



International Civil Aviation Organization

**FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL
INFORMATION EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP
(MET/IE WG/15)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 – 22 March 2017

Agenda Item 4: Meteorological information exchange in digital form

PLANS FOR IWXXM IN JAPAN
(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the brief overview of the plans for the implementation of the ICAO Meteorological Information Model (IWXXM) format in Japan.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2013, Amendment 76 to ICAO Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation enabled the exchange of OPMET information, such as METAR, SPECI, TAF and SIGMET, in the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) format under a bilateral agreement between Contracting States. Amendment 77 to ICAO Annex 3 which became effective in November 2016 recommends the usage of IWXXM format in the exchange of OPMET information, Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA), Tropical Cyclone Advisory (TCA) and AIRMET. In addition, in Amendment 78 to ICAO Annex 3 (effective Nov. 2018), it is expected to become a Standard.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Currently OPMET and other relevant messages are transferred to/from Japan mainly via AFTN. The sole AMHS connection to/from Japan, which connects Salt Lake City in the United States and Fukuoka in Japan, does not currently support the transfer of IWXXM format messages.

2.2 The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) operates OPMET database as RODB Tokyo. RODB Tokyo exchanges OPMET messages through the AFS gateway operated by the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB), and has maintained a database with request/reply function for OPMET information exchange in TAC format.

2.3 For these reasons, RODB Tokyo does not currently handle OPMET messages in IWXXM format.

2.4 The AMHS connection between Salt Lake City and Fukuoka will be upgraded to Extended AMHS in 2017. This upgrade makes it possible to exchange OPMET messages in IWXXM format using File Transfer Body Part (FTBP).

2.5 By March 2018, JMA will develop a new database for IWXXM format messages and connect the message switching system of RODB Tokyo to AMHS system operated by JCAB, as a User Agent (UA) and a Message Transfer Agent (MTA). Tests of AMHS transmission of IWXXM format messages via AMHS will be accordingly conducted.

2.6 RODB Tokyo currently does not plan to translate TAC to IWXXM as a translation center.

3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING

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