

International Civil Aviation Organization



**THE TWELFTH MEETING OF ASIA/PACIFIC ROBEX
WORKING GROUP (ROBEX WG/12) and
FOURTH MEETING OF METEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS TASK
FORCE (MET/H TF/4)**

ICAO Regional Sub-Office, Beijing, China

19 March 2014

Agenda Item (conjoint session) 1: VAAC Backup Tests

MUTUAL BACK-UP OPERATION BETWEEN VAACS TOKYO AND DARWIN

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper will inform the meeting of the Scheme of Cooperation endorsed by Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) Tokyo and Darwin, which came into force on 1 March 2014.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 With regard to back-up test procedures between VAACs as required to review in Action Item 11/7 from the previous meeting of the working group, this information paper presents the progress report relating to the mutual back up operation between Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) Tokyo and Darwin, which has been effective since 1 March 2014.

1.2 The meeting will be reminded of Action Item 11/7 from the previous meeting:

11/7 Follow-up on VAAC back-up test

That, the VAAC provider States review the VAAC back-up test procedures and amend if necessary to ensure:

- a) instructions for States are clear on what action is and is not required by MWOs; and
- b) best practice to disseminate VAA in a secure manner to reach all known users, preferably via the AFTN.

1.3 After the success in a back-up test between the VAACs Tokyo and Darwin as reported in the previous meeting, the two centres have prepared the Scheme of Cooperation (SoC) as their detailed internal procedures and directives for the back-up operation and the test thereof between the centres.

1.4 To endorse the SoC, the two centres exchanged letters by directors in charge on 17 February 2014 at the Headquarters building of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne.

1.5 Undertaking all the steps described above, VAACs Tokyo and Darwin agreed that the mutual back-up should come into force on 1 March 2014, and it has been effective as agreed.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 According to the SoC, the two VAACs will implement the annual back-up test defined in the *Handbook on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)* (Doc 9766) as determined in Appendix B of the SoC. Detailed procedures are yet to be discussed between the centres based on Action Item 11/7 from the previous meeting of the working group.

2.2 In future, back-up procedures among three VAACs, namely Tokyo, Darwin and Wellington, should be established as VAACs Wellington and Tokyo would be responsible for the back-up operation of VAAC Darwin, splitting its area of responsibility at 20 degree south, should its operation be suspended.

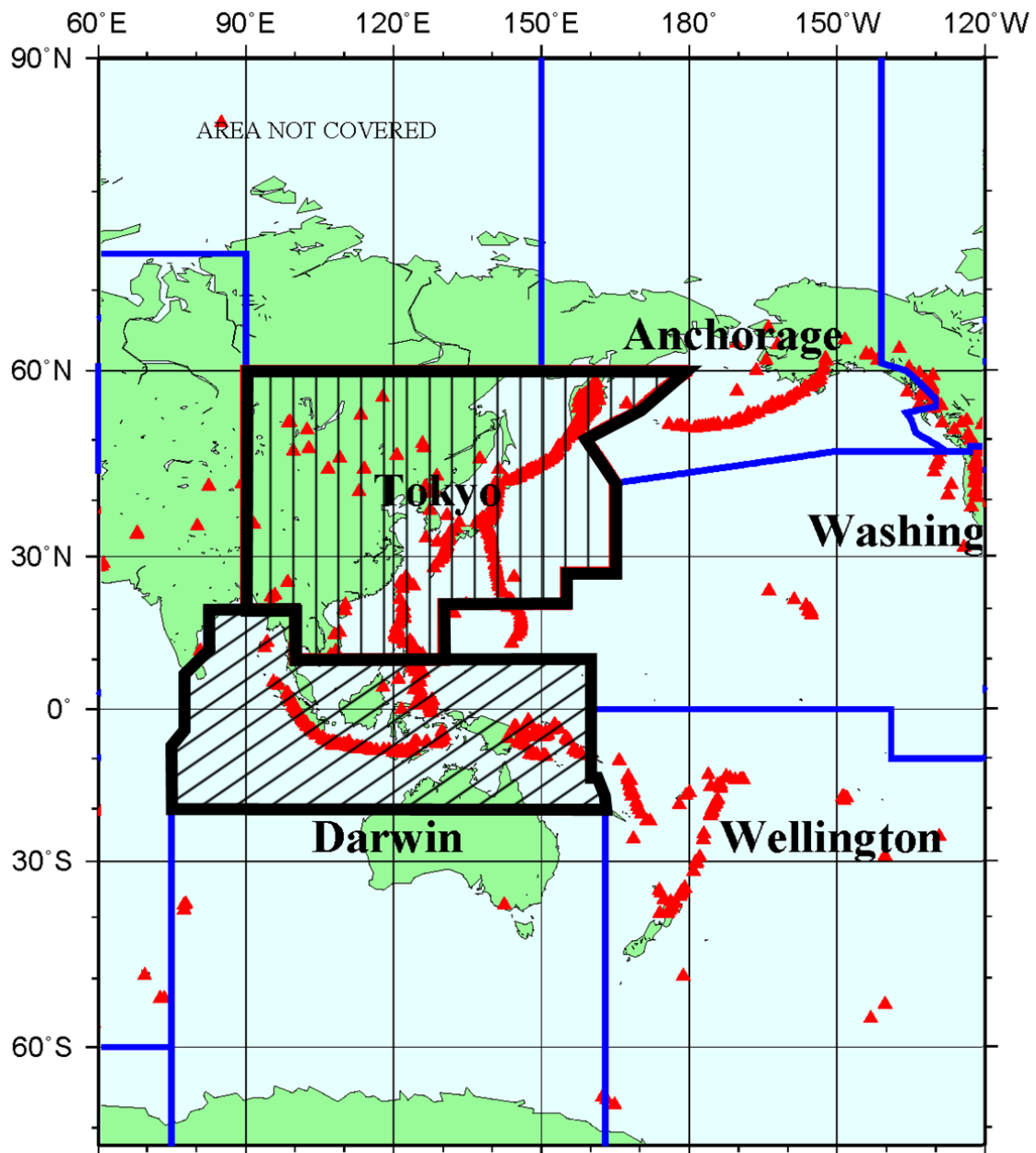
3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

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

**ANNEX: THE OUTLINE OF THE SCHEME OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN VAACS TOKYO AND DARWIN**

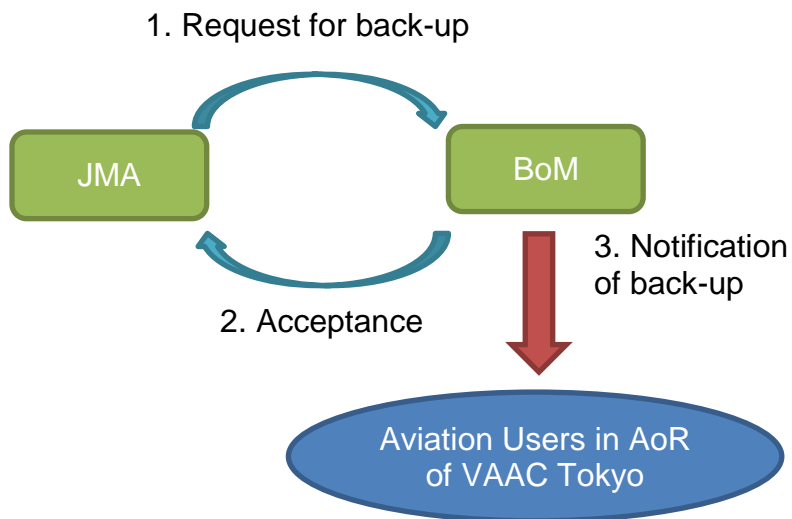
1. The areas of responsibility for VAACs Tokyo and Darwin to be backed up

VAAC Darwin takes charge of the whole area of responsibility of VAAC Tokyo, while VAAC Tokyo takes charge of part of the area of responsibility of VAAC Darwin north from 20 degrees south.

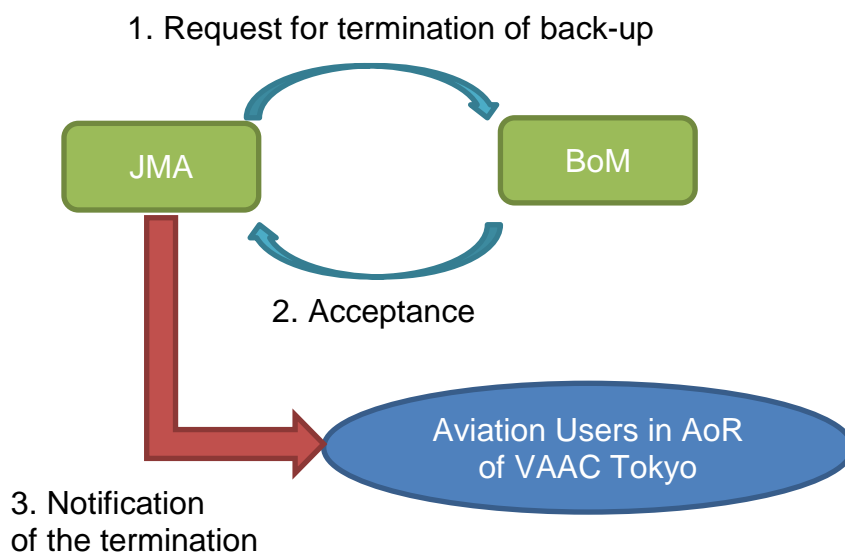


2. Conceptual chart of VAAC back-up (case where VAAC Tokyo is backed up as an example)

(1) When functions of VAAC Tokyo are lost and the request for back-up is sent.



(2) When VAAC Tokyo resumes its operation



**ATTACHMENT: EXCHANGE OF THE LETTERS BETWEEN DIRECTORS OF JAPAN
METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY AND AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY**



Letters were exchanged between VAACs Tokyo and Darwin on 17 February 2014 in the side event at the Eighth Meeting of the International Airways Volcano Watch Operations Group (IAVWOPSG) held at the Headquarters of Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, making the mutual back-up operation effective from 1 March 2014.