

**MH370 probe team to improve aviation security, says deputy minister
– Bernama
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The Malaysian Icao Annex 13 Safety Investigation Team for Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH370 strives to improve the quality and safety standards of the aviation industry.

Malaysian Transport Deputy Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Kaprawi said although the team was currently conducting investigations into the disappearance of flight MH370, the sole objective of the investigation was the prevention of future accidents or incidents.

"It is not the purpose of this activity to apportion blame or liability with regards to the incident."

He said via the phone after a ministerial tripartite meeting involving Malaysia, Australia and China to review search efforts for the missing Boeing aircraft.

The meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

"Based on factual information gathered by the investigation team, we will be able to formulate strategic plans to further enhance the security of air travel, thus restoring the confidence of the flying public that air travel is the safest mode of transportation," said Aziz.

He said no other form of transportation was as scrutinised, investigated and monitored as commercial aviation.

The Malaysia-led 19-member international investigation team is headed by Datuk Kok Soo Chon.

Kok was formerly Department of Civil Aviation director-general and a former permanent representative to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (Icao) Council in Montreal.

The team comprises three committees, namely operations, airworthiness and medical/human factors, each headed by a chairman.

Also participating in the team are accredited representatives from seven international air accident and incident investigation organisations.

They are from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau; Air Accidents Investigation Branch of the United Kingdom (UK); Air Accident Investigation Bureau of Singapore; Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation civile of France; Civil Aviation Administration of China; National Transportation Safety Board of the United States of America (USA); and the National Transportation Safety Committee of

Indonesia.

Included in the team are also Boeing, which is under the USA-accredited representative and Rolls Royce and Inmarsat, which are under the UK accredited representative.

Aziz, who chairs the technical committee said: "Soon after the disappearance of the MAS flight MH370, a Boeing 777-200ER aircraft registered 9M-MRO, we gathered qualified personnel from the industry to carry out the investigation."

He said the investigation was carried out in accordance with the standards set under the Annex 13 to the Convention of International Civil Aviation (The Chicago Convention) to ensure competency, transparent and credibility.

The Beijing-bound international scheduled passenger flight, with a total of 239 people (227 passengers and 12 crew) on board, departed the KL International Airport at 12.42am on March 8, 2014.

Less than 40 minutes after take-off, air traffic controllers lost radar contact with the aircraft after passing waypoint Igari. – Bernama, April 19, 2015.

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