

Malaysian PM is hopeful Flight 370 will be found

By Eileen Ng
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak says he is hopeful that missing Flight 370 will still be found as lawmakers observed a moment of silence in parliament to mark the second anniversary of the plane's disappearance.

Najib said the wing part found on France's Reunion Island last July was evidence the flight tragically ended in the southern Indian Ocean. An ongoing search is expected to be completed later this year and he said Malaysia "remains hopeful" that the plane will be found.

If the search turns up nothing, he said, Malaysia, Australia, and China will hold a meeting to determine the way forward.

"The search has been the most challenging in aviation history," Najib said in a statement. "We remain committed to doing everything within our means to solving what is an agonizing mystery for the loved ones of those who were lost."

The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 jet vanished mysteriously with 239 people on board while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014. After two years, it remains one of the biggest mysteries in modern aviation.



The Australia-led search effort has spent more than \$130 million looking through a vast area of the Indian Ocean nearly four miles deep. Investigators have said the search will end by June unless fresh clues are found.

Transport minister Liow Tiong Lai said crews have combed about three-quarters of the 46,000-square-mile search zone.

The international investigating team issued an interim statement as required

by international aviation laws on the anniversary of the plane's disappearance, but didn't provide any fresh clues about the cause.

The statement said a final report will be completed only when the aircraft wreckage is located or the search for the wreckage is terminated.

Families of those on board have appealed to authorities to keep the search alive.

AGONIZING MYSTERY. A man wearing an MH370 hat prays with relatives of passengers aboard missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 at the Lama Temple in Beijing, on March 8, 2016, which marked the second anniversary of the disappearance of MH370, which vanished March 8, 2014 while en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

In Beijing, a large group of Chinese relatives gathered at a Buddhist temple, burning incense and praying to deities for their loved ones.

"My hope is that they will find the plane. I also hope that the Malaysian side will not stop the search and that they will continue until they find the plane. I heard they are going to stop. That cannot happen," said Zhang Qian, whose husband, Wang Houbin, was among 153 Chinese citizens on the plane.

Some still held on to hope that their loved ones are alive, with several relatives holding placards that read "Mom is waiting for you" and "Pray for the plane's safe return."

"We think our relatives are alive. We know this feeling is not very scientific, but we strongly believe this," said Dai Shuqin, a 62-year-old woman whose younger sister was on the flight.

AP videojournalists Helene Franchineau and Isolda Morillo in Beijing contributed to this report.

First things to be raised if MH370 is found: More questions

Continued from page one

Australian capital, Canberra, where Malaysian and Australian experts would analyze the data.

Funds available, for now

There are still enough funds in the budget Australia set aside for the search to fund the recovery, said Dolan. But if the plane is discovered when that budget has run dry, Australia will have to confer with other countries to figure out how to pay for what would be a complex effort requiring specialized equipment.

The ATSB has gathered a list of companies with equipment capable of retrieving wreckage from the seabed. Crews would need to photograph and map the debris field, then get the specialized vessels and crews to the remote search site. All of that would take a couple of months.

Black boxes have limits

If the black boxes are recovered, the data recorder should reveal details related to the plane's controls,

□

Lights out: Cities worldwide mark the 10th annual Earth Hour

Continued from page 5

go dark in Taiwan's capital.

Philippine officials in metropolitan Manila led hundreds of environmental activists, students, and movie and television celebrities in switching off lights at the Quezon Memorial Circle in suburban Quezon city. Amid the darkness, some participants pedalled bamboo bikes attached to small energy generators to power LED lights and illuminate a giant

Philippine map to symbolize the country's yearning to shift to renewable energy sources, organizers said.

The first Earth Hour event was held on March 31, 2007, when the WWF conservation group inspired people in Sydney to turn out the lights for an hour. Since then, the WWF-organized event has expanded to thousands of cities and towns around the world and has been held every March.

including whether aircraft systems that might have helped track the plane were deliberately turned off, as some investigators theorize. But data recorders won't necessarily reveal who took those actions and why.

Conversations captured by the cockpit voice recorder could reveal more about what happened, but the device aboard the lost Boeing 777 could hold only the last two hours of recordings. Information from early in the flight was likely erased. That flight recorder exceeded the

international standard at the time.

Airliners built after January 1, 2021 must be equipped with 25-hour voice recorders capable of recording the entire flight under new rules recently approved by the International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N. agency that sets global aviation standards. However, there is no requirement to retrofit existing planes with longer recorders.

Joan Lowy reported from Washington.



MARCH IS
PROBLEM GAMBLING
AWARENESS MONTH
HAVE THE CONVERSATION



1-877-695-4648 (MY-LIMIT)

The Asian Reporter is published on the first & third Monday each month.

News page advertising deadlines for our next two issues are:

April 4 to 17, 2016 edition:

Space reservations due:

Wednesday, March 30 at 1:00pm

Artwork due: Thursday, March 31 at 1:00pm

April 18 to May 1, 2016 edition:

Space reservations due:

Wednesday, April 13 at 1:00pm

Artwork due: Thursday, April 14 at 1:00pm

