



International Civil Aviation Organization

**SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS/NAVIGATION/SURVEILLANCE AND
METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (CNS/MET SG/16) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 27 July 2012

Agenda Item 9: Regional Implementation of International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)

SUMMARY OF IVATF/4 MEETING

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of the IVATF/4 meeting, held in Montréal, Canada, from 13 to 15 June 2012

This paper relates to –

Strategic Objectives:

A: Safety - Enhance global civil aviation safety

C: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport - Foster harmonized and economically viable development of international civil aviation that does not unduly harm the environment

Global Plan Initiatives:

GPI-9 Situational awareness

GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

1. Introduction

1.1 The fourth meeting of the International Volcanic Ash Task Force (IVATF/4) was held at ICAO Headquarters, Montréal, Canada, from 13 to 15 June 2012. The meeting was attended by experts from 14 States and 9 international organizations, including: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), EUROCONTROL, International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations (ICCAIA), International Federation of Air Line Dispatchers Associations (IFALDA), International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA), SAE International, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and World Organization of Volcano Observatories (WOVO).

Agenda Item 9

23/07/12

2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting is reminded that IVATF is a multi-disciplinary global group and a focal point and coordinating body of all work related to volcanic ash being carried out by ICAO at the global and regional levels. It will address issues related to air traffic management (ATM), airworthiness, aeronautical meteorology (MET) and atmospheric sciences. Furthermore, under the terms of reference (TOR), the IVATF is tasked to undertake, in close coordination with the IAVWOPSG and other appropriate ICAO groups, the following tasks: evaluation of the eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland in April/May 2010, plus other significant eruptions or regional volcanic ash exercises of relevance; propose revision of guidance on volcanic ash contingency plans; review of operational response to volcanic ash encounter; development of ash concentration thresholds, if deemed appropriate; improvement of ash detection systems; review of notification and warning for volcanic ash; improvement and harmonization of dispersion models; and improvement of volcanic ash advisory centre (VAAC) products, including volcanic ash advisories in graphical format.

2.2 Among the many issues discussed at IVATF/4 were the recommendations concerning the reduction or elimination of information overload during volcanic eruptions (Agenda item 5.9 of the IVATF/4 report), which led to the formulation of the (IVATF) Recommendation:

Recommendation 4/24 — That, in the context of ways and means to reduce or eliminate information overload during volcanic eruptions, and noting the complexities and complementary roles of volcanic ash advisories, SIGMET information for volcanic ash, and NOTAM for volcanic ash, the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG) be invited to:

- a) *consider what, if any, urgent strategies, additional to enhanced collaborative processes, may be necessary to build consistent, best-practice volcanic ash analysis, forecasting and advice across the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW);*
- b) *review, in coordination with the Meteorological Warnings Study Group (METWSG), the future need for volcanic ash advisories and SIGMET information for volcanic ash; and*
- c) *review, in coordination with the Aeronautical Information Services to Aeronautical Information Management Study Group (AIS-AIM/SG), existing provisions in Annex 15 – Aeronautical Information Services concerning NOTAM for volcanic ash, in light of a) and b) above.*

2.3 The report and list of recommendations from the IVATF/4 meeting, as well as the associated IVATF documentation, including the TOR, are available at the IVATF website:

<http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/ivatf/Pages/default.aspx>.

3. Action by the Meeting

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