



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Twenty-Second Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-Group
(ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/22)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 25 – 29 June 2012

Agenda Item 4: Review outcome of relevant meetings

METEOROLOGICAL TASK FORCE OUTCOMES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents updates on matters relevant to ATM regarding the MET/ATM Task Force (MET/ATM/TF), the Operational Meteorological Management Task Force (OPMET/M/TF), and the Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (METWARN/TF).

This paper relates to –

Strategic Objectives:

A: *Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety*

C: *Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport – Foster harmonized and economically viable development of international civil aviation that does not unduly harm the environment*

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-18 Aeronautical information

GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Tenth Meeting of the Operational Meteorological Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/10) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17 to 19 April 2012. The Second Meeting of the Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (METWARN/I TF/2) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 19 to 20 April 2012.

1.2 The OPMET/M TF/10 meeting was attended by 48 participants from Australia, China, Hong Kong-China, Fiji Islands, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United States, and Viet Nam. The METWARN/I TF/2 meeting was attended by 54 participants from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong-China, Fiji Islands, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United States, Viet Nam and IFALPA.

2. DISCUSSION

OPMET/M/TF

2.1 The meeting reviewed the status of OPMET deficiencies in the Region, which mainly concerned the provision of SIGMET information, MET briefing and flight documentation, and MET observations and reports.

2.2 In relation to the deficiency in the regular provision of information on volcanic activity to Air Traffic Services (ATS) units and Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) in Indonesia, the meeting was apprised that corrective action was underway in the form of a Letter of Agreement, signed in January 2012.

2.3 The USA, as a World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Provider State, has successfully implemented the WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) as the replacement for the satellite broadcast based International Satellite Communications System-Generation 2 (ISCS-G2) – to provide access to World Areas Forecast System products – noting that the ISCS will be terminated as of 04:00 UTC on 1 July 2012. Most ISCS users had successfully made the transition to WIFS and the WAFS Provider State was continuing to assist users to make full operational use of WIFS in time for the cessation of the ISCS.

2.4 Furthermore, the US apprised the meeting of the upcoming termination and cessation of Gridded Binary (GRIB) version 1 (GRIB 1) products as of Nov 2013.

2.5 The Inter-Regional exchange of OPMET information was reviewed and further action is required to improve OPMET exchange between the APAC and AFI Regions.

2.6 The meeting agreed that continued detailed monitoring of the implementation of the 30-hour TAF in the APAC Region remains an ongoing requirement – in addition to feedback from IATA on criteria for 30-hour Terminal Area Forecast (TAF).

2.7 OPMET monitoring showed significant improvement in the OPMET availability in the Region as compared with the monitoring result last year. Similarly, the real-time backup exercise conducted by Regional OPMET Data Banks (Bangkok and Singapore) showed an increase in the rate of transmission from the result last year.

2.8 No regional activities were reported in relation to the exchange of OPMET information using Extensible Markup Language (XML), though the meeting learned of recent initiatives of the Meteorological Aeronautical Requirements and Information Exchange Project Team (MARIE-PT) – and its close collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Task Team on Aviation XML (TT-AvXML) – on developments for information exchange and XML.

2.9 A conjoint session was held in the METWARN/I TF/2 meeting (held back-to-back with OPMET/M TF/10) to discuss SIGMET issues and other business of shared interest between the two groups.

METWARN/TF

2.10 The meeting reviewed the November 2011 SIGMET test results and was pleased to note increased participation by States and greater issuance of SIGMETs compared to previous years. SIGMET heading and formatting errors were similar to those identified in previous tests and the meeting suggested further work was necessary to address those issues.

2.11 Back-up tests between Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) Darwin and Tokyo identified a number of issues that were either being addressed or would be managed in time for the next round of back-up tests in 2012.

2.12 The SIGMET advisory trial in Asia hosted by China showed there were some improvements of the SIGMET issuance in States which have existing SIGMET deficiencies.

2.13 The meeting discussed issues relating to the provision of volcanic ash advisory information and volcanic ash SIGMET information – i.e. the relative merits of the current system of both advisories and SIGMETs and a proposal to remove the requirement for volcanic ash SIGMET – and agreed that identifying the APAC Regional requirements for volcanic ash information should be a priority for the MET/ATM TF.

2.14 Discussions were held on a new proposal for the structure the MET sub-group of APANPIRG, which would incorporate the MET/ATM TF into a new MET Requirements TF.

2.15 The meeting noted activities underway by the International Airways Volcanic Watch Operations Group and the Meteorological Warnings Study Group concerning the development of guidance with regards SIGMET on radioactive cloud and aerodrome warnings for tsunami.

2.16 In relation to progress on Regional contingency plans, the meeting was informed that the ad-hoc group to work on a framework for Regional contingency plans did not have additional progress to report but the group could be expanded to include members from Japan and IFALPA. The meeting was also apprised on the discussions of the 1st meeting of the Regional ATM Contingency Planning Task Force (RACP/TF/1) in Bangkok from 17-19 April 2012 and agreed to strengthen the link between the RACP/TF and METWARN/I TF through the regular exchange of information on progress and requirements of the respective groups.

MET-ATM/TF

2.17 The next MET-ATM/TF event is tentatively being planned in March or April 2013.

2.18 Key milestones of the group include determining Regional MET requirements for ATM (including volcanic ash information), developing methods to use weather information in decision support tools and developing sub-regional exchange of MET information to facilitate ATM operations in busy routes.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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