



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**FIRST MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL AVIATION  
SAFETY TEAM (APRAST/1)**

(Bangkok, Thailand, 20-24 February 2012)

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**Agenda Item 23: Industry Presentations**

**ACI AIRPORT EXCELLENCE (APEX) IN SAFETY  
PROGRAMME**

(Presented by Airports Council International)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents ACI's **Airport Excellence (APEX) in Safety** Programme. It discusses the benefits APEX provides as a dynamic and systematic approach for safety from the industry, while fostering regional cooperation in the aerodrome field, with the ultimate goal of decreasing the number of runway incursions and reducing the number of fatal accidents.

This paper relates to:

**ICAO Strategic Objectives:**

- A. Safety
- C. Sustainability

**Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The mission of Airports Council International (ACI) is to promote the collective interest of the world's airports and the communities they serve and to promote professional excellence in airport operations and management. Safety is the top priority.

1.2 To achieve these goals, ACI works closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Safety is paramount for both ACI and ICAO, and it will remain the top issue on the ACI-ICAO agenda.

1.3 According to ICAO's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP, 2009 results), of the total number of states audited, 70% did not establish or implement a runway safety program to prevent runway incursions, 44% failed to implement the ICAO standards regarding the certification of aerodromes, and 38% do not ensure that aerodrome operators comply with the requirements related to operational services and physical facilities.

1.4 As air traffic and passenger numbers continue to rise at a steady rate, the aviation community must do more to improve the level of safety at airports worldwide. Recent ACI forecasts indicate that there will be over 10 billion passengers and 130 million aircraft movements per annum by 2029, meaning that aside from other operational measures, the existing world airport capacity

would need to double over the next 15 years to be able to accommodate this added capacity demand. The price tag is in excess of 1 trillion dollars for capital expenditure projects alone.

1.5 ACI, pursuing its mission of promoting safer airport operations while contributing to international cooperation between the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), aviation stakeholders and airports worldwide, has developed the **Airport Excellence (APEX) in Safety** initiative.

1.6 The **APEX in Safety** Programme is based on ICAO standards as well as ACI Best Practices. APEX in Safety combines the mandate for regulatory compliance with the actual day to day operational needs of airports to maximize operational efficiency while enhancing the safety standards.

1.7 Moreover, **APEX in Safety** provides several elements tailored to the individual needs of airports and proposes effective solutions which will lead to improving the safety standing of the airports who participate in the Programme by decreasing the safety hazards and risks.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 **APEX in Safety** is based on ICAO Annex 14 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) and ACI Best Practices. It takes the form of a Safety Review, including a self-assessment of the safety level, gap analysis, recommended solutions and design of an action plan following an on-site visit at an airport which has requested assistance to enhance their level of safety.

2.2 The host airport will directly benefit from dedicated ACI support to achieve the goals set in the action plan. Various means of assistance are available, such as access to pools of experts, training, workshops, seminars, working groups, at local, regional and international level.

2.3 The enhanced level of safety will directly benefit the State, especially in regard to the design and implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP). The State oversight capabilities will receive a boost, as the aerodrome participating to the **APEX in Safety** Programme will display a greater level of compliance with SARPS and the national regulations applicable. The Programme will benefit ICAO by providing a valuable insight regarding the current safety standing and the future capabilities of the visited aerodromes to close the safety gaps identified. The data collected will be used by ICAO as part of the integrated global aviation safety net, with the ultimate goal of improving aviation safety worldwide.

2.4 The process of carrying out an on-site safety assessment at an airport, making proposals for an Action Plan, and recommending solutions to optimize the safety standing of the requesting airport, is referred to as a **Safety Review**.

2.5 The airport requesting the Safety Review is described as the **Host Airport**. The Safety Review reflects industry best practices, while maximizing the operational benefits that the Host Airport needs.

2.6 For the Host Airport, **APEX in Safety** will provide the ability to:

- Effectively ensure an enhanced level of safety, by gaining appropriate knowledge of regulatory standards, best operational practices, and training needs / options;
- Self-evaluate its safety performance;
- Access a pool of expertise which will enable the Host Airport to mitigate any gaps in safety as required by their specific operating environment.

2.7

**APEX in Safety** will also provide the means to:

- Offer assurance to ICAO that adequate safety measures are in place contributing to the regulator/oversight authority fulfilling its obligation to implement, and ensure compliance with, ICAO SARPS;
- Acknowledge that the Host Airport is proactively taking measures towards improving its safety standing and becoming fully compliant with the applicable safety regulations;
- Understand that the Host Airport would be able to provide the necessary elements to integrate into the State Safety Programme (SSP).

2.8

Under **APEX in Safety**, ACI will organize and dispatch a team of experts to the Host Airport to improve its level of safety in specific areas of interest. The Host Airport will receive an on-site visit of a specially set up team of experts – the ACI Safety Review Team.

2.9

The Host Airport may request areas in which the ACI Safety Review Team may provide specific assistance. The following areas are presented as an example: runway safety, SMS, aerodrome certification, wildlife hazard management, emergency response, FOD management, improvement of AIP documentation, etc.

2.10

The Safety Review should last up to one week and the ACI Safety Review Team is comprised of a variable number of safety experts, depending on the complexity of the assessment requested. The team should normally include an ACI Regional Office safety expert, an ICAO-designated safety officer, and one or more Safety Partners (*see below*), under the supervision of a team leader (which could be one of the above mentioned team members). Other experts may be included in the team if the extent of the Safety Review so demands.

2.11

The **Safety Partner** is an airport, World Business Partner or other strategic ACI associate which has the required know-how and volunteers to provide to the Host Airport one or more experts for the purposes of performing the Safety Review. ACI proudly acknowledges our Safety Partners' contribution to fostering safety and international cooperation through a variety of communication channels and at ACI events world-wide.

2.12

The **ACI Safety Review Team** will conduct a gap analysis and assessment of the safety standing at the Host Airport, and will provide a preliminary (draft) report at the end of the visit. A Final Report with recommendations will be forwarded to the Host Airport Senior Management within a month of the end of the visit, containing the observations made by the ACI Safety Review Team. The Final Report will emphasize the short, medium and long term solutions that could be put in place by the Host Airport to enhance the level of safety, given its individual operational environment.

2.13

Based on the conclusions from the Final Report, the Host Airport will draw up an **Action Plan** which will contain its short, medium, and long term safety improvement goals, as well as the means and actions that are deemed most appropriate to achieve these results.

2.14

The overarching **APEX in Safety** goal of improving safety is reached when the Host Airport acts upon the proposed mitigating measures, as safety enhancement is an essential, yet on-going activity.

2.15

An ACI support team will be ready to guide the Host Airport throughout the process of implementing the most appropriate safety measures as part of their strategy to phase in the mitigating measures.

2.16 An important part of the **APEX in Safety** Programme is to ensure that effective assistance is provided to the Host Airport for the implementation of a Safety Management System capable of capturing and addressing safety-related hazards and risks.

2.17 As the Host Airport implements mitigating measures, a periodic evaluation of the airport's safety performance is needed and highly recommended. The Safety Review results should be updated accordingly, to reflect the progress made.

2.18 **APEX in Safety** will provide valuable insight to ICAO regarding the current safety standing and future capabilities of the visited aerodromes to close the safety gaps identified. The data collected will be used by ICAO as part of the integrated global aviation safety net, with the ultimate goal of improving aviation safety worldwide.

2.19 The results from the Safety Review will be confidential. ACI and ICAO will cooperate to ensure the protection of the data related to the Safety Review. The data will be used for the purposes of the Safety Review, for designing mitigating measures and ensuring safety oversight under the ICAO-ACI cooperation framework.

2.20 For additional information about **APEX in Safety**, please contact Mr. Shun Leung WONG, Senior Manager Technical and Industry Affairs – ACI Regional Office APAC, at [SL@aci-asiapac.aero](mailto:SL@aci-asiapac.aero), or Mr. Adrian CIORANU, Project Manager APEX – ACI World, at [ACioranu@aci.aero](mailto:ACioranu@aci.aero).

### 3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided about the APEX in Safety initiative.

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