



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
ASIA PACIFIC CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION TASK FORCE
(APCACTF/1)**

BANGKOK, THAILAND — 22 – 23 JUNE 2015

The views expressed in this Report should be taken as those of the APCACTF and not of the Organization.

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1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission Task Force (APCACTF/1) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 22 to 23 June 2015 at the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office.

1.2 Attendance

1.2.1 The meeting was attended by 49 participants from 18 Member States, 2 Special Administrative Regions of China. One delegate from ECAC and two delegates from AFCAC also attended.

1.2.2 A list of participants is given at **Attachment 1** to the Report.

1.3 Opening of the meeting

1.3.1 The meeting was opened by Mr. Arun Mishra, Regional Director, ICAO Asia and Pacific Office.

1.3.2 Mr. Mishra welcomed the participants and presented his opening remarks. The Full Text of Mr. Arun Mishra's speech is placed at **Appendix A** to this Report.

1.4 Officers and Secretariat

1.4.1 Mr. Yoshiki Imawaka, Deputy Regional Director, ICAO Asia and Pacific Office, was the Secretary of the meeting. He was assisted by Mr. N.C. Sekhar, Regional Officer/AGA.

1.5 Working Arrangements, Language and Documentation

1.5.1 The Task Force met as a single body throughout the meeting. The working language of the meeting was English inclusive of all documentation and this Report. Working Papers (WPs) presented at the meeting are listed in the **Attachment 2** to this Report.

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda

1.1 The meeting adopted the following Agenda:

- Agenda Item 1: Adoption of Agenda
- Agenda Item 2: Election of Chair/Vice Chair of the APCAC Task Force
- Agenda Item 3 & 5: Adoption of the Terms of Reference and State Presentations
- Agenda Item 4: Establishment of Expert Group
- Agenda Item 6: Sharing Experience by ECAC, AFCAC and ACAC
- Agenda Item 7: Future Work Programme
- Agenda Item 8: Any other business

Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

2.1 Mr. Rajan Pokhrel of CAA Nepal proposed the name of Dato' Azharuddin DG DCA Malaysia for Chairperson. The proposal was supported by China and Singapore. Mr. Azharuddin was unanimously elected as the Chairperson for the Task Force and he presided over the meeting.

2.2 Mr. Yusfandri Gona of Indonesia proposed the name of Mr. Nimalsiri DG CAA Sri Lanka for Vice Chair. The proposal was supported by Timor Leste and Maldives. Mr. Nimalsiri was unanimously elected as the Vice Chair for the Task Force.

Agenda Item 3 & 5: Adoption of the Terms of Reference and State Presentations

3.1 In presenting WP/3, the Secretariat provided a background to the events leading to the establishment of the Task Force. In WP/6 Australia presented their proposal on the draft Terms of Reference to help guide the Task Force's examination of the significant issues associated with establishing the Commission. Malaysia presented WP/8 on Suggestions to enhance the Terms of Reference of the APCAC Task Force by including an analysis of alternative solutions to a civil aviation commission. Singapore presented WP/7 on Strengthening Coordination on Civil Aviation in the Asia Pacific Region submitted by the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Singapore and Vanuatu, highlighting the concerns raised by States in past Asia Pacific DGCA Conferences and providing proposals for strengthening the existing Asia Pacific structures and mechanisms where there had been significant support. The meeting reviewed the proposed Terms of Reference and endorsed the Terms of Reference as below.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission Task Force (APCACTF)

Deliverable(s)

Report to the DGCA Conference the outcomes of the study on the feasibility of the Establishment of Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission(APCAC).

Scope of work

- 1) Establish the objectives, interests, opportunities, challenges and priorities of the Asia Pacific and Asia Pacific States/Administrations in the area of civil aviation, in particular cooperation, coordination and assistance on operational and technical matters.
- 2) Study the feasibility of the establishment of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission, including:
 - a. Examining current regional cooperation, coordination and assistance arrangements;
 - b. Identifying areas of improvements in the existing arrangements;
 - c. Examining the scope, objectives and priorities, governance arrangements, structure, resources and finances related to the Commission, and relationships with ICAO and other bodies, taking reference from existing Civil Aviation Commissions/Conference.
- 3) Examine alternative and complementary solutions to improve regional aviation cooperation, coordination and assistance on operational and technical matters, including strengthening the current arrangements.
- 4) Identify and compare the benefits and costs of these options.
- 5) Any other related matter which the Task Force considers necessary for furthering its work.

Composition

The Task Force would be composed of APAC States/Director Generals of Civil Aviation and aviation experts nominated by the States/Administrations. Observers from other Aviation Commissions may be invited.

Expert Group

The Task Force may establish Expert Groups to assist with its work including the conduct of a survey on the feasibility study.

Conduct of the work and schedule

The Task Force shall report the work progress to the 52nd DGCA Conference (2015). It would submit the outcomes of the feasibility study to 53rd DGCA Conference (2016) for endorsement.

Agenda Item 4: Establishment of Expert Group

4.1 The meeting agreed on the establishment of an Expert Group comprising the 18 APAC States which participated in the APCACTF/1 meeting including ICAO. The meeting further invited these States to nominate their experts to the Expert Group, citing the name, and area of expertise and submit to Chairman APCACTF/ICAO RO by 30 June 2015. The meeting further agreed that the Expert Group would be guided by the Terms of Reference of the APCACTF. ICAO Regional Office would participate in the Expert Group meetings.

4.2 The meeting invited the ICAO RO to coordinate the First Meeting of the Expert Group which would be scheduled in August 2015 at APAC Office, Bangkok. The meeting noted that at the first meeting the Expert Group will elect a Coordinator and Vice Coordinator from among its members to organize, coordinate and conduct the meetings. For conduct of face to face meetings of Expert Group the venue of ICAO Regional Office in Bangkok could be utilized.

Scope of Civil Aviation Commission

4.3 Pakistan presented WP/9 on the Scope of the Civil Aviation Commission. China, Indonesia and Sri Lanka supported the Working Paper. Singapore thanked Pakistan for the paper and reiterated that the task of the APCACTF is only to study the feasibility of the establishment of the APCAC. The meeting noted the possible scope of work for the proposed APAC Civil Aviation Commission if established.

Agenda Item 6: Sharing Experience by ECAC, and AFCAC

6.1 ECAC, and AFCAC presented their experiences on the Objectives and Functions of their respective commission.

Agenda Item 7: Future Work Programme

7.1 The meeting reviewed and adopted the work programme presented in WP/5 as below:

	APCAC Feasibility Study	Responsible	Date
1	Establishment of Expert Group	APCACTF	June 2015
2	First Face to Face Meeting of Expert Group	Expert Group	August 2015
3	Report on Work Progress to APCACTF	Expert Group	October 2015
4	Report on Work Progress to 52 nd DGCA Conference (26 th to 30 th October 2015, Manila)	APCACTF	October 2015
5	Present Preliminary Proposals to APCACTF	Expert Group	February 2016
6	Present outcomes of the feasibility study to APCACTF	Expert Group	June/July 2016
7	Present outcomes of the feasibility study to 53 rd DGCA Conference	APCACTF	August 2016

8.0 In closing the Chairman thanked the ECAC and AFCAC delegation for coming to the meeting and sharing their experiences and also thanked the other State delegates for their support and contribution for the duration of the Meeting.

APPENDIX A

OPENING REMARKS BY Mr. Arun Mishra ICAO Regional Director APAC Office Bangkok

First Meeting of Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission Task Force, 22 to 23 June 2015

Distinguished Directors General of Civil Aviation of APAC Region,
Distinguished Representatives from AFCAC and ECAC,
Distinguished members of the States' Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning and a very warm welcome to the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office for the First Meeting of the Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission Task Force.

By any measure the evolution of air transport in APAC Region has been spectacular. Over the past decade, the exceptionally rapid growth of many Asian economies has led to a significant expansion in the number of people who can afford to travel at home and abroad. At the same time international tourism to and from Asia has helped maintain our region as the largest air transport market in the world and the one with the greatest potential for growth.

From the early days of ICAO the need for establishment of the regional bodies to assist in the implementation of aims and objectives of the organization has been felt. In accordance with Article 54 of the Chicago Convention, ICAO encourages setting up of Regional Air Transport Commissions. Regional cooperation in aviation safety and security is an International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) priority, as reflected in the ICAO *Policy and Framework for Regional Cooperation*, which commits ICAO to promoting regional cooperation through close partnerships with regional organizations and civil aviation bodies.

As the international civil aviation started growing Regional bodies were established in Europe (ECAC), Latin America (LACAC), Africa (AFCAC) and Arab States (ACAC).

In APAC Region, States have evolved a forum of Directors General to meet annually to coordinate and develop a regional partnership and cooperation. The DGCA Conference is viewed as an important event by ICAO which is evident from the fact that both the President of the ICAO Council and the Secretary General attend the conference to provide the global perspective.

Asia-Pacific is incredibly large and diverse region covering vast airspace with 50 Flight Information Regions. The needs of State aviation regulators in this region are equally as diverse, with some managing a modern, fully-functional aviation system while others requiring further development to meet expected international standards. States within these regions also have a wide diversity of approaches to the economic regulation of air transport.

Aviation is a Joined Up activity and it is important that all States and service providers attain similar standards of safety and security for it to be sustainable. While the Asia-Pacific Region does not have a regional civil aviation commission, in other regions these bodies play a key role in coordinating regional cooperation and implementing regional actions for aviation related matters. A regional aviation commission provides a platform for member States to cooperate and collaborate for a balanced and sustainable development of air transport in the region.

The idea of setting up APAC Civil Aviation Commission has been on the table for a long time but it got a boost during the 51st DGCA Conference held in Hong Kong last year where Representative from China highlighted the immense growth of air traffic in the region which justified the need for a suitable framework within which the Director Generals of the Civil Aviation Authorities could discuss and plan all the necessary measures for Cooperation and coordination of civil aviation activities in Asia/Pacific. Accordingly China mooted the proposal for considering the establishment of an APAC

Civil Aviation Commission on the lines of other Regional Commission and proposed the establishment of a Task Force comprising of Director Generals of Civil Aviation and/or nominated Experts, which would examine the feasibility of setting up APAC Civil Aviation Commission.

Australia, Hong Kong China, Macao China, India, Indonesia and New Zealand supported the establishment of a Task Force to examine the feasibility for setting up of the APCAC. The 51st DGCA Conference also supported the establishment of the Task Force.

I thank Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong China, Macao China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand for nominating their expert volunteers as members of the Task Force.

I am aware that the proposal is a complex one and some States have strong views on this matter. Considering the sensitivity of the subject I took the liberty of inviting all States to this meeting instead of restricting this to only the nominated task force members. This was done with the purpose of getting all interested States together to discuss this issue in detail – something which has not been done so far so that our future actions are built on a strong and robust foundation of consensus.

There are two common divergent views on this subject –

- a) Firstly not satisfied with the existing DGCA Conference mechanism, the proposal is to set up a Regional Commission like other Commissions so that the APAC Region could reap the benefits of an institution which represents the interests and aspirations of the largest region before the global aviation community and also provide a platform for enhanced regional cooperation and collaboration in the technical fields.
- b) The other view is that the APAC Region is too diverse in terms of political, economic, language and cultural front to form a cohesive association to serve the aspirations of members in an inclusive manner. So it may be counterproductive to create another institution and instead we should focus on ways to improve the effectiveness of the existing DGCA Conference using new concepts and tools and strengthening linkages with other existing institutions like the APANPIRG, RASG and the Montreal Group.

We see that there is a common agreement that the effectiveness of the existing DGCA Conference needs to be enhanced as the APAC Region faces the challenges of huge growth in the sector. This institution of DGCA Conference established about 50 years back needs to be reinvented to face the challenges of this rapidly advancing aviation sector. I would like to make it clear that while ICAO promotes Regional associations we do not have any particular prescription for enhancing Regional Cooperation. Our interest is to ensure that States in the region cooperate and collaborate in a manner which is most effective and sustainable. I would also like to reiterate that this Task Force is just a tool or a process to examine the feasibility of setting up such Regional Institution in APAC and final decision of course vests with the all the members States of the region.

To make this discussion more meaningful I considered that an interaction with the Representatives of other Regional Commissions would be very helpful to provide a global perspective for us to move forward. I must also express my gratitude to the Delegation of ECAC, AFCAC and ACAC for travelling so far to provide their valuable support to this important meeting.

I must also share with you that there is a lot of interest amongst the global aviation community on the progress made in this two day meeting. I am sure the next two days will be exciting with fresh thoughts and ideas. I wish you all a very meaningful and successful meeting and a nice and enjoyable stay in Bangkok.

Thank You.

Attachment 1 to the APCACTF/1 Report

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Attachment 2 to the APCACTF/1 Report



**FIRST MEETING OF THE APAC CIVIL AVIATION COMMISSION
TASK FORCE (APCACTF/1)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 22 to 23 June 2015

LIST OF WORKING PAPERS

Paper No.	Agenda Item	Title	Presented by
WORKING PAPERS			
WP/1	1	Provisional Agenda for the First Meeting of the APAC Civil Aviation Commission Task Force (APCACTF/1)	Secretariat
WP/2	2	Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson	Secretariat
WP/3	3	Proposed Terms of Reference of the APCAC Task Force	Secretariat
WP/4	4	Establishment of Expert Group	Secretariat
WP/5	7	Work Programme of APCACTF	Secretariat
WP/6	3	Feasibility of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission – Task Force Draft Terms of Reference	Australia
WP/7 <i>Revision 1</i>	5	Strengthening Coordination on Civil Aviation in the Asia Pacific Region	Singapore, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau and Vanuatu
WP/8	3	Suggestion to Enhance the Terms of Reference of the APCAC Task Force	Malaysia
WP/9	4	Scope of APAC Civil Aviation Commission	Pakistan

— END —