

International Civil Aviation Organization



**THE FOURTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL
HAZARDS TASK FORCE (MET/H TF/4)**

ICAO Regional Sub-Office, Beijing, China

19 – 21 March 2014

Agenda Item 3: Guidance material

- b) Other necessary guidance

REFERENCE TO NEW VOLCANO DATABASE IN VOLCANIC ASH ADVISORY (VAA)

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a decision made at the Eighth Meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG) in relation to the Smithsonian standardised international volcano database referred to in volcanic ash advisory messages.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The template for advisory message for volcanic ash (VAA) is given in Table A2-1 in Appendix 2 to Annex 3, prescribing that the name, the volcano number, the location, and the summit elevation of the erupting volcano shall refer to the database prepared and maintained by the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI). Updates to the IAVCEI database, however, have not been notified to Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) in an appropriate manner, causing discrepancies in VAAs among VAACs.

1.2 Therefore, the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG) requested the Smithsonian Institute (SI) through the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) to renew the volcano database aimed at the operation at VAACs. The draft version of the new database has been in the review process by VAACs.

1.3 In the new database, a new IAVCEI number is reassigned to each volcano so that non-alphanumeric characters are removed in VAA to be sent via the AFTN. The new number is also used in another volcano database for general use developed by the SI as well, which is available at the SI's web site at http://www.volcano.si.edu/list_volcano_excel.cfm. The meeting will be informed that the information in the two databases should be kept consistent with each other and subject to change as described below to reflect comments from VAAC Tokyo.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Most VAACs, excluding VAAC Tokyo, have completed the review process as of 1 March 2014 and started referring to the new database in their VAAs.

2.2 The review process for VAAC Tokyo, however, has not been complete because VAAC Tokyo submitted a large sum of comments to the draft so that updates in the newest National Catalogue of the Active Volcanoes in Japan (The Fourth Edition) should be reflected in the international database. This impedes VAAC Tokyo from referring to the new database in their advisory messages.

2.3 Since a new numbering system is employed in the new database, the Asia Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok should notify IAVW-related organisations such as ATCs and MWOs in its area of responsibility when VAAC Tokyo implements the change.

2.4 In addition, with regard to volcanos in the Russian Federation in VAAC Tokyo's area of responsibility, the notification should be made by the European/North Atlantic Regional Office in Paris to relevant users. In this respect, the Asia Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok should also hand over the notification by VAAC Tokyo to the EUR/NAT Regional Office

2.5 To facilitate the above-mentioned notification, VAAC Tokyo should notify the date of the implementation to the Asia Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok when determined.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to formulate the following Action Item:

4/x Reference to new volcano database in VAAs

a) That VAAC Tokyo informs the Bangkok Regional Office of the date of implementation of the new database in its volcanic ash advisory (VAA) messages; and

b) That, upon the notification from VAAC Tokyo as described above, the Regional Office inform IAVW-related organisations such as ATCs and MWOs in its area of responsibility as well as the EUR/NAT Regional Office in Paris of the implementation.
