



**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
ASIA/PACIFIC AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APANPIRG/14)
Bangkok, 4 to 8 August 2003**

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

VIETNAM'S APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP WITH APANPIRG

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This working paper presents for consideration by APANPIRG/14 an application from Vietnam for full membership with APANPIRG.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ASIA/PACIFIC Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) has been established by the Council of ICAO in 1991 as recommended by the Air Navigation Commission.

1.2 The Council on 26 June 1991, established the APANPIRG with an initial membership consisting of fifteen (15) States.

1.3 Subsequently, based on the recommendations of APANPIRG/2 and APANPIRG/12, the Council on 2 February 1993 and 5 April 2002 respectively approved the memberships of Indonesia and Tonga.

1.4 With effect from 1 July 1997, as a result of the transfer of Hong Kong to China, United Kingdom withdrew from the membership of APANPIRG.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Vietnam, in a letter to the ICAO Regional Office dated 22 April 2003, has expressed a keen desire to apply for full membership with APANPIRG. A copy of Vietnam's letter for application for full membership with APANPIRG with further details are attached to this working paper.

3. ACTION BY APANPIRG/14

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the application by Vietnam for full membership with APANPIRG and make an appropriate recommendation to the ICAO Council accordingly

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Vietnam's desire to become a full member of APANPIRG

From 1988 until RAN3 Meeting in 1993, with the aid of ICAO and UNDP Vietnam invested CNS facilities as well as trained air traffic controllers, technical staff to take the responsibility for management of three temporary AORs in Hochiminh FIR.

In accordance with recommendation 5/3 of RAN 3 Meeting, Vietnam has temporarily controlled BKK AOR and SIN AOR in Hochiminh FIR and on the occasion of 50 years of ICAO establishment, in Hanoi, the ceremony on taking over these temporary AORs was officially took place with the attendance of Mr. Lalit Shah – Regional Director of Asia Pacific and representatives from the Region's States and international organisations and Vietnamese Government officials.

Hochiminh ACC has officially controlled the southern part of Hochiminh FIR since 0001 UTC 18/12/1994. All air traffic within HCM FIR has been controlled by up to date VHF and radars. This led to the significant improvement of the air traffic management over the South China Sea.

During the transition to a new millennium, Vietnam cooperated closely with ICAO Regional office and concerned States to deal successfully with Y2K problem which contributed to the ensurance of safety, regularity and efficiency of aviation activities in South China Sea area.

From 1994 to 2001 under the guidance and assistance of ICAO Regional office Vietnam was in closed cooperation with relevant States to implement the new structured route over the East Sea, especially the establishment of A202 route, BKK-HKK, has significantly increased the safety, efficiency and regularity of flight operations within Asia Pacific region in general and South China Sea area in particular.

Implementing the RVSM plan in Asia Pacific Region in general and Western Pacific and South China Sea in particular, Vietnam has side by side collaborated with relevant States, timely carried out RVSM plan worked out/drawn up by ICAO Regional office on 21/2/2002. Due to some technical matters of other States Vietnam cooperated and implemented RVSM phase 2 on 31/10/2002 according to the schedule of the Region.

Over years Vietnam has actively been participating in meetings/conferences, sub groups organised by ICAO as well as bilateral, and multilateral meetings on the initiative of ICAO Regional office and relevant States.

Vietnam actively participated in ASEAN regional air navigation cooperation conference and fruitfully hosted SEACG-9 Meeting in April 2003 in Hochiminh city. Vietnam has been investing and upgrading CNS/ATM system to meet the requirements of domestic and international flight operations and thus contributing significantly to the enhancement of the safety, regularity and efficiency of flight operations in South China Sea area. Bearing in mind this Vietnam has the honour to request ICAO Regional office and States concerned to review its desire to become a full member of APANPIRG. We recognise that obtaining your membership approval Vietnam will have more opportunities to contribute to the Asia and Pacific Air Navigation Plan and Implementation to match the growing air traffic operations.

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