

**Search for MH370 could be called off soon, says report**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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The search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 could soon be called off as more than a year of trawling the Indian Ocean continues to provide no clues to the whereabouts of the missing aircraft.

According to a report by UK daily The Mirror, leaders from China, Australia and Malaysia are scheduled to meet in Kuala Lumpur in two weeks' time to discuss the future of the mission, while Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss was quoted as saying that his government would "have to make other decisions... about how long the search should continue".

"Discussions are ongoing about the search," he was quoted as saying in the report.

"We remain cautiously optimistic about finding the plane, with over 40% of the priority search area covered so far.

"If, however, the plane is not found at the completion of the search... then discussions will be had between Australia, Malaysia, China and potentially others on the next steps."

Flight MH370 disappeared from radar on March 8, 2014, en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 227 passengers and 12 crew members on board. Over a year later, not a single piece of the Boeing 777 has been found, despite the largest and most expensive search operation in aviation history.

The initial search and rescue operations covered the South China Sea, Strait of Malacca, Andaman Sea and southern Indian Ocean, involving 65 aircraft and 95 vessels and experts from 25 countries.

The search and rescue phase then transitioned to an underwater search and recovery phase led by the Joint Agency Coordination Centre and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).

Experts previously expressed confidence that debris from the missing aircraft would soon be found, suggesting that wreckage would wash up at locations such as Indonesia.

Yet almost 13 months after the plane's disappearance, the whereabouts of MH370 remain a mystery, causing some to challenge the prevailing theory that the plane had crashed into the southern Indian Ocean.

On January 29, 2015, the Malaysian government declared MH370 officially missing in an accident.

Earlier this month, authorities expressed hope that an unwrapped towelette that

washed up on a western Australia beach last July would provide clues to the whereabouts of the missing plane.

The towelette which was sealed in a packet bearing the MAS logo was shipped to Canberra for further testing.

The Joint Agency Coordination Centre said it was unlikely the towelette would be conclusively linked to MH370, but experts reportedly said it would be possible for the small package to travel long distances without being damaged.

The official search for MH370 has focused on the southern Indian Ocean along a rugged 60,000 sq km patch of sea floor some 1,600km from Perth. – March 31, 2015.

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