

## **INTERIM STATEMENT**

The information provided herein is of an interim nature. Readers are advised that new information may become available that may alter this interim statement prior to the publication of the Final Report.

### **AIRBUS A330 DIVERSION AFTER SMOKE WARNING ON 22 APRIL 2013**

On 22 April 2013, an Airbus A330 took off from Singapore Changi Airport, bound for Dhaka, Bangladesh. 84 minutes into the flight, while cruising at 36,000 feet over the Gulf of Thailand, about 8.1NM off the coast of Thailand, the flight crew received a warning indicating smoke in the aft and bulk cargo compartment. Subsequently, the cargo fire extinguishing agent was discharged into the aft and bulk cargo by the flight crew. The smoke warning remained active after the extinguishing agent was discharged.

The Pilot in Command (PIC) decided to divert to the nearest airport, Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The aircraft landed uneventfully on runway 19R at 1253hrs (UTC) and taxied to parking bay after exterior inspection by the Bangkok Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) service indicated no sign of smoke or fire from the aft and bulk cargo doors. Passengers and crew members disembarked safely from the aircraft using passenger stairs. There were no injuries or fatalities in this incident.

The Bangkok ARFF service tended to the aft cargo compartment where smoke was billowing from the aft cargo door. While unloading cargo container 42L, the contents burst into flames. The ARFF used a combination of water and carbon dioxide to extinguish the fire.

The conduct of this investigation has been delegated to the Air Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of Singapore by the Department of Civil Aviation, Thailand. The investigation report is being finalised.

22 April 2014