

Proposal on Promoting the Adoption of the INSARAG-Recognised National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) in the Asia-Pacific Region

Proposed by:

Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China
Singapore Civil Defence Force

To the INSARAG Secretariat,

In order to further strengthen the capacity building for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) in the Asia-Pacific (AP) region and to promote the INSARAG-Recognised National Accreditation Process (IRNAP), thereby contributing to the realization of the “localization” strategic objective of the INSARAG Steering Group (ISG), the Ministry of Emergency Management of the People’s Republic of China and the Singapore Civil Defence Force, after full and friendly consultations, hereby submit this proposal to the INSARAG Secretariat.

The two agencies express their readiness to jointly provide comprehensive support, including technical expertise, personnel, and facilities, to INSARAG member countries in the AP region. The details of the proposal are as follows:

1. Provision of facilities, instructors, and financial support for the organization of training activities related to IRNAP and USAR, including such as IRNAP leadership course, USAR technical training course, and national USAR capacity building seminar;
2. Provision of expert advisory and technical support, including national USAR capacity assessment, the development of NAP and standard system, and guidance on NAP exercise and national USAR training base construction;
3. Nomination of experts to serve as members of the IRNAP Technical Support Group (TSG) and Technical Recognition Group (TRG) for the AP region, with active participation in IRNAP.

In addition to the above, both agencies express their willingness to nominate experts (or expert teams) to provide mentor-ship for IEC/R in the AP region, and to assume key roles such as team leader and deputy team leader during IEC/R.

Enclosed is the concept note, which provides more details about the proposal. Thank you.

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Promoting IRNAP Adoption Within the Asia-Pacific (A/P) Region

Concept Note

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This concept paper proposes a joint initiative between the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) of the People's Republic of China and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF), to promote and support the adoption of the INSARAG Recognised National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) among A/P member states.

1.2 While there are ten INSARAG-classified countries within the A/P region, only two – Singapore (2022) and China (2025) – have attained IRNAP accreditation. Both countries recognise the value of taking proactive steps to encourage broader adoption of IRNAP across the region, and see an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to INSARAG's strategic objective of "Localisation" by building sustainable, nationally-owned USAR capabilities across the A/P region.

1.3 This joint initiative also aligns timely with the INSARAG Strategy 2026 – 2030, which calls on the network to actively support capacity building across all levels – international, regional, national and local.¹

2. Background

2.1 The INSARAG Strategy 2026 – 2030 sets out a clear vision to actively support capacity building at all levels to ensure a coherent and effective response to emergencies. Central to this strategy is the *Strategic Objective on Strengthening Localisation*, which seeks to empower regional, national and local actors through inclusive engagement, knowledge exchange and decision-making to better reflect regional priorities and local realities. A key action under this objective is to support the implementation of national accreditation systems through IRNAP.

2.2 Despite the growing emphasis on localisation, there remains considerable potential for wider IRNAP adoption within the A/P region.² Amongst the ten INSARAG-classified countries in the region, only China and Singapore have achieved IRNAP accreditation. This gap presents both a challenge and an opportunity, indicative of the significant untapped potential for strengthening USAR capacity in the region. Given the direct and recent experience with the accreditation process, both countries are thus well-placed to support the expansion of IRNAP within the region.

2.3 Against this backdrop, both China and Singapore see value in taking a proactive and collaborative approach to promoting IRNAP adoption, through sharing experience, strengthening training and advisory support. This initiative aims to complement, not duplicate, the existing work of the INSARAG Technical Support Group (TSG) and Technical Recognition Group (TRG), in

¹ INSARAG Strategy 2026 – 2030, Strategic Objective 3: Strengthening Localisation.

² For comparison, the AEME and Americas regions each have 4 IRNAP-accredited countries, with 3 additional Americas countries currently undergoing the accreditation process.

close consultation with the INSARAG Secretariat.

3. Objectives

3.1 The joint A/P regional initiative aims to achieve the following objectives:

- a. **Advancing INSARAG's "Localisation" Objective** – To contribute to INSARAG's strategic objective on 'Strengthening Localisation' by building sustainable, nationally-owned USAR capabilities rooted in local leadership.
- b. **Strengthening USAR Capacity Building** – To strengthen USAR capacity building across A/P member states by promoting and supporting the establishment of National Accreditation Process (NAP) aligned with INSARAG standards.
- c. **Encouraging IRNAP Adoption** – To encourage A/P countries to undertake IRNAP accreditation by providing experiential sharing, training opportunities and advisory support alongside the TSG/TRG framework.
- d. **Fostering Regional Interoperability** – To foster greater interoperability among A/P USAR teams through the adoption of common INSARAG standards and methodology.

4. Principal Considerations

4.1 The following principal considerations will guide the design and implementation of the joint initiative:

- a. Alignment with INSARAG Framework
All training and support activities should adhere to relevant INSARAG methodology and standards, ensuring alignment with the established IRNAP accreditation framework.
- b. Comprehensive Scope
Programme and activities should span the spectrum of the IRNAP process – from initial awareness to preparations and accreditation – providing end-to-end support to countries at every stage of their IRNAP journey.
- c. Sustainable and Equitable Structure
The initiative should be sustainable and adopt a collaborative framework which allows for equitable workload-sharing and streamlined processes. This includes actively growing the pool of qualified resource persons within A/P for long-term sustainability.
- d. Flexibility to Accommodate Diversity
The initiative must recognise the diversity among A/P member states and calibrate support to each country's context, needs and level of readiness.
- e. Complement Ongoing Efforts of Wider IRNAP Framework
Activities should avoid duplicating the existing efforts of the TSG/TRG, and should

facilitate the path for countries undertaking the IRNAP accreditation.

5. Proposal

5.1 The joint initiative is structured on a three-tiered framework, as illustrated in Diagram 1 below. The modalities of support under each tier are designed to be adaptable to the needs and readiness of each requesting country.

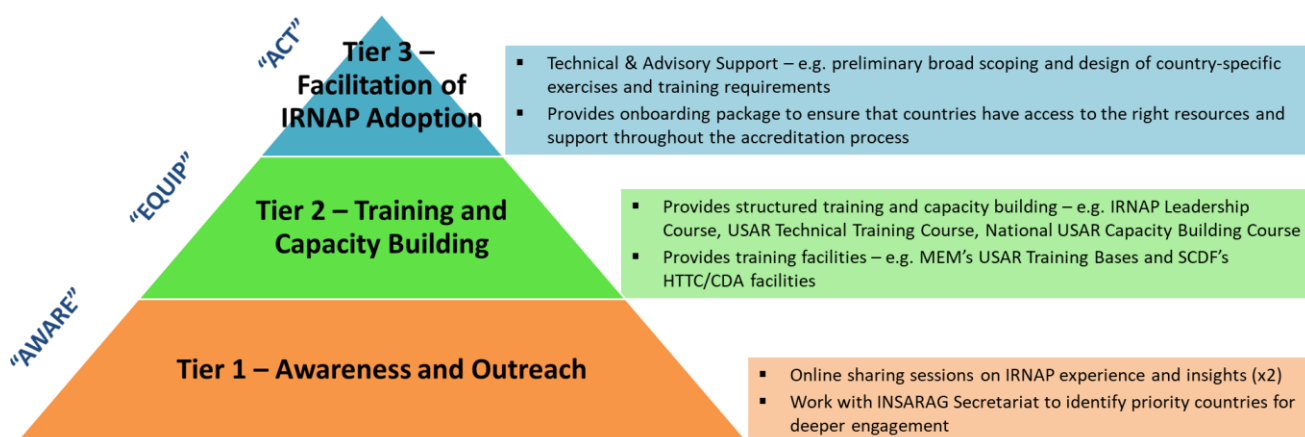


Diagram 1: Illustration of the 3-Tiered Framework for Promoting IRNAP Adoption

Tier 1 (**Aware**) – Awareness and Outreach

5.2 The IRNAP journey begins with being “**Aware**”. At this foundational tier of the framework, the initiative seeks to create greater awareness and interest in IRNAP adoption among A/P member states. China and Singapore will jointly lead outreach efforts, drawing on their respective accreditation experiences to provide member states with an informed understanding of what IRNAP entails and its benefits.

5.3 Both countries will also work closely with the INSARAG Secretariat to identify and prioritise A/P countries for engagement. Prioritisation may be based on a confluence of factors including: (i) existing USAR capacity and team maturity, (ii) national readiness in terms of institutional support, political will and organisational infrastructure, and (iii) susceptibility to natural disasters.

Tier 2 (**Equip**) – Training and Capacity Building

5.4 For countries that express interest in pursuing IRNAP adoption, invitations will be extended to these countries to “**Equip**” them with structured training and capacity building programmes co-hosted by China and Singapore. These programmes include the IRNAP Leadership courses, USAR technical training and national capacity building seminars. Where required, training can also be calibrated to each country's specific context in line with INSARAG's call for tailored regional approaches.

Tier 3 (**Act**) – Facilitation of IRNAP Adoption

5.5 For A/P countries assessed to be ready to formally embark on IRNAP adoption, the final

stage is to **“Act”** and take steps towards accreditation. Technical and advisory support can be provided alongside support already rendered through the TSG/TRG framework. This includes preliminary broad scoping of national USAR capacity, guidance on NAP exercises, and an onboarding package linking countries with qualified entities for specialist consultancy. China MEM and SCDF can play a coordinating role in ensuring that countries have access to the right resources and support at each stage.

5.6 To support the broader accreditation ecosystem, both China and Singapore will nominate qualified experts to serve on the TSG and TRG for the A/P region, reinforcing the sustainability of the accreditation ecosystem.

6. Other Considerations

6.1 The success of this regional initiative is contingent on close coordination with the INSARAG Secretariat, IRNAP Working Group and Training Working Group. Integration with these bodies is essential to ensure coherence, avoid duplication and maximise impact.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Given the Asia-Pacific region's heightened propensity for disasters, broad localisation of USAR capabilities through IRNAP adoption is key to swift, effective response. Through a structured tiered approach, this initiative seeks to provide A/P member states with the awareness, capability and support required to pursue IRNAP accreditation.

7.2 With the right governance framework and sustained commitment from both countries, this initiative has the potential to meaningfully accelerate IRNAP adoption, strengthen regional interoperability and contribute to INSARAG's vision of efficient, high-quality and well-coordinated USAR response.

8. Way Forward

8.1 To build broader consensus and ensure that the initiative is robustly discussed and refined before formal adoption, the following steps are proposed to advance this initiative:

- a. To present the initiative at the A/P Regional Meeting in July 2026 for discussion and feedback from member states. This will provide an early opportunity to surface diverse perspectives and refine the proposal in response to feedback received.
- b. Following the Regional Meeting, China MEM and SCDF will work with the INSARAG Secretariat to establish the governance framework, identify interested countries and determine mechanisms for coordination with existing INSARAG workstreams.
- c. In parallel, outreach efforts will commence with the conduct of virtual experiential sharing sessions to promote IRNAP awareness. Training programmes will be

*Proposal drafted by Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) of the
People's Republic of China and Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF)*

developed in collaboration with the National Capacity Building Working Group and Training Working Group, ensuring alignment with the INSARAG Strategy 2026 – 2030.