



International Civil Aviation Organization

**NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP
(MET SG/19) OF APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 6 August 2015

Agenda Item 6: Research, development and implementation issues in the MET field

6.3) Forecasts, advisories and warnings

CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR TROPICAL CYCLONE ADVISORIES

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper discusses the requirement for back up of Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCACs) provide specialized services for the aviation community through the issuance of Tropical Cyclone Advisories (TCAs). TCAs provide guidance for Tropical Cyclone SIGMETs issued by Meteorological Watch Offices within the TCACs Area of Responsibility.

1.2 Currently there are no ICAO documented procedures or agreements for the backup of TCACs within APAC, whereas there are formal procedures and agreements for ICAO Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAAC's) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 At the first meeting of the Meteorological Warnings Implementation Task Force (now the Meteorological Hazards Task Force), held in Bangkok from the 23rd to 24th March 2011, an ad-hoc group was established to work on the framework for the Asia Pacific (APAC) regional contingency plans for phenomena including volcanic ash, tropical cyclone, radioactive cloud and tsunami.

2.2 These contingency plans have been further discussed at subsequent meetings of the Meteorological Hazards Task Force and reported on at the Regional ATM Contingency Plan Task Force (RACP/TF).

2.3 Back-up procedures for Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) Darwin, Tokyo and Wellington have been developed and documented in the Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET guide. Backup tests of VAAC's, including message distribution, are conducted annually.

2.4 For TCWCs, WMO has established which centres act as a backup to other TCWCs in contingency situations. These are documented in the relevant WMO technical documents.



Figure 1 - Map of global Topical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWC)

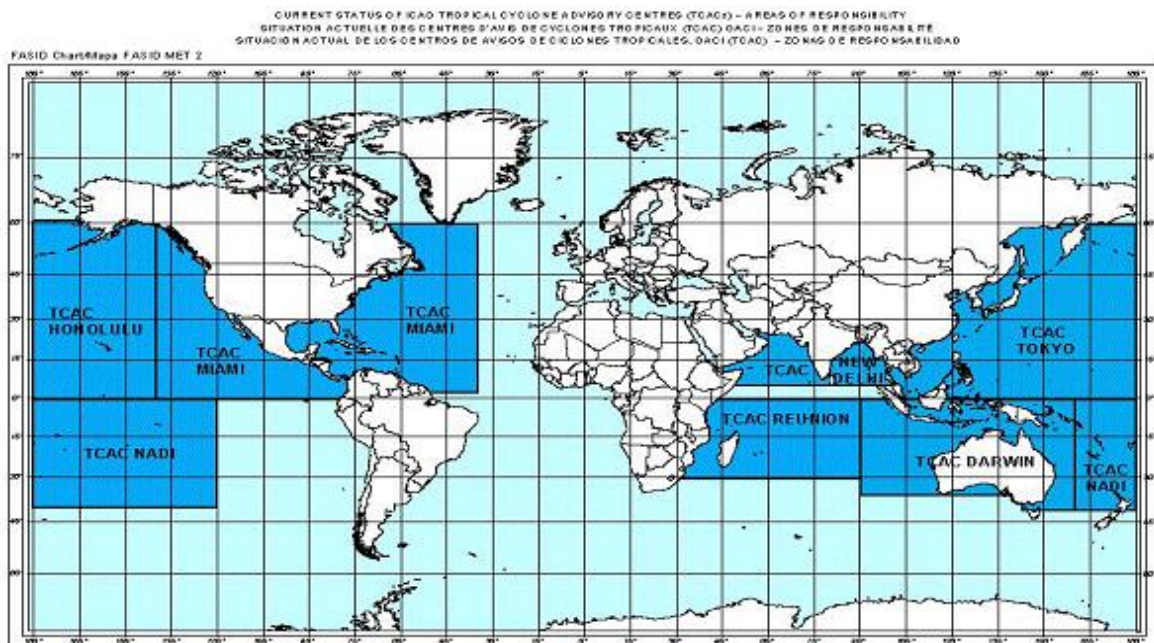


Figure 2 - Map of global Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCAC)

2.5 Some locally agreed contingency plans exist for the issuance of Tropical Cyclone Advisories (TCAs) within the Asia Pacific region however these are not documented at a regional level and these are not incorporated in any regional contingency tests.

2.6 Providing backup services for TCACs can incur a significant cost for the backup state if there is a need to ingest additional satellite data for this purpose. Hence the need for, and choice of, backup states needs to take this into consideration.

2.7 It is not clear whether it is an ICAO requirement for TCACs to have an agreed backup or whether during an outage States should refer to other publicly accessible products, such as TCWC warnings.

2.8 If TCACs require a backup then it is recommended that a regional contingency plan, and Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET guide be updated accordingly. Routine backup tests of the TCACs, including monitoring of message distribution, should also be conducted.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 It is recommended that the METSG/19 adopts the following draft Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion 19/x – Backup of Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCACs)

That, the ICAO Secretariat request the ICAO Meteorology Panel to determine if there is a requirement for TCACs to have backup centre.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate; and
- c) adopt the conclusion in paragraph 3.1.
