



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 IAVWOPSG/6 MEETING

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a summary of the IAVWOPSG/6 meeting, held in Dakar, Senegal, 19 to 23 September 2011.

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 Sixth Meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/6), held at the ICAO Western and Central African Office (WACAF) from 19 to 23 September 2011, was attended by thirty experts from seven volcanic ash advisory centre (VAAC) Provider States, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

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23/07/12

2. Discussion

2.1 The meeting is reminded that the terms of reference (TOR) of the IAVWOPSG include, inter alia, providing assistance, advice and/or guidance to the Secretariat on matters such as: the development of appropriate guidance material both for operations with volcanic ash in the atmosphere and also operations with volcanic ash deposited on aerodromes; and the development of international arrangements for the provision of warnings to aircraft of radioactive materials, toxic chemicals in the atmosphere and space weather.

2.2 Highlights from IAVWOPSG/6 included a review of ICAO provisions related to IAVW, which included endorsement of draft amendments to Annex 3 and the amendment of IAVW-related guidance (Doc 9766) concerning the coordination and transfer of responsibility between VAACs for volcanic ash events.

2.3 With regards the operation of the IAVW, the group formulated several conclusions in order to improve: the support provided to end users; situational awareness; best practices and other guidance material; collaborative forecasting and collaborative decision making through information sharing; follow-up action on the recommendations developed by IATA; the recommended practice for monitoring active/potentially active volcanoes; volcano observatory products and communications with the aviation community; the template for advisory messages for volcanic ash; consistency between VAACs/advisory messages; the international volcano database; and the geographical description of volcanic ash in SIGMET messages.

2.4 In relation to the requirement for improved notification concerning the accidental release of radioactive material into the atmosphere, IAVWOPSG/6 agreed to establish an ad-hoc group to develop a concept of operations for the provision of such information, to review Annex 3 provisions and related guidance material and to coordinate, in view of an evaluation of the role of regional specialized meteorological centres (RSMCs) in the provision of related guidance, with the WMO Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) Coordination Group on Nuclear Emergency Response Activities (Conclusion 6/29 refers).

2.5 In a related issue, the group reviewed the overall structure for the provision of information regarding the release of radioactive material into the atmosphere, and agreed to study alternative provisions for replacement of the SIGMET for radioactive cloud and to assess the possibility of the provision of such information by centres with the necessary expertise (Conclusion 6/30 refers). The IAVWOPSG Conclusions 6/29 and 6/30 are discussed further in the WP/38 to the CNS/MET SG/16 meeting.

2.6 The executive summary, full report and follow-up table from the IAVWOPSG/6 meeting, as well as the associated IAVWOPSG documentation, including the TOR, are available at the IAVWOPSG website: <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/iavwopsg/Pages/default.aspx>.

3. Action by the Meeting

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