



International Civil Aviation Organization

**FIRST MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL
ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE
(METWARN/I TF/1)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 25 March 2011

Agenda Item Conjoint: b) Regional participation in SIGMET advisory trial (monitoring and coordination)

UPDATE ON THE ICAO REGIONAL SIGMET ADVISORY TRIAL

(Presented by co-chairs)

SUMMARY

Provide a summary of the outcomes of METWSG/3 relating to the conduct of the SIGMET Advisory trial in the Asia Pacific region from 4 May – 30 July 2011.

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 The Meteorological Warnings Study Group (METWSG) was established in 2007. The main task of the group is to review the provision of Annex 3 of the Chicago Convention – Meteorological service for international air navigation, in particular the provisions related to the issuance and content of SIGMET. The group also considers low level wind shear, turbulence and tsunami alerts. The third meeting was held in Montreal in November 2010.

1.2 The key issue discussed at the METWSG/3 meeting was the planned SIGMET Advisory trial to be conducted in both the Africa region and the Asia/Pacific Region. The purpose of the trial is to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of issuance of such advisories from selected regional advisory centers, aiming at improvement of the issuance of SIGMET in States especially where deficiency has been found through the international SIGMET tests. Three host States for the trial (China, France and South Africa) will issue SIGMET advisories for four phenomena (thunderstorms, severe icing, severe turbulence and severe mountain waves) and the number and quality of SIGMET issued by States in the targeted area will be monitored to determine the effectiveness of the advisories.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 At the METWSG/3 meeting, an ad hoc group was established. The ad hoc group will continue to oversee the planning for, and conduct of a feasibility study into the issuance of SIGMET advisory information from selected regional centre(s). It was agreed to focus on three phases over the next 18 months: planning, conduct and evaluation of trial, and a work plan was developed. The end deliverable will be a report to METWSG 4 (May 2012) that evaluates the trial and proposed options for the way forward. The ad hoc group includes: Mr Albert Moloto (SA), IATA rep, Mr Colin Hord (UK), Dr Herbert Puempel (WMO), Mr Jun Ryuzaki (Japan), Mr Keith Mackersy (NZ), Mr Patrick

Josse (France) (co-rapporteur), Mr Pak-Wai Chan (Hong Kong, China) (co-rapporteur), Ms Shona Rosengren (co-rapporteur), Mr Steven Albersheim (USA), Mr Ndiwa Wachina (IATA) and Mr Zhang Zhongfeng (China).

2.2. A State letter will be sent from Montreal to be addressed to the States operating MWOs as well as to States operating regional databanks in March 2011. IATA will also be participating in the trial, including the following airlines, such as Qantas, Singapore, Lufthansa, Emirates and Air France. IATA will provide the airlines with surveys to complete during the trials.

3. ASIA PACIFIC REGION TRIAL

3.1 The Trial dates in the Asia Pacific region are 4 May 2011 00 UTC to 30 Jul 2011 00UTC. The host State is China and the focal point is:

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3.2 As an activity in WMO Voluntary Coordination Program, a seminar will be conducted by China on 11 to 15 April 2011 to improve the understanding of the trial of SIGMET advisory, inviting participants from the 9 States that the trial will cover (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam) and the other members in WMO RAI as well.

3.3. The training material will be put on the Asian Aeronautical Meteorology Service website <http://www.aamets.org/aamets>

4. AFRICAN REGION TRIAL

4.1 The trial dates for the African Region are 04 April 2011 12 UTC to 30 June 2011 12UTC. The host States are France and South Africa, and the focal points are:

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5. ACTION BY THE MEETING

5.1 The meeting is invited to note the information in this paper.
