



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL AVIATION  
SAFETY TEAM (APRAST/4)**

*(Manila, Philippines, 22 – 25 April 2014)*

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**Agenda Item 4: Review of the Work of APRAST and its Subsidiary Bodies**

**STRENGTHENING OF INVESTIGATION COOPERATION  
AMONG ASIA PACIFIC STATES/ADMINISTRATIONS**

(Presented by the Chairman of the APAC-AIG)

**SUMMARY**

This paper highlights the continual efforts by the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group in strengthening cooperation among Asia Pacific States/Administrations in the area of accident/incident investigation.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The work of the APRAST Accident Investigation Ad Hoc Working Group, the predecessor of the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG), resulted in the development of an Asia Pacific Code of Conduct on Cooperation Relating to Civil Aviation Accident/Incident Investigation (CoC). So far, 16 States/Administrations<sup>1</sup> have pledged their support to the CoC.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The CoC was developed with a view to promoting mutual cooperation in accident/incident investigation in the Asia and Pacific regions. It is in line with ICAO's emphasis on regional investigation cooperation. The CoC provides for mutual cooperative support in terms of investigation facilities, equipment, manpower, skills and expertise, and covers also the areas of investigator training, observer attachment and exchange of information.

2.2 The mysterious disappearance of the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 on 8 March 2014 highlights the unprecedented level of complexity of an accident and the immense amount of resources needed in the aftermath of such an accident (e.g. handling of next-of-kin, search for the aircraft wreckage, recovery of bodies/aircraft wreckage/flight recorders). The State/Administration conducting the search-and-locate/rescue operation and/or the accident investigation will likely need the assistance of other States/Administrations in such an endeavour in terms of investigation facilities, equipment, manpower, skills and expertise. Thus, the CoC can be an important element in a State/Administration's emergency response planning.

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong China, Macao China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republics of Korea, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

2.3 In order to facilitate mutual cooperation among accident/incident investigation bodies from different States/Administrations during the onset of an investigation, the APAC-AIG agreed at its First Meeting (APAC-AIG/1) to the creation of a database that will contain such data as the 24-hour contact information of the investigation bodies in the States/Administrations and the technical resources, facilities and expertise available in these investigation bodies.

2.4 Bangladesh has very kindly volunteered to develop and maintain the database, which will be hosted by the ICAO APAC Office on its website.

2.5 The ICAO APAC Office sent out a State Letter [Ref.: T10/5.3 – AP141/13 (FS) dated 2 October 2013] to invite States/Administrations to provide their input for the database. To date, 13 States/Administrations<sup>2</sup> have provided their inputs.

2.6 The CoC and the database are important elements of a cooperative mechanism in the Asia and Pacific regions to help States/Administrations handle a difficult situation occasioned by a disastrous aviation event. It is hoped that a reflection over the MH370 accident and its aftermath would encourage States/Administrations that have not yet done so to consider pledging support to the CoC and providing input to the database of investigation bodies.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage States/Administrations that have not yet done so to:

- a) consider pledging support to the Asia Pacific Code of Conduct on Cooperation Relating to Civil Aviation Accident/Incident Investigation; and
- b) respond to the ICAO APAC Office's State Letter dated 2 October 2013 [Ref.: T10/5.3 – AP141/13 (FS)] with their input for the database of investigation bodies.

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<sup>2</sup> Australia, Bangladesh, Hong Kong China, Macao China, France, Japan, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Sri Lanka.