



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Twenty-First Meeting of the APANPIRG ATM/AIS/SAR Sub-Group  
(ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/21)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 27 June – 01 July 2011

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**Agenda Item 5: Review of Other Relevant Meetings**

**METEOROLOGICAL ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS IMPLEMENTATION TASK  
FORCE (MET/WARN/I TF) CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper provides a summary on the progress of developing an APAC regional contingency plan for volcanic ash and other significant weather phenomena, which is intended to contribute of the Asia/Pacific Regional ATM Contingency Plan.

This paper relates to-

**Strategic Objectives:**

*A: Safety – Enhance global aviation safety*

*C: Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Air Transport – Foster harmonized and economically viable development of international civil aviation that does not unduly harm the environment*

**Global Plan Initiatives:**

GPI-6 Air traffic flow management

GPI-7 Dynamic and flexible ATS route management

GPI-18 Aeronautical information

GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Fourteenth Meeting of the Communications/Navigation/Surveillance and Meteorology Sub-group to APANPIRG (CNS/MET SG/14) adopted Decision 14/30 on the Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (METWARN/I TF) to develop a framework of regional contingency plan for weather phenomenon that includes volcanic ash, tropical cyclone, radioactive cloud and Tsunami. The Terms of Reference of the METWARN/I TF provide a link to the Meteorology/Air Traffic Management Task Force (MET/ATM TF) in that the contact points provided in the contingency plan be attained by the latter.

1.2 As of April 2011, 17 States and 2 Special Administrative Region had provided point of contact information (APANPIRG Decision 21/9 refers). A reminder was sent to States who had not yet responded on 2 February 2011 (MET/ATM TF/2 action 2/3 refers). This information is published at the following website: [http://www.icao.or.th/edocs/contact\\_volcanic\\_%20ash.pdf](http://www.icao.or.th/edocs/contact_volcanic_%20ash.pdf).

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 In addition to contact points, the first meeting of the Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (METWARN/I TF/1) made progress in developing a framework on contingency plans that included volcanic ash, tropical cyclone, tsunami and radioactive cloud phenomenon, which is provided in the **Attachment**.

2.2 Furthermore, WP/13 of the METWARN/I TF/1 meeting described arrangements related to volcanic ash between Singapore and Indonesia (MET/ATM TF/2 Action Agreed 2/4), which recently expanded their arrangement with Thailand and the Philippines. This meeting considered this arrangement and others in the Region to find commonalities amongst arrangements in the region in developing regional contingency plans (METWARN/I TF/1 Action Agreed 1/13 refers). This information was provided to the assist the work of any Regional ATM Contingency Plan Task Force established by this meeting (METWARN/I TF/1 Action Agreed 1/14 refers).

2.3 The METWARN/I TF/1 meeting discussed the importance of Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) in sharing information and determining who and how an overall decision for a sub-region should be made. Such arrangements are being practiced by Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia.

**3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this paper, and
- b) provide input to the **Attachment** with consideration to current sub-regional contingency plans.

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(Derived from METWARN/I TF/1  
Appendix E to the Report)

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## **Framework for APAC Regional Contingency Plans**

### **Representatives**

Singapore (Edmund; Krishnan)- (Rapporteur), Australia (Shona), New Zealand (Keith), USA (Steve); Indonesia (Indra, Masrian); Philippines (Dario, Bartolome); Malaysia (Jamil); Thailand (Perapol Begkhuntod)

### **Critical topics:**

#### **What is the purpose of contingency plan for Volcanic Ash and Radioactive Cloud?**

- To ensure the continued safety of air transport in the event of volcanic ash (VA)/radioactive cloud/tsunami/tropical cyclone.

The Asia Pacific Contingency plan:

- Needs to give direction/guidance to someone who isn't an expert/has no knowledge of the situation
- Should show the end-to-end progress and shows how information can flow between agencies and States
- Should avoid duplicating information but make reference/point to it (There is already SARPS in Annex 3, IVA operations manual; PANS-ATM; regional SIGMET guide). A consolidated document is needed – but needs Secretariat support to ensure it remains up to date.
- Should be applicable for more than one phenomenon: initially only for phenomena VA, radioactive cloud; tsunami and tropical cyclone. As they have advisory centres, Area Control Centre/RSMC or equivalent
- **Should this really be about contingency plan or rather how collaborative decision making will work within a region?**
- Needs a common definition so that people understand its purpose and role and what information will be covered
- Needs to define what the operational need is for a contingency plan for each State.
- Needs to identify what is the critical information that different organisations/States need

#### **Identify procedures and requirements that are unique to the Asia Pacific region.**

e.g.: those not defined by Annex 3,

- **Collaborative decision making**

The Contingency Plan needs to define how collaborative decision making works for VA for Asia Pacific.

(Derived from METWARN/I TF/1  
Appendix E to the Report)

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The Contingency plan needs to capture work already underway to promote CDM and suggest improvements.

- **Dissemination of information**

The Contingency plan needs to define information flows.

The Contingency plan needs to identify operational focal points.

The Contingency plan needs to establish a forum for discussion – virtual, teleconference, etc.

The Contingency plan needs to outline the management of timeliness of decisions, especially in adjoining airspace.

- **Action plans**

Not for intra-state activities, but action plans for regional and interactions between States.

#### **The Contingency plan needs to address what is not working currently**

- **VONA (Volcano Observatory Notice for Aviation)**

No reference in Annex 3, only in the handbook which is guidance not binding.

- **Provide guidance on what to do if SIGMETs don't agree cross FIRs.**
- **Define handover processes for MWO for SIGMETs as phenomena cross FIR**
- **Consider potential role of Regional Watch offices**

#### **Who else needs to be involved?**

- ATM (Air Traffic Management)
- AOC (Airline Operations Centre)
- Advisory Centres
- Weather Observatories
- RSMC (Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre)
- RODB (Regional OPMET Data Bank)
- MWO (Meteorological Watch Office)
- ANSP (Air Navigation Service Provider)

#### **Additional Specialist advice required:**

- IVATF (International Volcanic Ash Task Force)
- Medical (radioactive)
- Tsunami Warning Centres
- IATA

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