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THE UPGRADED SIGMET COORDINATION PLATFORM

(Presented by China)

SUMMARY

This paper introduces the upgrades China has made to the SIGMET coordination platform.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Significant Meteorological information (SIGMET) Coordination has become a recommended practice under Amendment 79 to ICAO Annex 3 (Recommendation 3.4.4) since November 2020.

1.2 China has been making efforts to improve the aeronautical meteorological services in Asian region, especially to help improving the capabilities of SIGMET issuance. Since 2018, Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), in conjunction with China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), has been providing the Asian regional SIGMET coordination platform (<https://www.aamets.com>) in support of organizing coordination routinely with meteorological watch offices (MWOs) on hazardous weather conditions. Since 2019, China has successively signed the Letter of Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding on SIGMET coordination with Russia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kyrgyz Republic, using the above-mentioned SIGMET coordination platform to conduct SIGMET coordination to reach a consensus on SIGMET content in order to provide aviation community with consistent information along the borders of adjacent FIRs and to improve the quality of SIGMETs.

1.3 In order to improve the service capability of the platform and enhance user experience, China has continuously collected user feedback on the usage of the platform in recent years, making targeted improvements and optimizations to its functions and content. The upgraded platform was officially launched in May 2024.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The main functions of the platform include displaying various types of meteorological observation and forecast data in the form of GIS data layer overlays, supporting the neighbouring

MWOs to conduct SIGMET coordination either interactively or through communication, and automatically generating related SIGMETs based on the coordination results.

2.2 The upgraded platform is more open than before, which currently allows all users to view products without login. Users only need to log in when participating in SIGMET coordination.

2.3 There are more abundant observation and forecast data available on current platform, with some new information such as FY4 satellite data, clear air turbulence, Ellrod index, typhoon tracks, and volcanic activity information, which provide users with stronger data support for participating in SIGMET coordination.

2.4 The upgraded platform is now more convenient to conduct weather coordination. To facilitate users in coordinating with neighbouring MWOs and to avoid irrelevant information interruption, the coordination method has been changed from a large chat room for all users to several private chat rooms allowing users to engage in private chats as needed.

2.5 There are also some enhanced SIGMET generation functions. For example, when users draw one or more areas where significant weather is occurring and specify key information, the platform can automatically generate one or more SIGMET messages based on the graphical information. Users can edit the automatically generated SIGMET messages on the platform and copy to their own SIGMET issuing platform to issue the SIGMET directly.

2.6 To ensure the security of user information, the upgraded platform service has been updated from HTTP to the more secure HTTPS.

2.7 To facilitate users in better utilizing the coordination platform, the upgraded platform has added a training simulation system with all functions of the platform. It allows users to practice the coordination platform functions to become more proficient in real coordination activity.

2.8 In the future, the works to improve and upgrade the SIGMET coordination platform and enhance its service capability will be continually conducted.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 Note the information contained in this paper.
