International Civil Aviation Organization

Fifth Meeting of Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) Transition Task Force of APANPIRG

Phuket, Thailand, 9 – 13 June 2003

Agenda Item 9: Review ATN implementation activities /issues

AFTN-AMHS TRANSITIONAL ISSUES

SUMMARY

This paper presents the AFTN-AMHS transition issues identified by OPMET/E TF/1 Meeting and AIDC Review Task Force Meeting.

(Presented by Secretariat)

1. Introduction

1.1 In accordance with ASIA/PAC ATN and AMHS transition plans (Table CNS 1B and Table CNS 1C) adopted by APANPIRG/12, the target date for implementation of the ground-to-ground element of ATN is 2005. Some States are already in the procurement phase for the new equipment and have planned to implement their ATN router and AMHS in 2004.

2. Discussion

2.1 The OPMET Exchange Task Force meeting held in Bangkok 19-21 February 2003 expressed concern that the migration from AFTN to AMHS might affect the OPMET exchange, though the new message handling systems should support the present AFTN formats. The meeting developed an action item and requested the Secretariat to raise this issue at the next meeting of the ASIA/PAC ATN Transition Task Force and subsequently inform the OPMET/E TF on any possible alterations to the current formats and procedures of OPMET exchange.

2.2 AIDC Review Task Force meeting held in Brisbane 27-28 March 2003 noted that current communication infrastructure used to support existing AIDC is based on AFTN. The meeting also noted that the regional plan for implementation of ground element of ATN is 2005. The meeting further noted that development of ATN based ICD for AIDC is in the task list of

the ATN Transition Task Force. The current messages sets, as updated by this meeting and contained in the ICD for AIDC version 2.0, should be supported during the transition period. Therefore the meeting formulated following draft conclusion:

> **Draft Conclusion 1/2 - Continuing support for ICD based AIDC messages**
> That, States ensure backward compatibility of AIDC message sets contained in the updated ASIA/PAC ICD for AIDC during the transition to ATN.

2.3 Most FDP systems in the ATC environment today fully depend on FPL and ATS messages which are based AFTN message format and their delivery procedures.

2.4 The meeting may wish to note that Several States are also using domestic in-house ATS messages automatic processing systems based AFTN message format and procedures.

2.5 The AIDC Review Task Force identified the need to provide monitoring function at application level. The meeting agreed to use an application status monitor (ASM) message at the application level to verify if the ATC application on the other end and AFTN are on-line. The periodic interval between transmissions of such messages should be determined based on the needs of the operational environment. Typical interval value may be between 5 and 30 minutes.

2.6 During the transition period from AFTN to AMHS, the existing AFTN message format traffic need to be supported.

3. Action by the meeting

3.1 The meeting is required to note the requirement of supporting the existing AFTN services during the transition period and develop any necessary draft Conclusion in this regard, as required.
