



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The First Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group
(VOLCEX/SG/1)**

Manila, Philippines, 27-29 May 2015

Agenda Item 6: Future Work Schedule

REVIEW AND ADOPT APAC VOLCEX/SG FUTURE WORK PLAN

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a draft future work plan for the Asia/Pacific volcanic ash exercises steering group to review and adopt.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In accordance with the guidance contained in ICAO Doc 9766 – *Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch*, Appendix F – *Guidance for conducting volcanic ash exercises in ICAO Regions*, the APAC VOLCEX/SG is expected to conduct planning meetings for volcanic ash exercises, publish volcanic ash exercise directives, conduct volcanic ash exercises and conduct debrief meetings to review the volcanic ash exercises.

1.2 A draft work plan for the APAC VOLCEX/SG is presented in the **Attachment** to this paper for further review and possible adoption by the meeting.

2. DISCUSSION

Planning meetings

2.1 For each volcanic ash exercise, an exercise leader should be appointed and a planning meeting held approximately three months before the exercise is due to take place. The planning meeting should normally be hosted by one of the participating agencies¹.

Exercise directives

2.2 An exercise directive, which clearly describes the exercise scenario, participating agencies and any special instructions, should be published prior to each volcanic ash exercise. For example, in the ICAO EUR/NAT Region, the exercise directive is required to be finalized (and circulated/posted on the website) by the exercise leader, in coordination with the Secretary, at least two weeks prior to each volcanic ash exercise², while the schedule adopted for the VOLKAM15

¹ European and North Atlantic Volcanic Ash Exercises Operating Instructions (EUR/NAT VOLCEX OPINS) January 2011, Annex C

² EUR/NAT VOLCEX OPINS January 2011, page 9

exercise in the far east of the Russian Federation required the volcanic ash exercise directive to be finalized and posted on the website one month prior to the date of the exercise¹.

Volcanic ash exercises

2.3 The frequency and scope of volcanic ash exercises is the responsibility of the ICAO region concerned. Noting that in the APAC region there are several States where regular air traffic flow is at risk from encounters with volcanic ash, and in some States air navigation deficiencies have been recorded in the field of aeronautical meteorology related to the provision of information on volcanic ash, it may be useful to plan future volcanic ash exercises based on volcanoes located in other APAC States, e.g., Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, etc.

Debrief meetings

2.4 After each volcanic ash exercise, initial exercise reports should be prepared by all participating agencies and a debrief meeting should be held soon after the exercise to discuss the exercise reports. The exercise leader should then produce a consolidated final exercise report for consideration by the relevant ICAO (parent) group. For example, in the ICAO EUR/NAT Region, a debrief meeting is required to be held within 3 months (ideally 1 month) after a volcanic ash exercise has been conducted, often conjoined with the planning meeting of the next exercise². The debrief meeting for the VOLKAM15 exercise in the far east of the Russian Federation was held one week after the exercise. The debrief meetings should normally be hosted by one of the participating agencies³.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) review and adopt the work plan in the **Attachment** to this paper.

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¹ EUR (EAST) VOLCEX/SG/5, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Russian Federation, 5-7 August 2014

² EUR/NAT VOLCEX OPINS, January 2011, page 10

³ EUR/NAT VOLCEX OPINS, January 2011, Annex H

ATTACHMENT to VOLCEX/SG/1-WP/3 (Version: 26/05/2015)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>
18 or 19 August 2015	Conduct volcanic ash exercise (Philippines)	TBD
1-2 September 2015	Debrief meeting/[planning meeting]	Bangkok
TBD	[Planning meeting]	TBD
TBD (2016)	Conduct volcanic ash exercise (Indonesia)	TBD
TBD (2016)	Debrief meeting/[planning meeting]	TBD
TBD (2016 or 2017)	[Planning meeting]	TBD
TBD (2016 or 2017)	Conduct volcanic ash exercise (PNG or Tonga)	TBD
TBD (2016 or 2017)	Debrief meeting/[planning meeting]	TBD