



International Civil Aviation Organization

**SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY
SUB-GROUP (MET SG/17) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 – 16 May 2013

Agenda Item 13: Review of deficiencies in the MET field (APANPIRG Deficiency List)

MET DEFFICIENCIES UPDATE

(Presented by TONGA)

SUMMARY

This paper provides the meeting with updates to the MET deficiency for Tonga (AP-MET-17), listed in the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) list of deficiencies, concerning volcanic activity information to be provided by the State volcano observatory to the associated area control centre (ACC), meteorological watch offices (MWO), and volcanic ash advisory centre (VAAC) as required under ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*, 3.6 and 4.8.

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides the meeting with an update on Tonga's progress in developing procedures for the exchange of volcanic information and, in particular, the development of Letters of Agreement (LOA) between meteorological services, Air Traffic Services (ATS) and volcano monitoring authorities, as corrective action towards possible removal of the air navigation deficiency (AP-MET-17) concerning information on volcanic activity not provided regularly by the volcano observatory to the associated ACC, MWO and VAAC.

1.2 The requirements for volcanic activity information to be provided by State volcano observatories to the associated ACC, MWO and VAAC are stipulated in Annex 3, 3.6 and 4.8.

1.3 The Cooperative Agreement for the Enhancement of Meteorological Services to Aviation in the South Pacific (CAEMSA-SP), executed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Technical Co-operation Bureau (TCB), conducted visits to 8 South Pacific States in August to December 2008 in which it was identified that information on volcanic activity in Tonga was not provided regularly by the State volcano observatory to the associated ATS unit (for onward distribution to the associated ACC), MWOs and VAAC (Wellington) – as required by Annex 3.

1.4 The proposed corrective action plan was to include an agreement to be drafted for the dissemination of volcanic ash information from the volcano monitoring authority of the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MLECCNR) [formally Ministry of Lands, Survey and Natural Resources (MLSNRKT)] to the Ministry for Infrastructure (MOI) [formally Ministry for Transport (MTKT)], for onward distribution to the associated ACC, and to the associated MWO and VAAC.

2. Discussion

2.1 The LOA for the dissemination of volcanic activity information has now been drafted with the assistance of the ICAO Bangkok Office and been circulated to: (1) the volcano monitoring authority (MLECCNR); (2) the ATS unit responsible for onward distribution of volcanic activity information to the associated ACC, (3) MWO Wellington; and (4) VAAC Wellington.

2.2 The meeting is informed that, in accordance with the APAC Supplement to the Uniform Methodology for the Identification, Assessment and Reporting of Air Navigation Deficiencies (APANPIRG Conclusion 18/60), Tonga intends to submit in writing an official report to the Regional Office providing full details of the action taken to rectify the deficiency (AP-MET-17) shortly after the LOA is formally signed between the parties concerned.

3. Action by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.
