

**REPORT ON THE AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA AND ICAO SEMINAR ON  
SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**1. ACTION REQUIRED**

Joint Committee is invited to note the recommendations of ICAO sponsored SAR seminar with regard to Cospas-Sarsat, held in India during 7 - 11 March 2005.

**2. BACKGROUND**

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) hosted a SAR seminar and SAR Exercise (SAREX) in association with ICAO for Asia Pacific countries, 7 - 11 March 2005 at Chennai, India.

The SAR Seminar was held for two days on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005. This was followed by a SAREX held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, with a debriefing meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March. It was an initiative of ICAO to demonstrate and exercise the SAR capabilities in the region, particularly the Indian systems and capabilities. The Seminar and SAREX were attended by 141 delegates from twelve (12) States: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macao China, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Cospas-Sarsat.

Representatives from Cospas-Sarsat and INMCC presented 4 technical papers dealing with different topics such as Cospas-Sarsat system overview, its organization, future developments, the INMCC facility, performance and contribution and the development of an Indian low-cost beacon.

During the SAREX held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005, an aircraft crash on land and at sea were simulated. All the SAR systems and associated elements were exercised. In both the exercises, Cospas-Sarsat ELT and PLB were used as initial alerting system. The beacon and the Cospas-Sarsat ground system (Indian LUTs and INMCC) performed well and provided the crash information to SAR authorities in time.

The organizers and the seminar report highlighted the importance of Cospas-Sarsat System in successful SAR mission and encouraged participating countries to become associated with the Programme. Also, a need was felt to host such a seminar and the SAREX periodically to update the SAR authorities on the latest developments and also to exercise the entire SAR system and associated elements.

A detailed report on the Seminar and SAREX is available as a separate document and also is available on the following web-link:

[http://www.icao.org/cgi/goto\\_m\\_apac.pl?icao/en/ro/apac/2005/Search\\_Rescue\\_SAREX/Search\\_Rescue\\_SAREX.pdf](http://www.icao.org/cgi/goto_m_apac.pl?icao/en/ro/apac/2005/Search_Rescue_SAREX/Search_Rescue_SAREX.pdf)

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

ICAO expressed satisfaction on the outcome of the SAR seminar and SAREX, and considered this as a grand success. The seminar report made the following recommendations with respect to Cospas-Sarsat system:

- The seminar acknowledged the highly successful large-scale land and sea search and rescue exercises that were held involving multi-disciplinary emergency response units, and urged ICAO to organize annual regional SAR seminars and SAREX's similar to the one held in Chennai.
- The seminar recognized the vital operational and economic contribution made to effective SAR service provision by the Cospas-Sarsat System and recommended that States participate as a matter of priority.
- The seminar, noting the promising developments and the desirability of producing a low cost SAR emergency beacon for a much wider user community, which would greatly benefit personal safety, encouraged the continued development and manufacture of this product.

The Joint Committee is requested to note the need for low cost beacons, especially in developing countries with inadequate economic support, and consider this issue for further reducing the cost of the beacons for wider use.