

Follow-ups of the discussion on the ERE during the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Meeting (September 2025)

Following the discussions on ERE during the AP Regional Meeting held on August 7–8, the TWG revisited the ERE package and the points discussed during the TWG meeting on August 27 are as follows.

Descriptions in the ERE package

According to the [*International Earthquake Response Exercise SIMEX Guide V3.0*](#), for past many years, the ERE had been a strategic initiative by INSARAG aligned with UN General Assembly Resolution 57/150 which calls for strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance. The guide, however, points out the importance of involving multi-stakeholders such as UNDAC teams, EMT, UN in-country agencies (UNCT) and National Government responders into ERE. The guide thus set the overall goal of conducting ERE as “*to practice and strengthen emergency preparedness and response coordination between national and international actors in support of a disaster affected country, and coordination between international actors to strengthen their capacity to support a disaster affected country*”.

This means that the ERE has evolved beyond its original scope as an INSARAG-led initiative. It now serves as a comprehensive platform for capacity-building and experiential learning across a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including national authorities, international responders, and humanitarian partners. Accordingly, the decision to host or conduct an ERE should be determined by the strategic objectives and intentions of the host government and participating entities. This ensures that the exercise is tailored to meet specific preparedness goals, foster meaningful collaboration, and maximize the relevance and impact of the training. While the Guide does not prescribe a fixed frequency for conducting EREs, it is evident from the evolving nature of the exercise that its implementation is contingent upon the strategic objectives and intentions of the host government and participating stakeholders. The decision to conduct an ERE should therefore be based on contextual needs, preparedness priorities, and the desired learning outcomes of those involved.

Observations by TWG

- Although EREs are generally and ideally conducted on an annual basis in each 3 regions, they are not mandatory every year.
- While it is ideal for EREs to target countries with a high likelihood of receiving international assistance, this is not a strict requirement. Countries that host an ERE with clear objectives have gained valuable insights and have provided a platform for other stakeholders to learn and engage.
- In this context, although the ERE Package was developed by the INSARAG TWG, the decision to host and implement an ERE now rests with the host country and participants. If the host has a clear purpose and regional participants are involved, it is no longer appropriate for the TWG to dictate the process. The Package has been a “Guide”.
- Regardless the reason; financial constraint, the Global ERE, human resource, etc., the decision not to conduct an ERE should be made by the AP region and its member countries.

- In the AP region, there have been EREs where EMT participants and national responders formed the majority. INSARAG was able to allocate resources for coordination thanks to available funding and established networks, but this might not be a case in the future.
- Moving forward, the extent to which the INSARAG network contributes to EREs should be determined by each country, team, and expert in consultation with the host nation.

Note: As there was no representative from the Americas region at the online TWG meeting in the late August, these inputs were gathered solely from the AEME region.