

TERMS-OF-REFERENCE
ASIA PACIFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION GROUP
(APAC-AIG)
UNDER
REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP - ASIA PACIFIC (RASG-APAC)
(Approved by RASG-APAC/8)

1.0 Background

1.1 These terms-of-reference outline the concept of operations and modalities for the Asia Pacific – Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG) as a sub-group under the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Asia Pacific (RASG-APAC).

1.2 Accident/incident investigation is one of the elements of the State Safety Programme (SSP) which is an integrated set of regulations and activities of a State aimed at improving safety. Safety investigation of accidents and incidents is in support of the management of safety in the State's operation of the SSP and is based on the following principles:

- **Objective of investigation:** The sole objective of investigation is the prevention of accidents and incidents. Investigation is not for the purpose of apportioning blame or liability.
- **Independence of investigation:** The State has established an independent accident and incident investigation process and maintains the independence of the accident and incident investigation authority from other State aviation organizations.
- **Systemic approach:** Accidents and incidents reflect deficiencies in the system as a whole, rather than being due solely to the actions of individuals. Investigations need also to consider broader issues such as organizational and human factors.

2.0 Objective

2.1 The objectives of the APAC-AIG are to:

- Promote the establishment of independent accident/incident investigation authorities in the ICAO States/Administrations of the Asia Pacific region
- Assist States/Administrations to achieve best practice in accident/incident investigation based on a systemic approach to aviation safety;
- Promote the sharing of expertise, experience and information among the accident/incident investigation authorities; and
- Develop and strengthen cooperation among the accident/incident investigation authorities.

2.2 To accomplish the objectives, the APAC-AIG will support the ICAO APAC Office in its efforts to:

- Encourage and assist States/Administrations to establish an independent accident/incident investigation authority as required by paragraph 3.2 of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation;
- Enhance the capabilities and professionalism of the accident/incident investigation authorities;
- Raise the Asia Pacific region's average Effective Implementation rate (EI) in the area of accident/incident investigation; and
- Enhance the investigation capabilities of the Asia Pacific region by developing training opportunities for investigators in the region.

3.0 APAC-AIG Modalities

3.1 The Regional Officer, Flight Safety, ICAO APAC Office will serve as the Secretary. Membership of the APAC-AIG will come from accident investigating organizations in the Asia and Pacific Regions. Others may be invited to participate as appropriate. A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson will be elected from the nominated members from the participating States/Administrations' accident investigation organizations.

3.2 The APAC-AIG will accomplish the following:

- Develop and promote a regional accident/incident investigation cooperative framework in the form of the *Asia Pacific Code of Conduct on Cooperation Relating to Civil Aviation Accident/ Incident Investigation*;
- Develop and maintain a *Database of APAC Accident Investigation Authorities* in order to strengthen coordination between States/Administrations in accident/incident investigation;
- Conduct surveys of accident investigation training needs in the Asia Pacific region and identify States/Administrations and international organizations able to provide that training as required;
- Disseminate accident/incident investigation related communications from ICAO and other regions to States/Administrations in the Asia Pacific region; and
- Support the ICAO APAC Office in its technical assistance to States/Administrations in the area of accident/incident investigation.

3.3 The Chairperson/Secretary will maintain close contact with ICAO to benefit from its advice on the subject and to this effect they/he will provide regular feedback to ICAO on the activities of the APAC-AIG through the RASG-APAC. In addition, they/he will liaise as required with other regional safety teams to benefit from their efforts.

3.4 The APAC-AIG will normally meet once a year. The on-going work/coordination may be accomplished through electronic communications.

3.5 The APAC-AIG may make recommendations for RASG-APAC's consideration.

3.6 The RASG-APAC will monitor activities of the APAC-AIG and promote the implementation of those policies and procedures that are deemed appropriate for the Asia and Pacific Regions.
