

**COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF SPREAD  
OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE THROUGH AIR TRAVEL (CAPSCA) ASIA/PACIFIC**

**REPORT OF THE 4th STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 24 MAY 2010**

**1. Introduction**

The fourth Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the Cooperative Arrangement for the Prevention of Spread of Communicable Disease through Air Travel (CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 24 May 2010, graciously hosted by the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for which the SCM expressed its appreciation.

The SCM was attended by 57 representatives of 13 States/Administrations of the Asia/Pacific Region as well as representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) of the USA, the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Airports Council International (ACI), the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) plus other observers, including from public health departments, airports, airlines and air traffic management in the region and beyond.

The SCM was provided with presentations by WHO, and ICAO, for which it presented its gratitude. ICAO presented a draft template, National Aviation Preparedness Plan, which was discussed by participants. This plan will be further discussed at the next CAPSCA Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Medicine Team Meeting, to be held in Singapore 15-16 October 2010.

As per a standing rotation principle, the fourth SCM was chaired by DCA Malaysia, which also accepted the Chairmanship of CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific until the fifth SCM.

The fourth Asia Pacific CAPSCA Steering Committee Meeting was inaugurated by Dato Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, Director General, Department of Civil Aviation, Malaysia, with an opening address. He expressed his appreciation to the Government of Macau, China, who hosted the third CAPSCA- Asia Pacific SCM. Dato Rahman also expressed his thanks to ICAO for promoting preparedness planning in the aviation sector.

Dr Anthony Evans, ICAO, then welcomed participants and thanked the DCA Malaysia for their willingness to chair the fourth meeting and to provide logistics support to ensure the meeting arrangements preceded smoothly.

There followed self-introduction by participants, and then a group photograph. (Participants are listed in Appendix 1)

The remainder of the day followed the agenda (Appendix 2). Presentations are available at: [http://www.bangkok.icao.int/meetings/2010/scm\\_capsca](http://www.bangkok.icao.int/meetings/2010/scm_capsca)

## **2. Conclusions**

The fourth SCM of CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific reached the following conclusions:

### **Conclusion No 1**

The SCM welcomed the inclusion of questions on public health preparedness in the aviation sector into the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Process (USOAP), as the Continuous Monitoring Approach is implemented in 2011.

### **Conclusion No 2**

The SCM was pleased to note that the ongoing WHO IHR Review Committee, which plans to report to the next WHO World Health Assembly in May 2011, will consider transport related measures that were implemented by States during the current Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. It noted that some airlines felt that harmonization of response between States to a public health emergency of international concern could be improved, and hoped that the issue of lack of proportionality of response to the health risk would be addressed by the Review Committee.

### **Conclusion No 3**

The SCM appreciated the development of a template for a National Aviation Preparedness Plan, which had been recommended at the third CAPSCA Asia/Pacific SCM in 2009. Suggestions were made as to how it may be improved. It agreed that the document should be discussed at the upcoming global Regional Aviation Medicine Team meeting in October 2010. A small working group was proposed and New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore, Macau (China), China, Pakistan IATA and ACI volunteered to assist, under the coordination of Dr Jarnail Singh. WHO also agreed in principle to participate.

### **Conclusion No 4**

In order to concentrate project activities and save resources, the SCM agreed to combine the SCM and the RAMT meetings in future because many States send the same representatives to both events. This will commence in 2011 since the global RAMT meeting planned for 15-16 October 2010 in Singapore will not be combined with a SCM.

### **Conclusion No. 5**

The SCM noted the budget of CAPSCA Asia/Pacific and decided to admit new Member States joining CAPSCA in the Region, who fall under the World Bank's classification of "Lower Middle Income Economy" or with less national income can presently join without making a financial contribution. Those States / Administrations who are already Member of CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific need not make any new contributions to the CAPSCA project budget as long as there are still funds available. ICAO was requested to contact UNDP in order to ask for an extension of CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific grant from the Central Fund for Influenza Action (CFIA)

beyond the end of 2010 in order to assure the future availability of the CFIA grant received.

**Conclusion No. 6**

With the experiences made during the 2009/10 Influenza A (H1N1) Pandemic, the SCM encouraged the States to respond with balanced measures to suspected cases of infection, in line with the recommendations of WHO and ICAO.

**Conclusion No. 7**

The SCM noted the draft work plan for CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific for the coming year, which, includes:

- organise and conduct the first Global RAMT in October 2010
- organise and conduct the first combined SCM/RAMT in the Asia/Pacific region in 2011
- undertaking additional evaluations / training at major international airports of CAPSCA-Asia/Pacific member Administrations
- provide further training as appropriate.

**Conclusion No 8**

The SCM noted the recent changes to the ICAO SARPs that became applicable in November 2009

**Conclusion No 9**

The SCM expressed its appreciation of the collaborative work undertaken between ICAO and the WHO headquarters and the WHO regional offices of Western Pacific and South East Asia.

**Conclusion No 10**

The SCM noted with interest that the Malaysian DCA indicated its intention to consider an airport evaluation in addition to the one undertaken in 2008.

**Conclusion No 11**

The SCM agreed that in the development of a pandemic preparedness plan, communication and coordination should take place with all stakeholders including airport and aircraft operators.

**Conclusion No. 12**

The SCM agreed to the publication of these Conclusions on the ICAO public website.

– END –