



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**THE TENTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC OPMET MANAGEMENT  
TASK FORCE (OPMET/M TF/10)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 17 – 19 April 2012

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**Agenda Item 1:      b) Review of the TORs and follow-up action on the TF/9 meeting and  
relevant APANPIRG/22 Conclusions**

**REVIEW OF OPMET/M TF/9 MEETING AND ACTION ITEMS**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

A summary of the OPMET/M TF/9 meeting is provided as well as the OPMET exchange action items list for input by the group.

This paper relates to

**Strategic Objectives:**

A: Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety

D: Efficiency – Enhance the efficiency of aviation operations

**Global Plan Initiatives:**

GPI-18 Aeronautical information

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1            The ninth meeting of the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/9) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21-23 March 2011 for which the full report may be accessed at [http://www.bangkok.icao.int/cns/meeting.do?method=MeetingDetail&meeting\\_id=28](http://www.bangkok.icao.int/cns/meeting.do?method=MeetingDetail&meeting_id=28). A summary of the OPMET/M TF/9 meeting was provided to the CNS/MET SG/15 meeting as working paper 13 and is provided here in **Attachment 1**. OPMET exchange action items have been maintained at the Regional Office in Bangkok that reflect updates provided mainly at meetings and is provided in **Attachment 2**.

**2. ACTION ITEMS LIST REVIEW**

2.1            The meeting may review **Attachment 1** to recall the highlights of the previous OPMET/M TF/9 meeting. Updates on action items listed in **Attachment 2** may be provided by the meeting. **Note: Attachment 2 updated 31 May 2012 as agreed in OPMET/M TF/10 meeting (Action agreed 10/2).**

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1            The meeting is invited to update the OPMET exchange action items list.

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## ATTACHMENT 1

(from CNS/MET SG/15 – WP/13)



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

### **FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS/NAVIGATION/SURVEILLANCE AND METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (CNS/MET SG/15) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand 25 – 29 July 2011

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**Agenda Item 12: Regional Implementation of the issuance of observation, TAF and OPMET exchanges**

#### **REVIEW OF OPMET/M TF/9 MEETING**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

#### **SUMMARY**

This paper provides a summary of the Ninth Meeting of the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/9) held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21-23 March 2011.

This paper relates to

**Strategic Objectives:**

- A. Safety
- C. Sustainability

**Global Plan Initiatives:**

- GPI-18 Aeronautical information
- GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The ninth meeting of the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/9) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21-23 March 2011 and was attended by 35 participants from 13 States and ICAO. The meeting overlapped with the First Meeting of the Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (METWARN/I TF/1) on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March to review SIGMET issues.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The executive summary of the OPMET/M TF/9 meeting is provided in **Attachment 1**. The full report may be accessed at the following website:  
[http://www.bangkok.icao.int:8080/cns/meeting.do?method=MeetingDetail&meeting\\_id=28](http://www.bangkok.icao.int:8080/cns/meeting.do?method=MeetingDetail&meeting_id=28).

2.2 General topics of discussion include OPMET availability and regularity, 30-hour TAF implementation and related issues, successful back-up test of Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) Bangkok for RODB Singapore, update of related OPMET documents, implementation of World Area Forecast Centre (WAFC) Internet File Server (WIFS) and Extensible Markup Language (XML), status and progress of deficiencies, and a reexamination of the RODB structure in the years to come.

2.3 The meeting is encouraged to provide progress on the Agreed Actions by the OPMET/M TF/9 meeting provided in the **Attachment 2**.

2.4 The Terms of Reference (TORs) were reviewed by the OPMET/M TF/9 meeting and the meeting proposed to include China, Hong Kong – China, Indonesia and New Zealand as members of the OPMET/M TF as included in the **Attachment 3**. The meeting may consider adopting the following Decision.

### **Decision 15/x – OPMET/M TF TORs**

That, China, Hong Kong – China, Indonesia and New Zealand become members of the OPMET/M TF and reflect the new membership in the TORs.

## 3. Action required by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this paper;
- b) provide updates to the list of actions agreed; and
- c) review and provide suggested changes to the TORs and consider the adoption of the related Decision.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The ninth meeting of the OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF/9) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21-23 March 2011. The meeting was attended by 35 participants from 13 States and ICAO. Highlights of this meeting include:

OPMET availability and regularity

- Continued improvement of METAR and TAF reception at the Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) Singapore (and thus SADIS) for AOP aerodromes (94% for both METAR and TAF, remembering the goal of 95%) and for non-AOP aerodromes (79% for METAR and 83% for TAF, remembering the goal of 90%) was noted by the meeting. Relevant States will be informed of OPMET data missing at RODB Singapore of requirements (AOP aerodromes) and agreements (non-AOP aerodromes) of providing OPMET data (**Action Agreed 9/6**).
- States will be informed of timeliness and regularity of OPMET data using references such as the Regional Air Navigation Plan and the ROBEX Handbook (**Action Agreed 9/8**).
- ICAO and RODBs will determine if METAR for non-AOP aerodromes should be routed to all RODBs (like SIGMET) (**Action Agreed 9/10**).

30-hour TAF

- Near 80% compliance of issuing 30-hour TAF as per the requirements (up from 32% just 2 years ago) has been achieved in the APAC Region. Many States had concerns about the selection of aerodromes required to provide 30-hour TAF in addition to the selection of non-AOP aerodromes not listed in the SADIS Users Guide (SUG) Annex 1 that IATA would like to include. These concerns included lack of ultra long-haul flights and the selection of alternate aerodromes that may not be suitable for certain aircraft. Given the above, members of SADISOPSG in consultation with IATA were invited to justify the selection of non-AOP aerodromes where OPMET is required in SUG Annex 1 and the selection of aerodromes where 30-hour TAF is required (typically AOP) (**Action Agreed 9/7**).

Backup tests

- RODB Bangkok would provide 96% of OPMET data that RODB Singapore provides to the SADIS Gateway as shown by results of the recent backup exercise.

Guidance material and RANP

- The meeting noted fairly stable ANP/FASID Tables as well as guidance material that is in line with Amendment 75 to Annex 3. ROBEX Handbook updates will be included in the next amendment in April 2011 (**Action Agreed 9/9**) and include duties of the RODBs to facilitate improved performance and participation by RODB Nadi (**Action Agreed 9/14**). Updates to the Interface Control Document (ICD) to supplement the ROBEX Scheme will be updated in May 2011 (**Action Agreed 9/11**). FASID Tables MET updates will be included in the next amendment proposal (**Action Agreed 9/12**) and updates to SUG Annex 1 will be forwarded by the Secretariat to the SADISOPSG Secretariat (**Action Agreed 9/13**).

Implementation of World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Internet File Service (WIFS)

- The meeting noted that all ISCS receiving States, except for two, in the APAC Region have registered for WIFS, but many accounts still remain inactive and continued implementation necessary.

Implementation of XML

- Issues arising from utilizing Extensible Markup Language (XML) on AFTN (versus AMHS) include 69-character line maximum, 1800 character message maximum and translation issues if IA5 characters are not implemented. Caveats were noted for the possible use of an AFTN/AMHS gateway. The meeting noted that the bilateral use of XML will be enabled in Annex 3 in 2013 with broad implementation expected from 2016-2019.

Status of APANPIRG Deficiencies

- Progress with deficiencies in the Region was discussed. They include the establishment of a MWO by Lao PDR (subsequent monitoring by RODB Bangkok is expected in the next several months – **Action Agreed 9/2**), Tonga draft letter of agreement on the dissemination of volcanic ash, Myanmar acquired SADIS FTP for WAFCS forecasts necessary in flight briefings (recommend removal of deficiency to CNS/MET SG and APANPIRG– **Action Agreed 9/5**), and the possible implementation of SADIS FTP and the establishment of a Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) In Cambodia in 2011, as well as SPAC States (Nauru and Kiribati) registering for WIFS which would enable the use of WAFCS products for flight briefings. Furthermore, SIGMET monitoring will be conducted by RODB Tokyo for DPR Korea (**Action Agreed 9/3**). Lastly, SIGMET monitoring will be conducted by RODB Singapore and possibly RODB Brisbane for the issuance of SIGMET by the six States that have not participated in the SIGMET tests for the previous six tests (**Action Agreed 9/4**).

Update to TORs and work programme

- Proposed changes to TORs include adding China, Hong Kong – China, Indonesia and New Zealand as members of the OPMET/M TF (**Action Agreed 9/1**). The task to include the annual amendment to the ICD will also be included in the work programme.

Reexamination of RODB structure

- RODBs will consider in a comprehensive manner the entire RODB structure in the APAC Region considering global developments such as the implementation of XML. Recommendations for structural improvement of the RODB system will be brought to future OPMET/M TF meetings for possible further consideration at the CNS/MET SG and APANPIRG meetings (**Action Agreed 9/15**).

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**ATTACHMENT 2**  
 (from CNS/MET SG/15 – WP/13)

(Derived from OPMET/M TF/9  
 Appendix B to the Report)

**FOLLOW-UP OF OPMET/M TF/9  
 ACTION AGREED**

Status on **31 May 2012**  
 ✓ = **completed**

No.	Title/Action	Follow-up action (target/completion dates in brackets)
9/1	<p><b>Proposed updates to TORs</b></p> <p>That, the Secretariat will draft a working paper with the proposed changes to the TORs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>membership to include China, Hong Kong – China, Indonesia and New Zealand</li> </ul> <p>for further consideration by the CNS/MET SG/15 meeting</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>WP for CNS/MET SG/15</p> <p>✓</p> <p><b>(WP/13 presented at CNS/MET SG/15, 25-29 July 2011; proposed updates were adopted - Decision 15/34)</b></p>
9/2	<p><b>SIGMET Monitoring for Lao PDR</b></p> <p>That, RODB Bangkok monitors the issuance of SIGMET by the Vientiane MWO during May and forward results to the Secretariat to assess and coordinate with Lao PDR on possible improvements. If warranted, include the information in the deficiency paper for CNS/MET SG/15 meeting.</p>	<p>RODB Bangkok</p> <p>Monitor SIGMET by Vientiane MWO (May 2011) ✓</p> <p><b>(SIGMET monitored 01/03/11 – 27/04/11)</b></p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>WP for CNS/MET SG/15 ✓</p> <p><b>(WP/19 presented at CNS/MET SG/15, 25-29 July 2011; the meeting concurred that further progress was warranted before removing this deficiency)</b></p>
9/3	<p><b>SIGMET Monitoring for DPR Korea</b></p> <p>That, RODB Tokyo monitors the issuance of SIGMET by the Sunan MWO for the period of two weeks with significant convection and the Secretariat include the information in the deficiency paper for CNS/MET SG/15 meeting.</p>	<p>RODB Tokyo</p> <p>Monitor SIGMET by Sunan MWO (May/June 2011) ✓</p> <p><b>(SIGMET monitored 01/05/11 – 30/06/11)</b></p> <p>Secretariat</p> <p>WP for CNS/MET SG/15 ✓</p> <p><b>(WP/19 presented at CNS/MET SG/15, 25-29 July 2011; the meeting would consider removal of deficiency conditional to continued issuance of SIGMET in accordance to Annex 3 and participation in SIGMET tests in November 2011)</b></p>

<p>9/4</p>	<p><b>SIGMET Monitoring for non-participating States in 6 SIGMET tests</b></p> <p>That, RODB Singapore and RODB Brisbane (need confirmation in coordination with ICAO) monitor the issuance of SIGMET for the following States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Sri Lanka noting that PNG arranges for SIGMET issuance by Port Moresby for PNG, Solomon Islands and Nauru.</p> <p>Results of monitoring should be reviewed by CNS/MET SG/15 meeting and possibly the APANPIRG/21 meeting if recommended to be on list of APANPIRG deficiencies</p>	<p>RODB Singapore and RODB Brisbane                  Monitor SIGMET (3<sup>rd</sup> QTR 2011) by PNG, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh</p> <p>Report to RO                  WP for CNS/MET SG and/or APANPIRG                  (June – September 2011)</p> <p><b>(In progress – to be rescheduled; refer OPMET/M TF/10, Action agreed 10/3)</b></p> <p><b>(Note: serious concerns raised through CNS/MET SG to APANPIRG due to lack of SIGMET in equatorial region resulted in APANPIRG C 22/51 – deficiency for lack of SIGMET in equatorial region)</b></p>
<p>9/5</p>	<p><b>MYANMAR flight briefing deficiency</b></p> <p>That, the deficiency related to the inclusion of WAFCs for flight briefings be removed.</p>	<p>Secretariat                  WP – CNS/MET SG/15</p> <p>√</p> <p><b>(WP/19 presented at CNS/MET SG/15, 25-29 July 2011; the meeting formulated Draft Conclusion 15/40 – Removal of the APANPIRG Air Navigation Deficiency AP-MET-10, and APANPIRG 22 therefore agreed to remove this deficiency from the list.)</b></p>
<p>9/6</p>	<p><b>OPMET availability</b></p> <p>That, States be informed of OPMET data for AOP and non-AOP aerodromes that are missing from SADIS and/or ISCS (using statistics by RODB Singapore)</p>	<p>Secretariat                  SL</p> <p>√</p> <p><b>(T 4/3.2.3:AP046/11 [MET] &amp; T 4/3.2.3:AP047/11 [MET], 29 March 2011)</b></p>
<p>9/7</p>	<p><b>Verify authenticity of aerodromes selected for OPMET data requirements and selected for 30-hour TAF</b></p> <p>That, members of SADISOPSG in consultation with IATA were invited to justify the selection of non-AOP aerodromes where OPMET is required in SUG Annex 1 <i>and</i> the selection of aerodromes where 30-hour TAF is required (typically AOP). States who are not members of SADISOPSG may consult with ICAO.</p>	<p>SADISOPSG members / IATA</p> <p>Input to SADISOPSG  <b>(In progress – refer OPMET/M TF/10, Action agreed 10/4)</b></p> <p><b>(Note: refer also SADISOPSG/16 WP/22 &amp; Conclusion 16/7)</b></p>

9/8	<p><b>OPMET timeliness and regularity</b></p> <p>That, States be informed of timeliness and regularity of OPMET data using references such as the RANP and ROBEX Handbook</p>	<p>Secretariat SL</p> <p>✓</p> <p><b>(T 4/3.2.3:AP045/11 [MET], 29 March 2011)</b></p>
9/9	<p><b>ROBEX Handbook updates</b></p> <p>That, the updates provided in Appendix D to the Report be included in the next amendment to the ROBEX Handbook (will include Lao METAR in WP/12)</p>	<p>Secretariat Updated ROBEX Handbook</p> <p>(May 2011)</p> <p>✓</p> <p><b>(April 2011 amendment)</b></p>
9/10	<p><b>Distribution of METAR/TAF</b></p> <p>That, the ICAO and RODBs determine if METAR for non-AOP aerodromes should be routed to all RODBs (like SIGMET)</p>	<p>Secretariat/ RODB members</p> <p>✓</p> <p><b>(Not necessary, according to the ROBEX Handbook 4.1.2, 6.2.1 and 7.2.1, the National OPMET Centre sends METAR and TAF to the responsible Bulletin Compiling Centre where bulletins are compiled for further dissemination to RODBs)</b></p>
9/11	<p><b>ICD updates</b></p> <p>That, RODBs provided latest appendix to the ICD for inclusion in the next amendment</p>	<p>RODBs</p> <p>Provide updated appendices (30 April 2011) ✓</p> <p><b>(RODB Singapore provided appendix)</b></p> <p>Secretariat Updated ICD (May 2011) ✓</p> <p><b>(ICD updated June 2011)</b></p>
9/12	<p><b>FASID Tables MET</b></p> <p>That, an amendment proposal including changes proposed by States in <b>Appendix E</b> be processed</p>	<p>Secretariat Amendment proposal (June 2011)</p> <p>✓</p> <p><b>(Amendment Proposal 26 April – APAC 11/04)</b></p>
9/13	<p><b>Update to the FASID Table MET 2A</b></p> <p>That, OPMET requirements (SUG Annex 1) for VVCR, VVDB and VVDL reflect the non issuance of FC TAF and METAR available upon request only</p>	<p>Secretariat Inform ICAO HQ Update database</p> <p>(July 2011)</p> <p>✓</p> <p><b>(forwarded to Secretariat of SADISOPSG and included 4 non-AOP aerodromes for Lao PDR )</b></p>



<p>9/14</p>	<p><b>List of RODB duties</b></p> <p>That, RODBs in coordination with ICAO provide a list of duties associated with RODB functions to help improve RODB Nadi performance and participation</p> <p>Include in ROBEX Handbook and communicate to RODB Nadi</p>	<p>RODBs/ICAO</p> <p>(July 2011)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">√</p> <p><b>(April 2011 amendment includes in 4.1.4.2:  <i>Note – responsibilities of RODBs are given in 4.1.4.2, 10.2, 10.3 and 12.3)</i></b></p>
<p>9/15</p>	<p><b>Reexamination of RODB Structure</b></p> <p>That, RODBs will consider in a comprehensive manner the entire RODB structure in the APAC region considering global developments such as the implementation of XML. Recommendations for structural improvement of the RODB system will be brought to the future OPMET/M TF meetings for possible further consideration at the CNS/MET SG and APANPIRG meetings.</p>	<p>RODBs</p> <p>(March 2012+)</p> <p><b>(In progress – WP to be provided by Chair for next OPMET/M TF meeting)</b></p>

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