



International Civil Aviation Organization

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

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 6 August 2015

Agenda Item 6.3: Forecasts, advisories and warnings

USE OF HEADERS DURING BACKUP OF VAAC DARWIN BY VAAC TOKYO

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the WMO Abbreviated Headers VAAC Tokyo will use when backing up the VAAC Darwin.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Japan provides Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre within the framework of the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW). The relevant responsibilities are set out in Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, Chapter 3, Section 3.5.

1.2 Backup procedures for VAACs are included in the Handbook of the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) – Appendix D (ICAO Doc 9766).

1.3 VAACs Darwin and Tokyo concluded an agreement of mutual backup cooperation on 1 March 2014 for the area north of latitude 20° S in VAAC Darwin's area of responsibility. For the area south of latitude 20° S, VAAC Wellington will provide backup services.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 VAAC Darwin uses six headers from FVAU01 ADRM to FVAU06 ADRM for VAA. If more than one volcano in VAAC Darwin's region erupts across the latitude 20° S, it is better for VAACs Wellington and Tokyo to use different headers during backup operation considering users convenience. If VAAs for two volcanoes are provided from VAACs Wellington and Tokyo individually with the same header FVAU01 ADRM, for example, it must be confusing for users to identify which is which.

2.2 Therefore, VAACs Wellington and Tokyo have coordinated that VAAC Tokyo will use FVAU01 ADRM to FVAU03 ADRM when a volcano in the area north of latitude 20° S in VAAC Darwin's area of responsibility erupts, and VAAC Wellington will use FVAU04 ADRM to FVAU06 ADRM when a volcano in the area south of latitude 20° S in VAAC Darwin's region erupts. In addition, the VAACs prepared handover procedures for a volcanic ash cloud due to a continuous eruption extending widely across the latitude 20° S.

2.3 VAACs Darwin and Tokyo currently provide VAAs for backup services and they are considering VAG provisions too in future: necessary coordination for this provision is expected to start this autumn.

2.4 Detailed information on the mutual backup cooperation among the three VAACs, including the handover procedures between VAACs Wellington and Tokyo as well as the VAG provision between VAACs Darwin and Tokyo will be introduced in the fourteenth meeting of Asia/Pacific ROBEX Working Group (ROBEX WG/14).

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
 - b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.
