



# Implementation of information concerning en-route weather phenomena (SIGMET), (QMS/MET)

**Third Meeting of the APIRG IIM/SG, 12-14 October 2020**

**Presented by: South Africa**



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**IIM/SG/3- AI.4.3.1.**

# Headline

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- *Challenges and conclusion*

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# 1. Introduction

APIRG IIM SG Meteorology Project 1 and its main objective being to assist the AFI states with the implementation of:

- a) SIGMET, Standard & Recommended practice
- b) Quality Management System (QMS/MET)
- c) Air Navigation deficiencies in MET field
- d) Developing capability of handling OPMET data in digital format (GML/XML)

Tasks of the MET Project 1 team were developed to be undertaken by experts in the field of aeronautical meteorology as nominated by AFI States. Over and above the initial appointments, the team have received two formal appointment from Senegal and ASECNA. South Africa is the Project-Team Coordinator (PTC) and the Project Facilitators are the MET Regional Officers (ROs/MET) from the ICAO Dakar and Nairobi Offices.

The activities of the APIRG IIM SG MET Project 1 officially started in March 2018. (communication challenges and poor participation were experienced at the time). Significant improvement in 2019 as the Project team was able to meet on a monthly basis, until 26th March 2020. meetings are held virtually, but challenges related to poor network connectivity led to postponement and cancelation of some of the meetings. Other factors which impacted the activities of the Project team were related to the lack of interpreters resulting in the postponement of several Project Team meetings. Nevertheless, some meeting were successfully conducted with the help of interpretation services from the ICAO ESAF Region.



# 2. Discussion

- Outcomes of MET Project 1 meetings and activities***

2.1. Decision 2/4 of the IIM SG/2 formulated several intervention areas in order to improve the coordination mechanisms of the IIM Projects

| NO | TASK                                     | RESPONSIBLE PERSON     | PLANNED DATE   | COMMENTS / STATUS   |
|----|--|------------------------|----------------|---|
| 1  | PTC and experts appointment finalisation | States / Organizations | Immediately    | Completed   |
| 2  | Project Team Activities                  | PTC                    | 06 August 2020 | The updated Met Project 1 Activities are attached (Appendix B ).  |
| 3  | Project Terms of Reference (ToR)         | PTC and Team Members   | 26 March 2020  | The ToR were updated and attached (Appendix A)  |
| 4  | Project link finalisation                | PTC                    | August 2018    | Completed and submitted to IIM Sub-Group Chair, Vice and Secretariat on 22 March 2018<br>Project link finalization- this will be treated as a living document |
| 5  | Project Questionnaires                   | PTC and Team Members   | 26 March 2020  | The following questionnaires were drafted:<br>1. QMS Implementation Status  |



## *IIM SG Met Project 1 questionnaires*

- Two questionnaires were prepared and sent to AFI States. Processed questionnaires relate to the readiness of the two AFI RODBs (Pretoria and Dakar) and AFI States to exchange Met information in ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) which is applicable from 5 November 2020
- Further processing of Met Project 1 questionnaires have been put on hold until the Secretariat has finalized the process of defining minimum reporting requirements for air navigation deficiencies within the AFI region
- Two RODBs responded to the questionnaires (indicating that they have developed capabilities to handle OPMET data in IWXXM) and eighteen states also responded to the questionnaire and results are available on the ICAO ESAF website, under the IWXXM workshop documents



## ***IWXXM Training seminars/workshops***

- **APIRG 20 Resolution 20/45**, training/seminars in the AFI Regional are required in order to:
  - (a) develop capacity building for handling OPMET data in digital format; and
  - (b) to increase awareness to users of exchange of OPMET in digital format and expedite transition for handling OPMET in digital form.
- In this regard, the ICAO ESAF Regional Office organized and hosted a successful virtual IWXXM training workshop from 15-16 September 2020. The workshop was facilitated by the ICAO ESAF Regional Office supported by the ICAO Paris Office's EUR Data Management Group (EUR DMG) and representatives from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).



# *Quality Management System*

- Met Project 1 team noted that the METP/4 formulated Decision 8/1 which called for the discontinuation of the *Manual on the Quality Management System for the Provision of Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* (ICAO Doc 9873).
- Met Project 1 meeting further noted that ICAO Doc 9873 would be replaced by WMO-No. 1100 (*Guide to the Implementation of Quality Management Systems for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other Relevant Service Providers*) and that this document would service as an official guide for QMS Implementation.



# *Annual AFI SIGMET Tests*

- Annual AFI SIGMET Test were conducted during November/ December 2019. The report of the test was considered by the IIM SG Met Project team at its meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> August 2020. It was noted that most of the AFI States did not participate in the annual AFI SIGMET tests. The meeting felt that there was a need to urged the AFI States to participate in future tests while those with identified deficiencies should be encouraged to endeavor to address them.
- Furthermore, the meeting noted that several reasons could have contributed to the lack of participation in the SIGMET tests by AFI States including:
  - (a) Lack of adequate and effective oversight activities within the States; and
  - (b) Not enough capacity building in respect of issuances of SIGMET in the States. With the foregoing in mind, the meeting suggested that in 2020, the Secretariat should conduct a capacity building workshop in respect of SIGMET implementation.
- The meeting is invited to note that the 2020 AFI SIGMET Tests will be conducted from 02-04 November 2020. Details are provided in State Letter ES AN 8/8-0385 dated 17 August 2020.





## ***IIM SG Met Project 1 deliverables***

- The project tasks and deliverables were updated and are attached (Appendix B) for consideration by the meeting.



# *Challenges and conclusion*

- The IIM SG Met Project 1 encountered several challenges during the implementation of its activities, reproduced here below for ease of reference:
  - (a) The level of participation by nominated experts in the activities of the Met Project 1 was unsatisfactory;
  - (b) The low rate of response to questionnaires by AFI states and lack participation also delayed the work of the project team;
  - (c) The lack of participation to the annual SIGMET tests by most AFI MET Watch Offices (MWOs); and
  - (d) The unavailability of interpretation (English/French) led to the cancellation of several Met Project 1 team meetings.



## 3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- The meeting is invited to take note of the information presented in this paper and formulate the following conclusion/decision:
- **Draft Conclusion/Decision 3/xx: *Adoption of the MET Project 1 Terms of Reference and the Project deliverables for 2021-2022***  
That;
  - (a) **APIRG IIM/SG/3 considers and adopts the proposed MET Project 1 Terms of References and its associated project deliverables as contained in Appendices A and B;**
  - (b) **Concerned States and Organizations take appropriate actions to support their nominated experts appointed to MET Project 1; and**
  - (c) **States are encouraged to respond to project teams' questionnaires, and to participate in the annual AFI SIGMET Tests.**



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