



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Third Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Afghanistan Contingency Group
(AHACG/3)**

(Muscat, Oman, 11 - 14 May 2015)

BULLETIN

1. LOCATION

1.1 The Third Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Afghanistan Contingency Group (AHACG/3) will be held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman from 11 to 14 May 2015, at the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) headquarters building, located around 3km from Muscat International Airport Terminal.

2. SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

- 2.1 The opening session of the meeting will be held at 0900 hours on Monday, 11 May 2015.
- 2.2 The schedule and order of the day will be announced at the Opening session.
- 2.3 The meeting will be conducted in English.

3. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

3.1 Participants are requested to register, at the Registration Desk located at the entrance of the designated conference room, between 0800 and 0900 hours on the opening day of the meeting. Participants are also requested to wear the Identification Badge which will be issued to them during registration.

4. DOCUMENTATION

4.1 No documentation in hard copy will be available. Participants are requested to download the documentation from the ICAO APAC Website <http://www.icao.int/apac> and bring along their own hard copies or their laptops to the meeting, as appropriate.

5. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

5.1 Participants are requested to make their own hotel reservation. The following hotels are located approximately within a distance of 4km from the meeting venue:

Hotel Name	Telephone	email
Holiday Inn Al Seeb	+968 22080555	HolidayInnMuscatAlSeeb@ihg.com
Golden Tulip Seeb	+968 24514444	dom@goldentulipseeb.com
Hormuz Grand	+968 24350500	reservations@hormuzgrand.com

6. TRANSPORTATION

6.1 Participants are requested to make their own arrangements for transportation from the airport to the city and return; some hotels offer airport transfers.

6.2 Airport Taxi Services operate private limousine services from the airport to Muscat City, and its neighborhoods at approximately OMR 10 per vehicle.

6.3 Car rental agencies are located at the arrival hall of the airport terminal building.

7. INSURANCE

7.1 Participants are advised to have insurance coverage for any unexpected contingency including transport hazards (taxi, buses, rented cars, etc.) and Medical Coverage.

8. SOME USEFUL TRAVEL INFORMATION

PASSPORT/VISA

8.1 All foreign nationals entering the Sultanate of Oman must possess passports internationally recognized Travel Document valid for six months.

8.2 Foreign nationals entering the Sultanate of Oman, except the GCC nationals, require an entry visa that needs to be obtained from the Omani embassies or consulates abroad before arrival to Oman. For some nationalities visas may be obtained on arrival. Further information related to the visa requirements can be found at the Royal Oman Police website: www.rop.gov.om.

8.3 Assistance for visa on arrival may be available via the meeting Focal Point (see Section 12, Other Assistance) if this is necessary.

CUSTOMS

8.4 The following items are exempted from customs duties and shall be allowed entry:

- a) A total number of 400 cigarettes;
- b) 100ml of perfume;
- c) 10 DVDs; and
- d) 2 bottles (max 2 litres) or 24 cans alcohol drinks (passengers who are non Muslims and over the age of 21 years only).

9 CURRENCY, CREDIT CARDS AND BANKING SERVICES

9.1 The unit of currency in Oman is the **Omani Riyal (OMR)**. The unit is divided into 1000 baizes with notes of 100, and 500 baizes and Riyal notes of 1, 5, 10, 20, and 50. The Riyal to USD exchange rate is 1 OMR = 2.6 US\$. (www.xe.com)

9.2 All passengers travelling through Oman Airports must declare to the customs authority, using the relevant declaration form, which can be requested at the checking counters, the carry of cash, other bearer negotiable instrument (such as cheques, bills of exchange, stocks and shares etc.) and precious metals or stones valued at R.O 6,000 (Six Thousand Omani Riyals) or more, or its equivalent in any other currency.

9.3 International Credit Cards, such as American Express, Visa, Master Charge, etc., are usually accepted at most hotels, department stores and restaurants.

9.4 Foreign currency exchanges and ATMs are readily accessible at the airport and major shopping destinations.

9.5 Commercial banks exchange major foreign currencies and are generally open from 0800 to 1300 Sundays through Thursdays.

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

SHOPPING

10.1 Shopping malls and shopping areas are available in Muscat.

TAP WATER

10.2 It is recommended that all visitors drink only bottled water/beverages.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET CARDS

10.3 Cards are readily available at local shops for international calls, and internet connection.

10 WEATHER CONDITIONS

11.1 The mean daily minimum and maximum temperatures for the month of May are 28°C and 39°C.

12. OTHER ASSISTANCE

12.1 The Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) will be glad to assist the participants to the meeting with any advice they may require.

12.2 The meeting Focal Point contact details will be provided by email to all participants as soon as possible. In the meantime, please contact the following ICAO Officers for general information:

- Mr. Elie Khoury, Regional Officer, Air Traffic Management/Search and Rescue ICAO MID Office, Cairo (eKhoury@icao.int); and
- For meeting registrations, Mr. Len Wicks, Regional Officer, Air Traffic Management ICAO APAC Office (LWicks@icao.int).
- PACA focal point: Mr. Zahir Al-Shaqsi, landline +968 99212772, Mobile: +968 24519515 and e-mail: zahir@paca.gov.om

Mr. Al-Shaqsi, will help in the facilitation of Visa issuance, participants entitled for visa upon arrival, can send the Visa fees (OMR 20) through Western Union in his favor.

12.3 In case of emergency in Muscat, please contact the above meeting Focal Point.
