



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

ASIA AND PACIFIC OFFICE

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF
THE AERONAUTICAL TELECOMMUNICATION
NETWORK (ATN) SEMINAR**

Chiang Mai, Thailand, 3 - 6 February 2004

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN) Seminar was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 3 to 6 February 2004. The Seminar was hosted by Aerothai.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE SEMINAR

2.1 The objective of the Seminar was to provide urgently needed information and guidelines for the implementation of ground-to-ground elements of ATN on ATN router, ATS Message Handling Systems (AMHS), System Management, Directory Services, etc.

3. OPENING OF THE SEMINAR

3.1 On behalf of Mr. L. B. Shah, ICAO Regional Director, Mr. K.P.Rimal, Regional Officer CNS of the ICAO ASIA/PAC Regional Office welcomed the participants and guest speakers. He expressed his gratitude to Aerothai for conducting a series of ATN Seminars since 1994. He stated that this Seminar would provide opportunity to develop better understanding of various technical issues, which would assist in implementation of ATN in accordance with the requirements specified in the ASIA/PAC FASID. He informed that the second edition of the Planning and Technical Document developed by the ATN Transition Task Force would be available soon for use by States. He expressed the hope that States would take necessary action to implement the required ATN ground-to-ground infrastructure by the end of 2005 in accordance with the plan, as a first step towards ATN implementation. He thanked Aerothai for hosting the Seminar and for the excellent arrangement made for the Seminar. He expressed appreciations to States who had provided experts/speakers to support the Seminar. He also thanked the industry partners and communication service provider for their participation and demonstrations.

3.2 Mr. Bhumisathit Jampathom, Executive Vice President of Aerothai, in his opening address expressed his pleasure in hosting this Seminar in Chiang Mai and welcomed all the participants. He stated that ATN Seminars have been held once in every two years. He also encouraged participants to build on the detailed work completed by the ATN Transition Task Force. He stated that Thailand is fully committed to implementation of the ATN to enhance safety, efficiency and regularity of international air navigation and to meet the challenges brought about by the growth of air traffic and its changing requirements. He expressed the hope that the Seminar would help to develop clear understanding of the initial implementation aspects of ATN which would also assist States to refine their CNS/ATM implementation plan and to proceed with implementation activities.

4. ATTENDANCE

4.1 The Seminar was attended by 74 participants. A list of participants is at Attachment 1.

5. OFFICERS AND THE SECRETARIAT

5.1 A proposal made by the United States and seconded by China was unanimously agreed by the Seminar to elect Mr. Somnuk Rongthong, Vice President, Air Traffic Services Engineering, Planning and Development Bureau of Aerothai as Chairman of the Seminar.

5.1 Mr. Somnuk Rongthong acted as Chairman throughout the Seminar.

5.2 Mr. K.P. Rimal, Regional Officer, CNS acted as the Secretary of the Seminar who was assisted by Mr. Li Peng, Regional Officer, CNS of the ICAO ASIA/PAC Regional Office

6. ORGANIZATION, WORKING ARRANGEMENT, LANGUAGE AND DOCUMENTATION

6.1 The working language was English only, inclusive of all presentations and this report. All the Seminar Papers (SPs) presented, including other information of interest, were included in a CD and was distributed to all the participants at the end of the Seminar.

1. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1.1 The Seminar covered a comprehensive list of topics on the ATN, as follows:

- ATN overview
- ASIA/PAC Regional Planning
- Implementation Guidelines, ATN Router Descriptions
- AMHS description and addressing scheme
- System Management and Directory Services
- ATN Security
- States's experiences
- Industry presentations
- User's benefits
- Panel discussions; and
- Demonstration by Industries.

1.1.1 In addition to the above issues, several speakers made detailed presentations on the various topics such as ATN Documentation Tree, ATN Implementation Check List, Qualification and Verifications, ATN Router Description, IDRPs Routing Policy, ATN Router Issues, X.25 supportability, TCP/IP, AMHS Description, AMHS Addressing, MTA Routing Policy, AIDC issues, System Management issues, Directory Services, etc. The need for consideration of ATN Security was emphasized.

1.1.2 Representatives from China, Fiji, Hong Kong China, Japan, Thailand and the United States provided the status of implementation of ATN in their respective States including other ATN related developments. It was noted with interest that the first AMHS would be implemented in the region between Japan and USA in March 2004.

1.1.3 Eurocontrol provided information on planning and implementation strategies in the European Region.

1.1.4 Presentations from the industries covered details of ATN Routers and AMHS. Communication service provider also provided details of the service offerings to support ATN implementation. Airlines benefits in the implementation of ATN services were highlighted by ATNSI, All Nippon Airways (ANA) and SITA.

2. PANEL DISCUSSION

2.1 After completing all the presentations and demonstrations Panel Discussion was held. Items discussed during the Panel Discussion are summarized as follows:

2.1.1 Demonstrations conducted by different vendors provided better understanding of the ATN ground-to-ground applications.

2.1.2 It was noted that there were no operating procedures available for ATN ground-to-ground operation in Annex 10 Vol. II or any other Manual or Document.

2.1.3 The Seminar recognized the need to provide training to the existing AFTN operator/specialist to be able to work as network administrators.

2.1.4 The ATN Transition Task Force and the ATN Seminars held in the past addressed only technical issues. It was recognized that operational aspects should be addressed in the future Seminars.

3. SEMINAR EVALUATION

3.1 The Chairman called upon representative from each State to give brief evaluation of the Seminar. The main points raised during the Seminar evaluation were as follows:

3.1.1 The ATN Seminar was well received by all participants who expressed that seminars like this should be organized in the future, on a regular basis, at least once a year for the duration of 5 days. The Seminar was considered to be a highly informative and successful event and achieved its objective. It was very well organized and conducted in an excellent manner. All the questions raised were answered.

3.1.2 A considered view expressed was to schedule the seminar at least 6 months before the Task Force Meeting.

3.1.3 Vendors were given opportunity to make presentations of their products. Demonstrations organized to provide first hand information to participants on the use of AFTN/AMHS Gateway, ATN Router and cost effective solution provided to the transition from AFTN to ATN environment were considered very useful. The participants appreciated this opportunity and expressed the view that such demonstrations should be a part of future seminars and more time should be allowed for demonstrations.

3.1.4 Views were also expressed that at future seminar vendors should be asked to link their systems to ascertain interoperability.

3.1.5 It was noted that ATN security has been a matter of serious concern to all. States should take action now to determine policy on security for ATN communications.

3.1.6 It was stated that emphasis should be placed on discussing transitional and operational issues at the future seminar.

3.1.7 Views were also expressed to establish website either by ICAO or States to post implementation plan, implementation strategies, difficulties experienced during trials and solutions developed, as such information would serve as a useful tools to other States.

3.1.8 Vendors should consider providing equipment to the least developed countries at an affordable cost.

3.1.9 It was also stated that all relevant ATN Regional Documentation should be posted in the web page.

3.1.10 Strong emphasis was placed on the need for training of staff and to address operation aspects.

3.1.11 The participants expressed their appreciation and thanked ICAO and Aerothai for organizing the Seminar. They thanked Aerothai for the warm hospitality extended to all the participants.

4. CLOSING OF THE SEMINAR

4.1 The Chairman was congratulated for his able guidance and dynamic leadership without which the Seminar would not have achieved its objective. As the Seminar was conducted in an excellent manner, the Seminar unanimously elected Mr. Somnuk Rongthong to act as Chairman of the ATN Seminar to be conducted in the future.

4.2 The Secretariat thanked all the expert speakers, participants, vendors, and service providers for their active participation and thanked Aerothai for the excellent arrangement and warm hospitality.

4.3 The Chairman thanked all the participants for their support and trust in his ability in providing leadership in future seminars. He thanked the Secretariat for their support and declared the Seminar closed.

4.4 The next Seminar is expected to be held in 2005 or early 2006.
