



International Civil Aviation Organization

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY TEAM
(APRAST/7)**

(Bangkok, Thailand, 31 August to 4 September 2015)

Agenda Item 5: Review the Work of APRAST and its Subsidiary Bodies

**REPORT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION GROUP**

(Presented by the Chairman APAC-AIG)

SUMMARY

The Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group held its Third Meeting on 23 – 24 June 2015. Issues discussed at the meeting included ICAO initiatives, independent investigation authority, investigator training and regional cooperation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The APAC-AIG held its Third Meeting (APAC-AIG/3) in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 23–24 June 2015, in conjunction with Sri Lanka’s hosting of an ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Accident Investigation Workshop on 25 – 26 June 2015. The APAC-AIG/3 Meeting was attended by 44 participants from 18 Member States/Administrations and four international organization/industry partners. One representative from Qatar also participated in the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman APAC-AIG.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The key outcomes from APAC-AIG/3 are as follows:

- Database of investigation agencies

A database of the investigation agencies in the APAC region had been created to allow States/Administrations to obtain contact information of their counterparts easily and facilitate expeditious communication among States/Administrations. To date, 19 States/ Administrations have provided input to the database. They are Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, Hong Kong China, Japan, Macau China, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

- Code of Conduct on investigation cooperation

The Asia-Pacific Code of Conduct on Cooperation Relating to Civil Aviation Accident/Incident Investigation was developed to promote mutual cooperation in accident/incident investigation in the APAC region. To date, 18 States/ Administrations have pledged their support to the Code of Conduct. They are

Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Macau China, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

- Establishing an independent accident investigation authority

The Meeting agreed that ICAO should provide more guidance as to how a State/Administration can demonstrate the independence of its accident investigation agency.

Papua New Guinea shared its experience and challenges in establishing its Accident Investigation Commission, which is an independent accident investigation agency. The meeting was apprised of the agency's reporting structure, staff strength, expansion plans. The meeting also noted Australia's assistance to Papua New Guinea in developing the agency's capabilities.

- Classification of occurrences

The Meeting discussed and noted that the classification of an occurrence may not always be straightforward. The definitions of "accident" and "serious incident" may be difficult to interpret because of ambiguity.

States/Administrations are invited to inform ICAO APAC Office and Chairman APAC-AIG before 24 August 2015 if they have any suggestion to refine/enhance ICAO Annex 13's definitions of "accident" and "serious incident" to reduce ambiguity.

2.2 The APAC-AIG/3 meeting developed five conclusions (see **Attachment A**).

2.3 The Meeting updated the APAC-AIG work plan, as tabulated in **Attachment B**. The work plan identifies upcoming investigation-related event and activities and should facilitate States/Administrations' in planning for their participation. States/Administrations are also encouraged to consider volunteering to organise the events and activities.

2.4 The Fourth Meeting of the APAC-AIG (APAC-AIG/4) will be hosted by Japan in 2016 in conjunction with its hosting of an accident investigation workshop of the Asian Society of Air Safety Investigators (AsiaSASI). The date of the APAC-AIG/4 will be advised later.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the APAC-AIG work plan;
- b) Note the invitation to States/Administrations to suggest improvement to the definitions of "accident" and "serious incident"; and
- c) Note that Japan will be hosting the APAC-AIG/4 and an AsiaSASI accident investigation workshop in 2016.

APAC-AIG/3 Conclusions

Reference	Conclusion	Status
APAC-AIG 3/1	that, the ICAO APAC Office develop a procedure to send a State Letter, on a half yearly basis, to invite States/Administrations to update the information in the database of the APAC accident/incident investigation bodies.	Completed An internal administrative process has been set in place to ensure that half yearly reminders are sent
APAC-AIG 3/2	that, the ICAO APAC Office issue a State Letter informing that the ICAO APAC Office will be the single point of contact for submitting information related to the APAC-AIG database.	Completed ICAO APAC Office State Letter [Ref. T 10/5.3 – AP099/15 (FS)] dated 15 July 2015
APAC-AIG 3/3	that, the ICAO APAC Office send a State Letter to re-emphasize the need for States/Administrations to meet ICAO’s upcoming standard that will require the establishment of an accident investigation authority that is independent from State aviation authorities and other entities that could interfere with the conduct or objectivity of an investigation.	Completed ICAO APAC Office State Letter [Ref.: T 6/13.11.2-API01/15 (FS)] dated 4 August 2015
APAC-AIG 3/4	that, the ICAO APAC Office request ICAO HQ to provide more guidance as to how a State/Administration can demonstrate the independence of its accident investigation agency.	Completed ICAO APAC Office has sent the request to, and received a response from ICAO HQ
APAC-AIG 3/5	that, the ICAO APAC Office disseminate Papua New Guinea’s Information Paper 5, i.e. establishing a new independent aviation safety investigation agency in the South Pacific, to the APAC States/Administrations as a reference for those that wish to establish an independent accident investigation agency.	Completed ICAO APAC Office State Letter [Ref.: T 6/13.11.2-API01/15 (FS)] dated 4 August 2015

APAC-AIG Work Plan

Date	Activities / Events	APAC-AIG Meeting	ICAO Regional Workshop	AsiaSASI Workshop	ISASI Annual Seminar	International Accident Investigation Forum	ICASS Meeting	Creation of AIU Database	1st Asian Turbomeca Engine Seminar	ICAO Technical and End-User Course on ECCAIRS	Advanced Investigation Training	Workshop on Underwater Search of Flight Recorders	Aircraft Accident Site Safety Workshop	ECCAIRS In-house Training	Orgat'l & Mgmt Factors Investigation Training	
2013	Q1															
	Q2			13-14 Jun Taipei		23-25 Apr Singapore										
	Q3	18-19 Sep Bali	16-17 Sep Bali		19-22 Aug Vancouver								22-24 Jul Singapore	25-26 Jul Singapore		
	Q4							Provision of Data Database developed								
2014	Q1															
	Q2	27-28 May Hong Kong		29-30 May Hong Kong					1-4 Apr Singapore	14-23 May New Delhi						
	Q3										21-25 Jul Singapore	30-31 Jul Singapore				
	Q4				13-16 Oct Adelaide		3-7 Nov Canberra									
2015	Q1															
	Q2	23-24 Jun Sri Lanka	25-26 Jun Sri Lanka													
	Q3				24-27 Aug Augsburg			Database expansion								
	Q4						19-23 Oct Cologne									16-20 Nov Singapore
2016	Q1															
	Q2					19-21 Apr Singapore						Singapore				
	Q3	Japan		Japan												
	Q4				3-7 Oct Iceland											
2017	Q1															
	Q2	Proposed	Proposed													
	Q3				22-24 Aug USA											
	Q4															