

**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**  
**FIRST MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF CIVIL AVIATION OF THE**  
**CARIBBEAN REGION (CAR/DCA/1)**

(Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, 8-11 October 2002)

**Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation**

**4.5 MET Developments**

**COMMUNICATION/METEOROLOGY (COM/MET) SPECIAL IMPLEMENTATION**  
**PROJECT FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

**SUMMARY**

The aim of this paper is to inform the meeting of the recently approved special implementation project Communication/Meteorology (COM/MET SIP) for the Caribbean Region to identify and propose solutions to deficiencies related to the availability of OPMET information as well as to provide assistance with the preparation and dissemination of SIGMET messages, especially those related to volcanic ash.

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Special implementation projects (SIPs) are intended to assist States in overcoming problems of implementation which may have significant adverse effects on the safety, regularity or efficiency of international civil aviation. These problems are beyond the normal resources of the Organization and cannot be dealt with in the course of the routine activities of ICAO in assisting States. SIPs may also be arranged, particularly where problems are sufficiently extensive in a given area to justify the full time employment of experts.

1.2 In this connection, the Council Standing Group on Implementation reviewed seven Secretariat proposals for SIPs prepared in consultation with the regional offices. The 33<sup>rd</sup>

Session of the Assembly approved the proposal “Communication/Meteorology (COM/MET) Special Implementation Project for the Caribbean Region” to be carried out in 2002.

## **2. Background Information**

1.3 Special implementation projects are primarily aimed at assisting in the implementation of the regional air navigation plans and is therefore a direct extension of the task of the regional offices. Based on an analysis of the coordinated controls carried out in the CAR/SAM Regions, the eight meeting of GREPECAS formulated Conclusions 8/25, which called for a COM/MET special implementation project for the CAR/SAM Regions. Based on the foregoing, a SIP for the SAM Region was approved by Council and phase one was carried out during 2000.

1.4 The results of the COM/MET SIP for the SAM Region were noted by GREPECAS/9 (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 7-12 August 2000) and, noting the problems observed by the ICAO team who carried out the SIP, the meeting formulated Conclusion 9/7, which called for a similar COM/MET SIP for the CAR region to identify and propose solutions to deficiencies related to the availability of OPMET information, as well as to provide assistance with the preparation and dissemination of SIGMET messages. An OPMET follow-up Implementation Meeting for these States will be held in Belize, 13-15 November 2002.

2.3 On March 2, 2001, Council approved a COM/MET SIP for the CAR Region. The first part of the SIP was carried out successfully from 23 July to 17 August 2001. The SIP covered visits to Mexico and the Central American States (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua). This was due to the need to carry out coordinated control of OPMET information and for the identification of solutions to the typical deficiencies related to the availability of such material.

## **3. Scope of the Project**

3.1 The second part of the proposed SIP would cover a number of Central and Eastern Caribbean States and Territories and would be comprised of short visits (one to three days) to each State or Territories in order to provide the necessary assistance, aimed at identifying deficiencies *in situ* regarding OPMET exchange and SIGMET procedures and proposing solutions to the same. The visits would be made by an expert in aeronautical meteorology (MET) with experience in AFTN procedures, as well as an in-depth knowledge of international airways volcano watch (IAVW) operational procedures.

3.2 The SIP would provide assistance to the CAR States and Territories with the implementation of the appropriate procedures for the development and distributions of SIGMET messages, especially, those related to volcanic ash.

## **4. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

The Meeting is requested to consider:

- a) the contents of this paper;
- b) that States/Territories ensure that SIP recommendations are implemented, and
- c) that, ICAO schedule an OPMET Implementation Meeting in 2003 for the Central and Eastern Caribbean States.

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