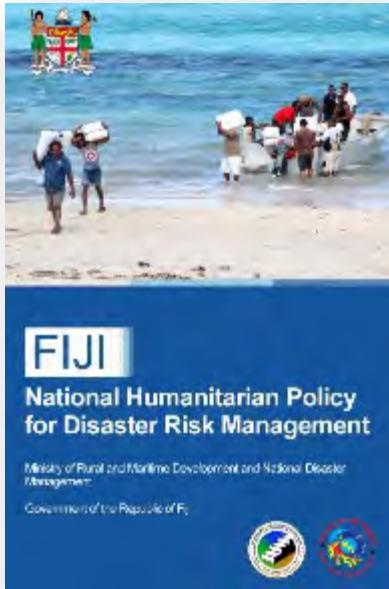
Disaster Risk Overview



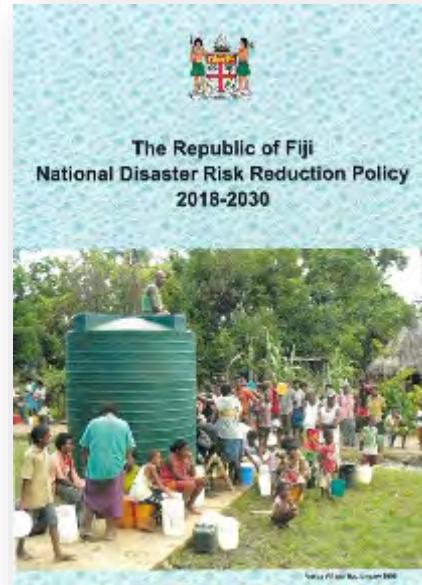
Legal Framework and Policies



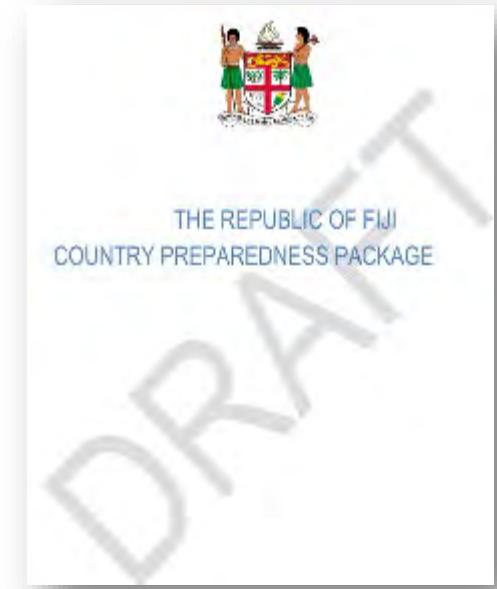
The National Disaster Risk Management Act, 2024



The National Humanitarian Policy for Disaster Risk Management, 2017



The National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (NDRRP), 2018-2030



Country Preparedness Package (CPP)

The National Disaster Risk Management Act 2024

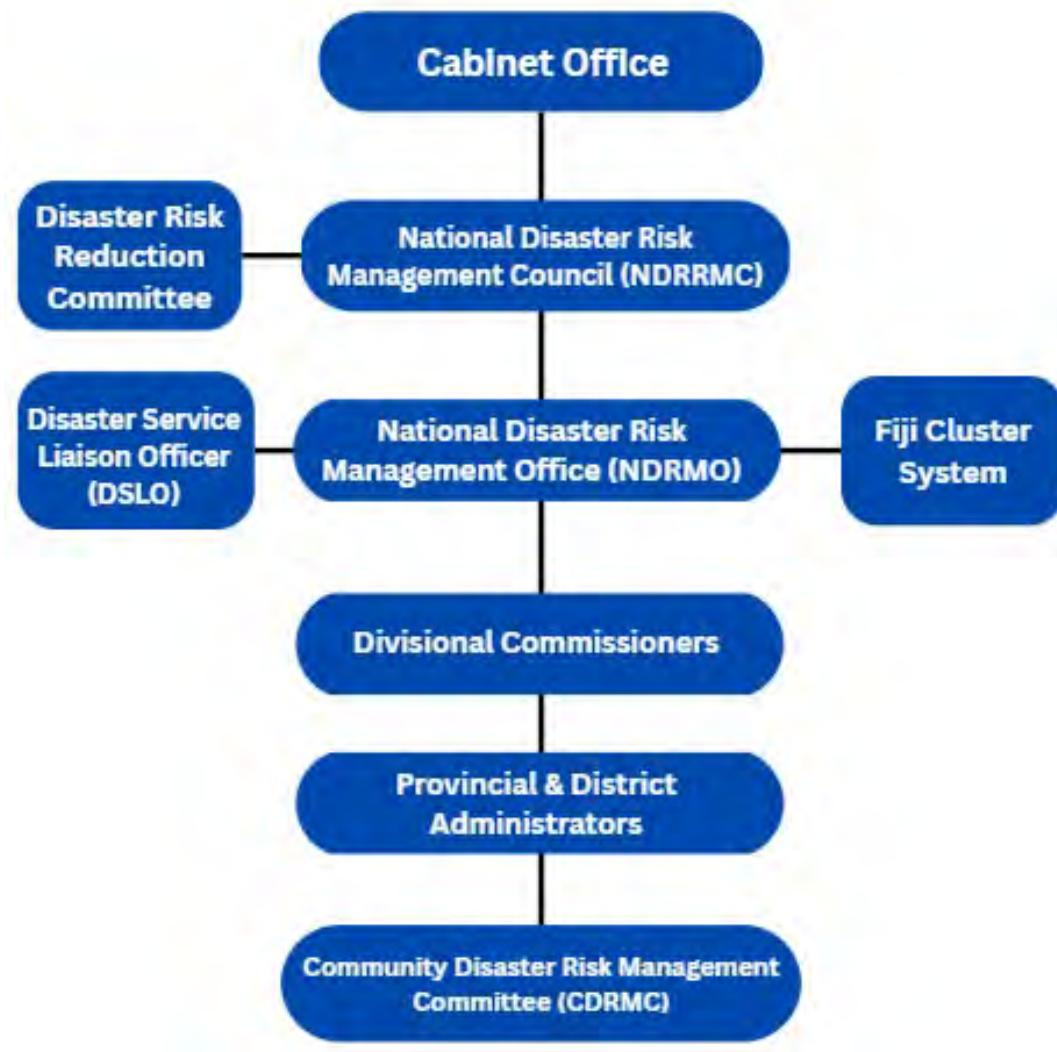


National Disaster Risk Management Act 2024



- National Disaster Management Council
- National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDMO)
- Disaster Risk Management Committees at Divisional, Provincial, District & Community Levels
- Special Powers During Emergency Situations
- Disaster Risk Management Fund
- Relief and Rehabilitation, and
- Mitigation, Public Awareness and Training
- Humanitarian Actors Registry
- Single Window Interface Facilitation Team
- National Emergency Response Team (NERT) Mechanism

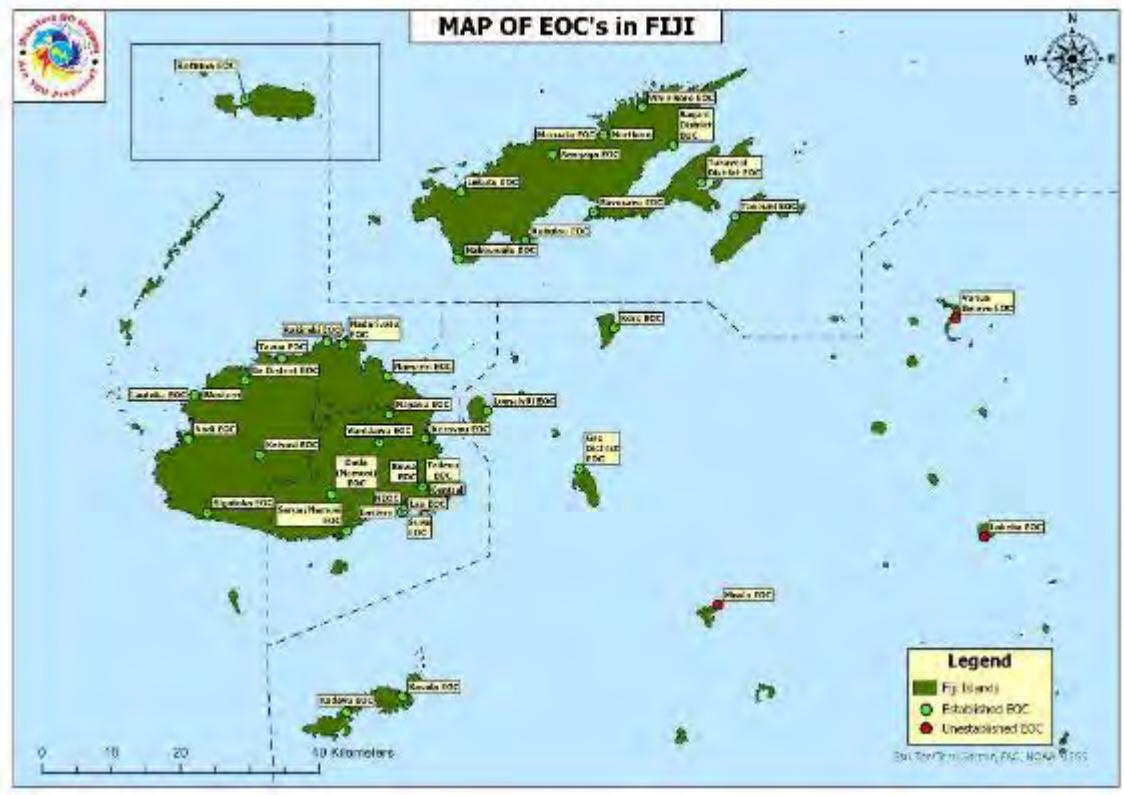
Preparedness Phase



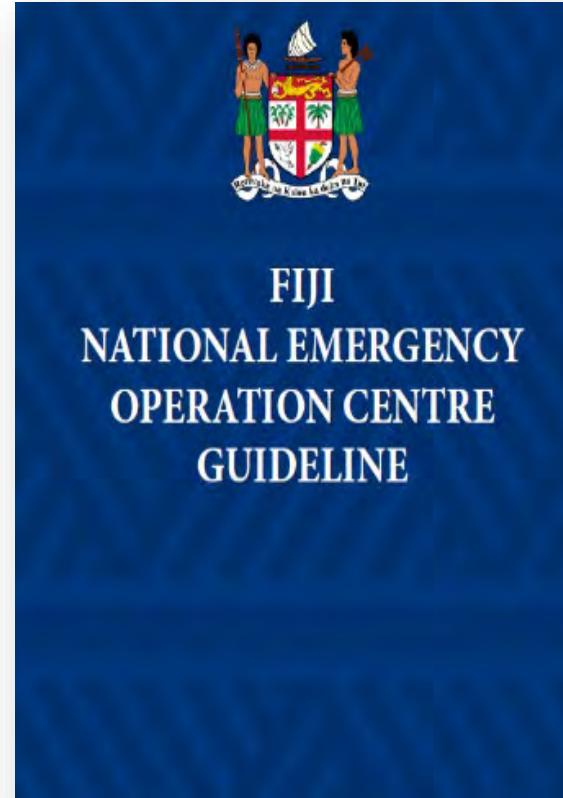
Response Phase



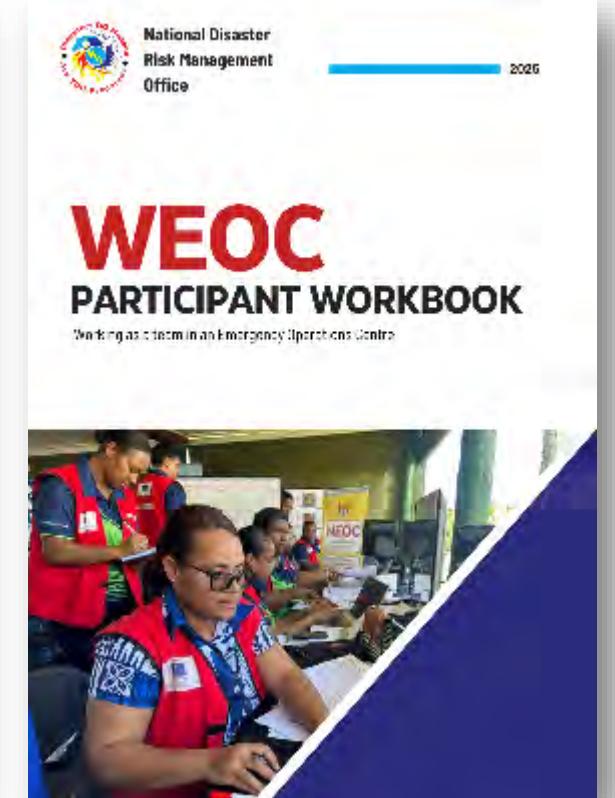
Emergency Operations Centres



42 EOCs across Fiji



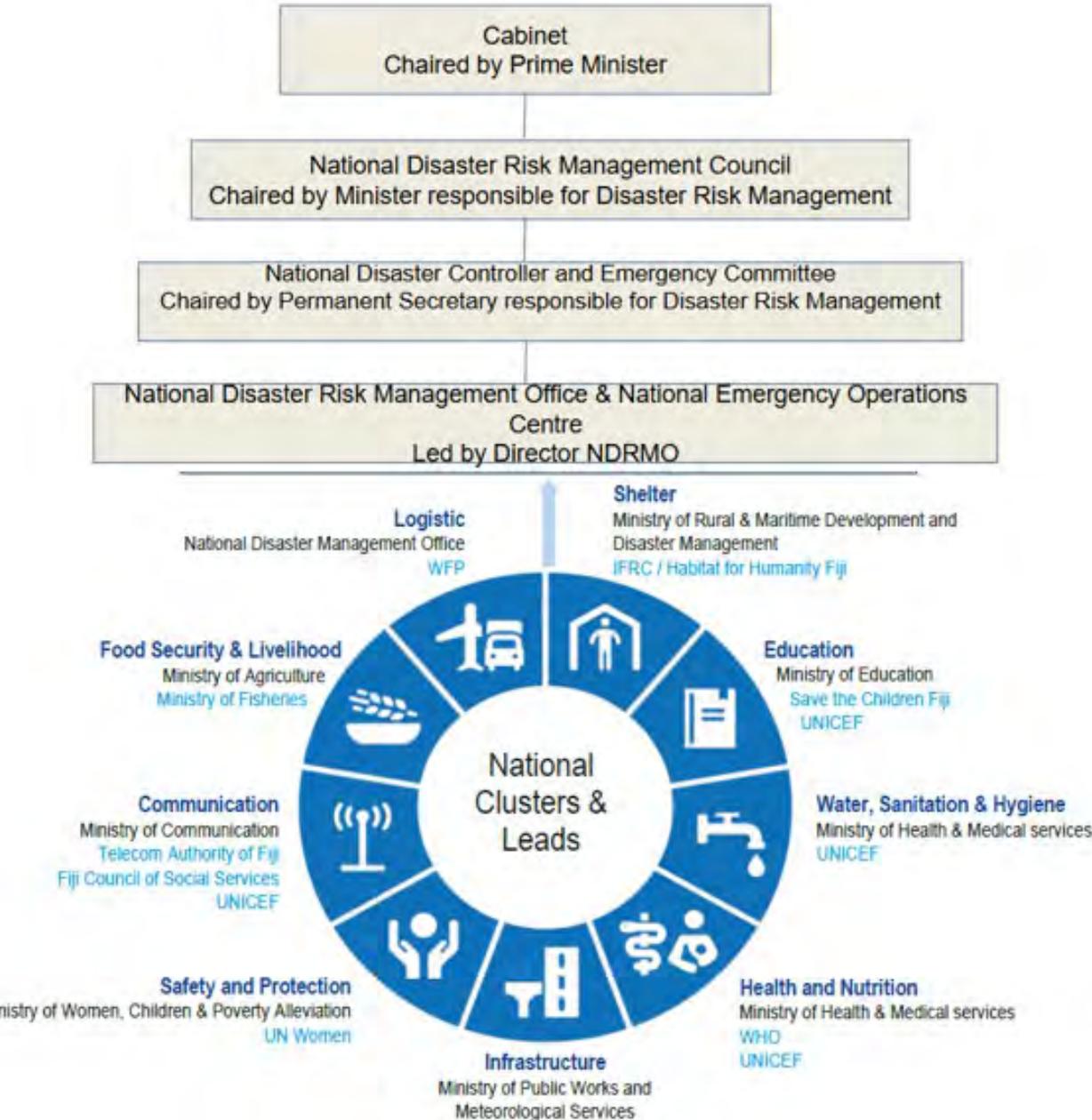
EOC Guideline



EOC Training

Fiji Cluster System

- National Cluster
- National Lead Ministry
- Cluster Co-lead



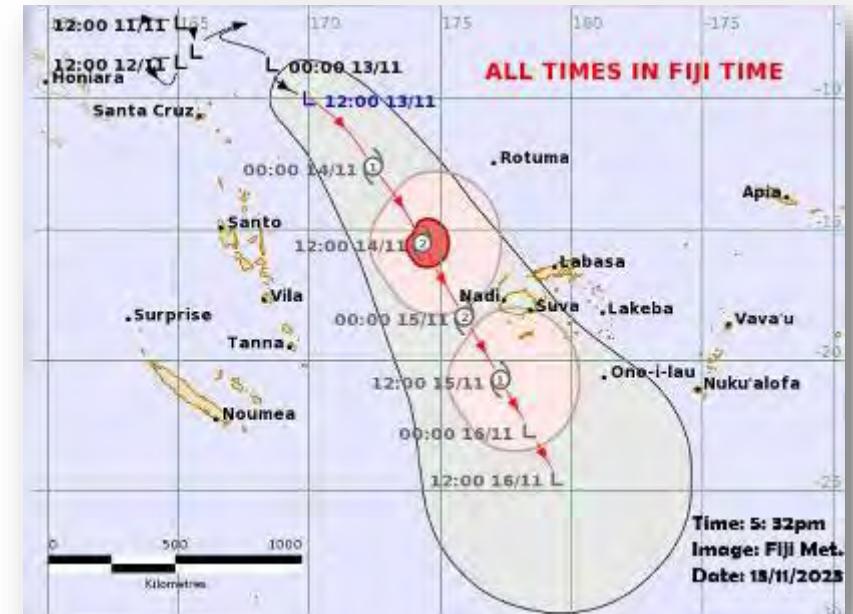
Early Warning Systems



Tsunami Warning



Flood Warning



Cyclone Warning



NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (NERT)

INDUCTION TRAINING

2-9 July 2023

Savuwa, Viti Levu, Fiji



National Emergency Response Team (NERT)

Purpose

1



Provide surge capacity to the NEOC and Sub-National Government

2



Provide humanitarian assistance overseas



Core Function



Assessment & Analysis



Response Planning



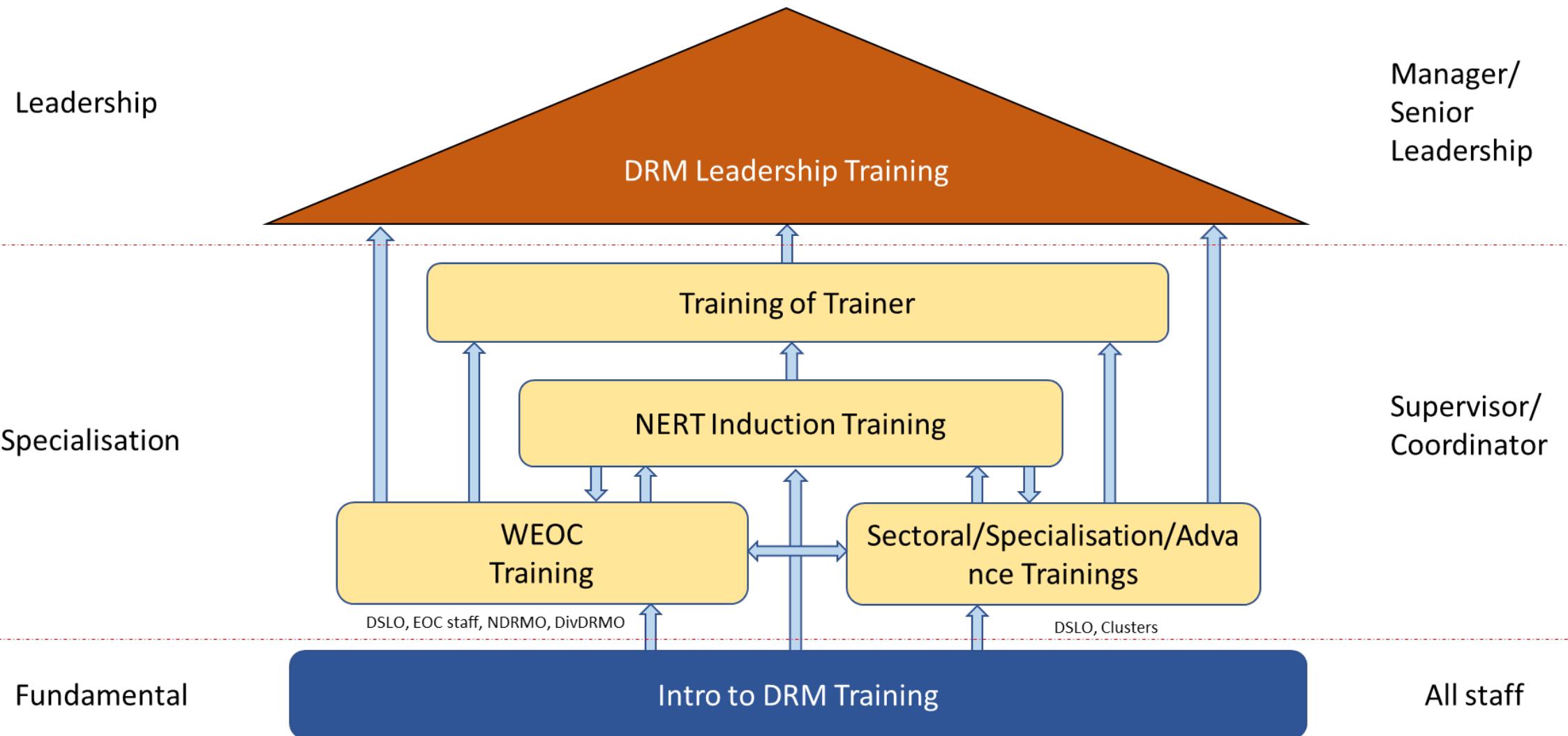
Coordination



Facilitation of relief assistance

Medical assistance and Search and Rescue functions will be performed by a team of specialists from agencies such as the **Fiji Emergency Medical Team (FEMAT)**, **Search and Rescue (SAR) Team**, and **Reconstruction and Recovery team**.

Capacity Building Framework (Draft)





SWIFT Consultation Meeting, 9 May 2025

Single Window International Facilitation Team (SWIFT)



Consolidate and expedite
the entry of incoming
international assistance



Control and monitor
Unsolicited Bilateral
Donations (UBDs)



Advise on available
legal facilities.



Enhancing Civil Military Coordination

1. UN Civil Military Coordination Training
2. Development of Civil-Military Coordination SOP
3. CivMil Exercises (Longreach Exercise)
4. DRM Training for Military and Police Personnel



Contingency Planning and Exercises



1. Tsunami Response Planning
2. Tsunami Drill
3. Earthquake and Tsunami Response Exercise



EXERCISE - URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR)

Priorities

1. Emergency Operations Centre Upgrades
2. Support the National Fire Authority to develop USAR capacity
3. Contingency Planning
4. Capacity building & Exercises



Thank You

FIJI NDRMO

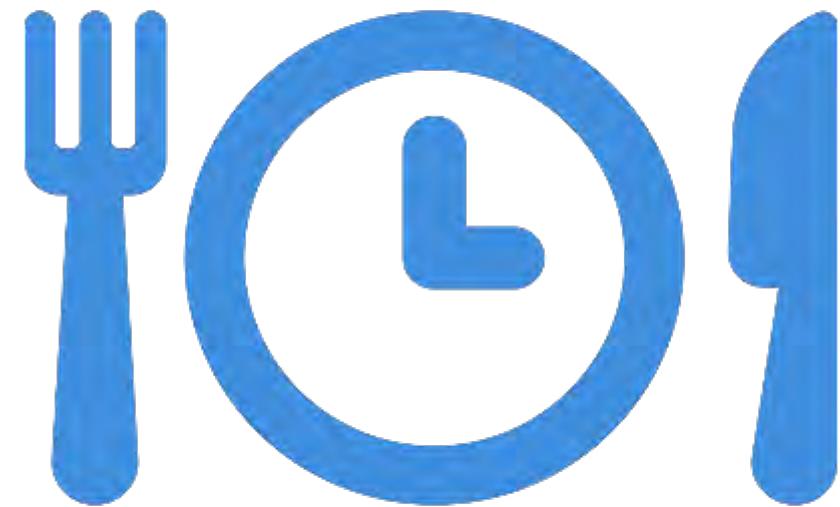
+6793319250

neocfiji@gmail.com

www.ndmo.gov.fj



Lunch Break



The meeting will resume at 14:00

4

Asia-Pacific Regional Workplan 2026 Consultations

INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026 (in handouts)



INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026 – endorsed on 27 January 2021

The [Strategic Plan](#) of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) presents the vision, overarching goals and strategic objectives of the network, endorsed by its Global and Regional chairs, for the period 2021-2026. The Strategic Objectives for 2021-2026, developed by the INSARAG network, feed into a global framework which informs the INSARAG Regional Groups' strategies and objectives and thus attempt to guide their implementation.

Source: INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026.

INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Quality Standards

Objective 1.1 : Emphasise the importance of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 on “Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance” and continue to update, evaluate and improve INSARAG methodology to be ‘fit for purpose’.

Objective 1.2: Promote the adoption and implementation of INSARAG’s methodology for emergency preparedness and response by national governments and USAR teams.

Objective 1.3: Encourage USAR teams mandated for international deployments to participate in the INSARAG External Classification (IEC) and Reclassification (IER) process and to contribute to the strengthening of the process.

Objective 1.4: Promote the establishment of national USAR team accreditation systems.

INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Quality Standards

The items to be discussed:

- Training plans of UC course and ICMS course of each country
- The need for the AP regional UC ToT
- Other training event that requires external support

Expected outcome:

- Calendar event of both regional and national training where international trainers/participants/observers are invited

INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Localization

Objective 2.1: Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of frontline emergency response coordination by adapting and localizing the INSARAG coordination methodology and concepts to country contexts.

Objective 2.2: Promote capacity development at national and local level and strengthen community preparedness.

Objective 2.3: Advocate for national and regional ownership of preparedness and coordination efforts, in line with national priorities.

Objective 2.4: Actively encourage innovative approaches, sharing of expertise and good practices amongst countries and organizations for national capacity building for a stronger coordination of national and international USAR assistance

INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Localization

The items to discuss:

- Develop the calendar year of IRNAP. Invite countries that are intended to apply for IRNAP and share their plan and expected support from AP
- Develop a map of countries and teams that are able and committed to support IRNAP
- Map the countries that are interested in conducting the first responders, course, and whether they request external support. Develop a calendar of first responders' courses in AP

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Partnerships

Objective 4.1: Strengthen collaboration and coordination, expand established technical partnerships and harness the collective synergies of national expert members for effective coordination and stronger preparedness.

Objective 4.2: Promote a broader outreach and increased engagement with new relevant partners in preparation for a collective response in case of disasters

INSARAG Asia-Pacific Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Partnerships

Discussion:

- How partners can contribute to strengthening INSARAG, both in preparedness and response, in the region and how we engage with them e.g. providing USAR-trained UNDAC members for an earthquake response or deploying their national UNDAC members with their USAR team.

This session will be an open discussion on possible partnerships that INSARAG can reach out and collaborate to strengthen INSARAG preparedness and response in AP

INSARAG AP Activities 2026

No.	Start Date	End Date	Event Name	Event type	Region	Country	Location	Format
1	12-Feb-26	12-Feb-26	INSARAG New Year Teleconference	Meeting	Global	Switzerland	Bern	Online
2	10-Mar-26	12-Mar-26	HNPW 2026 (Face-to-face week at the CICG)	Meeting	Global	Switzerland	Geneva	Hybrid
3	Mar TBC	Mar TBC	INSARAG Steering Group meeting (ISG)	Meeting	Global	Switzerland	Geneva	In-Person
4	Mar TBC	Mar TBC	Informal Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting	Meeting	Asia-Pacific	Switzerland	Geneva	Hybrid
5	16-Mar-26	20-Mar-26	Hong Kong,China Search and Rescue Team (CHN-10) - Medium	IEC	Asia-Pacific	China (Hong Kong)	Hong Kong	In-Person
6	TBC	TBC	Asia-Pacific USAR Coordination Training of Trainers	Training	Asia-Pacific	China	TBC	In-Person
7	Jul TBC	Jul TBC	INSARAG Global Meeting 2026	Meeting	Global	Brazil	TBC	In-Person
8	Jul TBC	Jul TBC	INSARAG Team Leader Meeting	Meeting	Global	Brazil	TBC	In-Person
9	Jul TBC	Jul TBC	INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting	Meeting	Asia-Pacific	Brazil	TBC	In-Person
10	21-Sep-26	25-Sep-26	Malaysia (MAS-01) - Heavy IER	IER	Asia-Pacific	Malaysia	TBC	In-Person
11	25-Oct-26	29-Oct-26	Global Earthquake Response Exercise	Training	Global	Qatar	Doha	In-Person
12	TBC	TBC	ICMS 3.0	Training	Asia-Pacific	Korea	TBC	In-Person
13	20-Nov-26	23-Nov-26	Ramunion Rescue Brigade Team (CHN-11) - Medium	IEC	Asia-Pacific	China	TBC	In-Person
14	TBC	TBC	Asia-Pacific USAR Coordination Course	Training	Asia-Pacific	India	TBC	In-Person
15	TBC	TBC	Integrated Search and Rescue Training	Training	Asia-Pacific	Pakistan	TBC	In-Person
16	TBC	TBC	International Expo	Meeting	Asia-Pacific	Indonesia	TBC	In-Person
17	TBC	TBC	International Rescue Challenge Event	Training	Asia-Pacific	Pakistan	TBC	In-Person
18	TBC	TBC	International Volunteer Day (CERT) - Community Emergency Response Challenge	Training	Asia-Pacific	Pakistan	TBC	In-Person

Breakout discussions – 25 minutes per topic

1

Quality Standards

China
IAME
New Zealand
Sri Lanka
Pakistan

Room: Nishiki (plenary)

The group proceeds to
2 (Localization - Natsume),
3 (Partnerships - Katsura)

2

Localization

Australia
South Korea
Malaysia
Mongolia
Nepal

Room: Natsume

The group proceeds to
3 (Partnerships - Katsura),
1 (Quality Standards – Nishiki)

3

Partnerships

India
Japan
Fiji
Peace Winds Japan
Philippines
Singapore
Solomon Islands

Room: Katsura

The group proceeds to
1 (Quality Standards – Nishiki),
2 (Localization - Natsume)

Discussion time: 1st round: **14:15-14:45**, 2nd Round: **14:45-15:15**, 3rd Round: **15:15- 15:45**

Tea/Coffee Break



The Meeting will resume at 16.15

5

Finalization of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workplan 2026 and Development of Asia-Pacific Regional Calendar 2026 and Onwards

Breakout Discussions

1. Quality Standards

Country/Team	Event	Timing	Resources/ Comment
China	UC TOT/ UC Course	1st/ 2nd Half 2026	
Pakistan	Integrated Search and Rescue Training	2nd half 2026	
New Zealand	Building 5 years Training Plan	5 years Plan	
India	UC Course	2026	Request UC Trainers
Korea	UC TOT Course	2nd Half 2025	

Breakout Discussions (Online)

1. Quality Standards

Country/Team	Event	Timing	Resources/ Comment
Indonesia	International Expo	Late 2026	Invite INSARAG network to the event
	IEC (Heavy)/ IER (Medium)	2028 TBC	More discussion needed with the mentor
Pakistan	- International Rescue Challenge Event	October 2025/2026	Welcome AP network to join
	- International Volunteer Day (CERT) - Community Emergency Response Challenge	December 2025/2026	Welcome AP network to join
Philippines	IRNAP	2027	Level TBC
Thailand	Start to look for a mentor for IER after achieving IEC	2026	

Breakout Discussions

2. Localization

Country/Team	Commitment/Event	Timing	Resources/Comment
Australia	First responders programme		Have a national capability programme but not formally IRNAP
New Zealand	First responders programme in place		Have a national capability programme but not formally IRNAP
Korea	First responders programme in place		Have a national capability programme but not formally IRNAP
Mongolia	Would like support building a NAP		
Malaysia	Have a roadmap over the next 2 years to adopt the IRNAP		

Breakout Discussions – cont'd

2. Localization

Country/Team	Commitment/Event	Timing	Resources/Comment
Sri Lanka	Support the first responder course and would like support to enter IRNAP		
China	First responders in place progressing towards IRNAP		
Pakistan	Will run a First responder train the trainer - open to Asia pacific	2026	Would like advice on how to progress IRNAP
General comment			It would be useful to produce a information sheet on IRNAP - there seems to be a lack of understanding and also how a country progresses towards

Breakout Discussions – cont'd

2. Localization

Country/Team	Commitment/Event	Timing	Resources/Comment
Philippines	Are focused on progressing a NAP aligned to IRNAP Do not undertake the official first responder training		
Fiji	Focused on working with Australia and New Zealand on developing a pacific focused NAP		Intent on holding a train the trainer First responder course - will work with Australia and NZ
India	Have a First responder equivalent course in place		Focused on IEC
Japan	Have already national response system. So no plan to newly introduce NAP / IRNAP.		

Breakout Discussions (Online)

2. Localization

Country/Team	Commitment/Event	Timing	Resources/Comment
Pakistan	Adopt INSARAG Community Response Training and conduct the training in Pakistan		NCBWG and INSARAG Secretariat would support Pakistan and welcomes feedback from Pakistan on the training delivery.
Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- NAP - on going- Would consider to provide trainers		
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participate in INSARAG activities and would like to nominate DDPM members to join Flood Response WG.- Support to nominate staffs to be trained for IRNAP		
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conduct NAP - on going- Offer support for TSG/TRG experts	2026 2026	Welcome the AP network to observe the process.

Breakout Discussions

4. Partnerships

Country/Team	Comment
Philippines	Bilateral USAR training, INSARAG mentor, IRNAP mentor, multi-national corporations inform of INSARAG value, a lack of awareness of this community and benefits to each nation. AP regional provides an opportunity to consult and is a necessity
Singapore	ASEAN AHA Centre - consider how this can be modelled in the Pacific. ERAT assessment of damage / broad area assessment. Blending of UNDAC and ERAT. Civil military support
Fiji	PRESCOM, opportunities for financing through private partnerships, FIJI business disaster council.
Solomon Islands	PIEMA aim to build collaborative between emergency service. Coordination, assessment, humanitarian, and search and rescue. Summary, coordination in Pacific and Asia has commonality

Breakout Discussions cont'd

4. Partnerships

Country/Team	Comment
South Korea	Sub regional alliance critical due to isolation and commonality of disasters. ASEAN - AHA centre - ERAT. Cambodia exercise was an opportunity, although a different community the methodology was similar.
Malaysia	NDMO as the title, MOU to cooperate with disaster management.
Australia	Intersection of intellectual capability to support the tactical needs. Bi lateral agreements whilst maintain the connections we have in the INSARAG community.
Japan	AHA centre to attend coordination program to recognise similar approaches and how they can integrate. Logistics private resources on contract for ongoing support. Commerce business council is a link into this community.

Breakout Discussions cont'd

4. Partnerships

Country/Team	Comment
New Zealand	Use existing frameworks and structures, a good example is PRESCOM and driven by local members for ownership. How do you include countries with varying levels of emergency response maturity? Food sustainability example in Fiji.
Sri Lanka	National bi-lateral sponsorships. They exist now and are healthy.
China	Sponsorship of countries who are not at the same level of maturity in exercising and USAR training
IAEM	Private logistic companies supporting local airports for working through receipt and dispatch.

Breakout Discussions (Online)

4. Partnerships

Country/Team	Comment
Thailand	Thailand suggests that INSARAG works with ASEAN-ERAT on RDC and UCC.
Indonesia	Indonesia suggests discussing with AHA Center the different roles at RDC, particularly in relation to ERAT. UC training material should also include more on the role of UNDAC.
Pakistan	Propose to conduct the UNDAC Induction course in South Asia to ensure the UNDAC members from the region.
Philippines	Potentially get support from AHA Centre on NAP and IRNAP.

Long-term regional planning - all informal and running sheets

- 1. AP Regional chair – informal and running sheet**
- 2. AP ERE hosts**
- 3. AP Training Plan (continued discussion from the previous session)**

Asia-Pacific Regional Chair since 2000

	Country	Years
1	Australia	2006, 2019, 2026
2	China	2002, 2009, 2016
3	India	2005
4	Indonesia	2011, 2021
5	Japan	2003, 2010, 2018, 2025
6	South Korea	2000, 2007, 2014, 2022
7	Malaysia	2017
8	Nepal	2012
9	New Zealand	2001, 2008, 2015, 2023
10	Pakistan	2024
11	Singapore	2004, 2020

Asia-Pacific Regional Chair since 2000

Year	Country
2000	South Korea (Australia as a vice-chair)
2001	New Zealand
2002	China
2003	Japan
2004	Singapore
2005	India
2006	Australia
2007	South Korea
2008	New Zealand
2009	China
2010	Japan
2011	Indonesia
2012	Nepal

2013	Singapore
2014	Sourh Korea
2015	New Zealand
2016	China
2017	Malaysia
2018	Japan
2019	Australia
2020	Singapore
2021	Indonesia
2022	South Korea
2023	New Zealand
2024	Pakistan
2025	Japan
2026	Australia
2027	TBC

ERE's in the Asia-Pacific Region since 2002

	Country	Years
1	Australia	2023
2	China	2006, 2021
3	Indonesia	2012, 2016, 2022
4	Malaysia	2013, 2017
5	Mongolia	2007, 2015
6	Nepal	2009
7	New Zealand	2002
8	Pakistan	2024
9	Philippines	2002, 2004, 2018
10	Singapore	2002, 2004
11	Thailand	2019
	TOTAL	19

ERE's in the Asia-Pacific Region since 2002

APERE Since 2002	
Years	Country
2002	New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines
2003	
2004	Philippines, Singapore
2005	
2006	China
2007	Mongolia
2008	
2009	Nepal
2010	
2011	
2012	Indonesia

2013	Malaysia
2014	China
2015	Mongolia
2016	Indonesia
2017	Malaysia
2018	Philippines
2019	Thailand
2020	
2021	China (online)
2022	Indonesia
2023	Australia
2024	Pakistan
2025	
2026	TBC

Nomination:
2026:
2027:
2028:
2029:
2030:

End of Day 1

Wrap Up and Announcement on the Evening's
Programme

