



International Civil Aviation Organization

**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC  
METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP  
(MET/IE WG/14)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 – 9 March 2016

**Agenda Item 4: Planning and implementation of digital exchange of meteorological information**

**CAPACITY BUILDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL OPMET**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents an overview of proposals for capacity building initiatives to support implementation of digital exchange of meteorological information in the Asia/Pacific Region, including an ICAO inter-regional workshop in Paris in May/June 2016 to support implementation of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data.

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The availability of meteorological information in a globally interoperable digital format is seen as a key enabler for future global air traffic management within a system-wide information management (SWIM) environment.

1.2 With the introduction in Amendment 76 to Annex 3 (applicable November 2013) of the initial enabling clauses for the exchange of OPMET data in digital form, and the expectation that with Amendment 77 to Annex 3 (applicable November 2016) the exchange of METAR/SPECI, TAF and SIGMET in digital form will be elevated to a Recommended Practice – and include AIRMET and volcanic ash and tropical cyclone advisory information – there exists an escalating need for States to implement digital exchange of meteorological information.

1.3 In view of the above, the previous meeting of the group, i.e., the thirteenth meeting of the Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange Working Group (ROBEX WG/13), formulated Draft Conclusion 13/4 – *Capacity building workshop to facilitate planning and implementation of digital exchange of aeronautical meteorological information*, inviting ICAO to organize and conduct an inter-regional workshop in the first half of 2016 to build capacity in States for digital exchange of aeronautical meteorological information.

1.4 This paper presents an overview on progress towards capacity building initiatives to support implementation of digital exchange of meteorological information in the Asia/Pacific Region, including an ICAO inter-regional workshop in Paris, France, in May/June 2016 to support implementation of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data.

## 2 DISCUSSION

### APAC and EUR/NAT Regions support for capacity building workshop

2.1 The ROBEX WG/13, Draft Conclusion 13/4 (discussed above) was subsequently adopted by MET SG/19 (as Draft Conclusion 19/15) and finally endorsed at APANPIRG/26, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 10 September 2015, as APANPIRG/26 Conclusion 26/56 – *Capacity building workshop to facilitate planning and implementation of digital exchange of aeronautical meteorological information*.

2.2 Shortly afterwards, at an ICAO inter-regional coordination meeting between the APAC, EUR/NAT and MID Regional Offices, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 14 to 16 September 2015, the Regional Offices considered both the APANPIRG Conclusion and a corresponding EUR Region proposal being put forward to the fifty-seventh meeting of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG/57), and agreed that the EUR/NAT Office would organise an inter-regional workshop on the planning and implementation of digital exchange of meteorological information using IWXXM.

2.3 Subsequently, EUR Region support for an inter-regional workshop was confirmed at EANPG/57, held in Paris, France, from 23 to 26 November 2015, with the adoption of EANPG Conclusion 57/23, requesting ICAO to conduct in 2016 a *Workshop on implementing the ICAO meteorological information exchange model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data*.

### Workshop on implementing the IWXXM for the exchange of OPMET data

2.4 Following the adoption of EANPG Conclusion 57/23, the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office organized the *Workshop on implementing IWXXM for exchange of OPMET data* to be held at the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office in Paris, France, from 31 May to 2 June 2016 [ICAO letter, Reference: EUR/NAT 16-0086.MET (KEC/SAN), dated 12 February 2016, refers].

2.5 A copy of the invitation letter is provided at **the Attachment** to this paper.

2.6 The workshop will be dedicated to the regional OPMET data exchange hubs in all ICAO Regions, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Eurocontrol and other appropriate organisations and experts deemed necessary, and is expected to be the first in a series of regional workshops addressing training and capacity building aspects related to the migration to IWXXM.

2.7 In view of the importance of this workshop towards building capacity for implementation of digital exchange of meteorological information in the Asia/Pacific Region, as well as globally, it would be imperative that this workshop is supported by the Asia/Pacific Region and attended by experts representing the five Asia/Pacific Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODBs): Bangkok, Brisbane, Nadi, Tokyo and Singapore.

2.8 The objectives of the workshop (provided at **the Attachment** to this paper) include:

- 1) Present “*Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM*” (note: the guidelines document may be adopted in the future as Regional guidance material and is discussed further in WP/18 to MET/IE WG/14);
- 2) Identify any issues related to the implementation of IWXXM and develop an associated action list of responsible parties to address these issues, with timelines;
- 3) Develop regional implementation plans on the implementation of IWXXM for the Regional OPMET Centres (ROCs), RODBs, and Inter-Regional OPMET Gateways (IROGs) and assure inter-regional harmonization; and
- 4) Communicate workshop results to States.

**Other capacity building initiatives**

2.9 Given that the Paris workshop is intended to develop regional implementation plans on the implementation of IWXXM for the ROCs, RODBs and IROGs, additional capacity building initiatives that may be developed and conducted to support the Asia/Pacific Region should be determined in accordance with and following the outcomes of the Paris workshop.

2.10 In particular, with the experience gained at the initial Paris workshop, it may be envisaged that the Asia/Pacific Region will become better prepared to develop a regional implementation plan for digital exchange of meteorological information, incorporating the regional OPMET exchange hubs, and to plan and develop subsequent workshops addressing additional training and capacity building requirements as necessary and in accordance with the outcomes from the Paris workshop and in coordination with the other ICAO Regions and the WMO.

**3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper and discuss any relevant matters as appropriate;
- b) urge the Asia/Pacific RODBs (Bangkok, Brisbane, Nadi, Tokyo and Singapore) to participate in the *Workshop on implementing IWXXM for exchange of OPMET data* to be held in Paris, France, from 31 May to 2 June 2016, and to notify the ICAO EUR/NAT Office no later than 1 May 2016 of their intention to attend the workshop; and
- c) incorporate and integrate the *Workshop on implementing IWXXM for exchange of OPMET data*, and subsequential capacity building activities, in the work programme of the MET/IE WG.

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*When replying please quote*

Reference : EUR/NAT 16-0086.MET (KEC/SAN)

12 February 2016

Subject : **Workshop on Implementing the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data**  
(Paris, 31 May to 2 June 2016)

Action

required : Paragraph 3 refers.

Madam, Sir,

1. I'm pleased to refer to the Fifty-Seventh Meeting of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG/57) held in Paris from 23 to 26 November 2015, and in particular, to the EANPG Conclusion 57/23. This Conclusion requested ICAO to conduct in 2016 a *workshop on implementing the ICAO meteorological information exchange model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data*.

2. As a follow-up to EANPG Conclusion 57/23, it is a pleasure to inform you that the *workshop on implementing IWXXM for exchange of OPMET data* will be held at the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office from 31 May to 2 June 2016. This workshop, dedicated to the regional OPMET data exchange hubs in all ICAO Regions, World Meteorological Organisation, Eurocontrol and other appropriate organisations and experts deemed necessary, is expected to be the first in a series of regional workshops addressing training and capacity building aspects related to the migration to IWXXM. This workshop will also support the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Work Group (APANPIRG) Conclusion 26/56 that called for a capacity building workshop to facilitate planning and implementation of digital exchange of aeronautical meteorological information.

3. You are kindly invited to notify the EUR/NAT Office via email ([icaeurnat@paris.icao.int](mailto:icaeurnat@paris.icao.int)) as soon as possible and in any case no later than **1 May 2016** of your intention to attend the *workshop on implementing IWXXM for exchange of OPMET data*.

Yours sincerely,

Luis Fonseca de Almeida  
ICAO Regional Director  
Europe and North Atlantic

**Enclosure:** Attachment 1 – Workshop objectives  
Attachment 2 – Provisional agenda  
Attachment 3 – Practical information

**Distribution:** Austria, Belgium, France, United Kingdom, ASECNA, Eurocontrol, World Meteorological Organization, ICAO APAC Regional Office, ICAO ESAF Regional Office, ICAO MID Regional Office, ICAO NACC Regional Office, ICAO SAM Regional Office, ICAO WACAF Regional Office

**Attachment 1****Workshop on implementing IWXXM for the exchange of OPMET data - Objectives**

The workshop, involving, *inter-alia*, OPMET data exchange hubs (Regional OPMET Centres – ROCs, Regional OPMET Data Banks – RODBs, and Inter-Regional OPMET Gateways – IROGs) will:

- 1) present Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM;
  - 2) identify any issues related to the implementation of IWXXM and develop an associated action list of responsible parties to address these issues with timelines (list of issues is provided in special implementation project document and will be reviewed in workshop);
  - 3) develop regional implementation plans on the implementation of IWXXM for the centres described above and assure inter-regional harmonization; and
  - 4) communicate workshop results to States.
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**Attachment 2****Workshop on implementing IWXXM for the exchange of OPMET data****31 May to 2 June 2016**

ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office, Paris

**Draft Provisional Agenda**

31 May 2016		
Time	Item	Lead
0900-0930	<i>Registration</i>	--
0930	<b>Welcome and opening of the meeting</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose and conduct of the Workshop;</li> <li>• Tour de table; and</li> <li>• Adoption of the provisional agenda.</li> </ul>	Secretary
0945	<b>Background information</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICAO high-level IWXXM implementation developments (WG-MIE, IMP developments)</li> </ul>	WG-MIE and IMP members
1030	<i>Coffee break</i>	--
1045	<b>Background information</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WMO IWXXM developments (e.g. WMO Codes Handbook)</li> </ul>	WMO
1200	<i>Lunch</i>	--
1330	<b>Background information</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROCs/RODBs to learn of technical aspects related to IWXXM by technical experts to support implementation</li> </ul>	Technical expert
1515	<i>Coffee Break</i>	--
1530	<b>Background information</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of components of digital exchange (IWXXM, AIXM, FIXM) in view of SWIM</li> </ul>	Eurocontrol (tbc)
1615	<b>Background information</b> , including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of <i>Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM</i></li> </ul>	EUR DMG

1 June 2016

Time	Item	Lead
0930	<b>Recap of previous day</b>	ICAO
0945	<b>Update task list</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compare objectives with tasks, responsibilities and timelines</li> </ul>	All
1030	<i>Coffee break</i>	--
1045	<b>Develop regional implementation plans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For regional OPMET exchange hubs</li> <li>• How to convey plan to regions</li> <li>• Assure inter-regional harmonization of regional implementation plans</li> <li>• Subsequent workshops on States training and capacity building</li> </ul>	All
1200	<i>Lunch</i>	--
1330	<b>Develop regional implementation plans (continued)</b>	All
1515	<i>Coffee Break</i>	--
1530	<b>ROCs, RODBs coordination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking advantage of global attendance of centres, address issues that may optimize exchange of OPMET data such as regional point of contact for States in a Region</li> </ul>	ROCs, RODBs

2 June 2016		
Time	Item	Lead
0930	<b>ROCs, RODBs coordination (continued)</b>	ROCs, RODBs
1030	<i>Coffee break</i>	--
1045	<b>ROCs, RODBs coordination (continued)</b>	ROCs, RODBs
1200	<i>Lunch</i>	--
1400	<b>Review outcomes of workshop</b>	ICAO

**Attachment 3****MEETING LOCATION INFORMATION**

A list of hotels and other practical information can be found on the ICAO portal: RO\_EURNAT -> ICAO EUR/NAT Public Website Management -> Practical Information. You may also find this information at <http://www.icao.int/EURNAT/Pages/welcome.aspx> and click on **Practical Information**.

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