



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Fifth Meeting of Aeronautical Telecommunication Network (ATN)
Transition Task Force of APANPIRG**

Phuket, Thailand, 9 – 13 June 2003

Agenda Item 8: Review the status of implementation of AFTN circuits, evaluate circuit capacity and consider timescale for transition to ATN

ISSUES DISCUSSED AT COM COORDINATION MEETING

SUMMARY

This paper presents relevant some issues discussed at the COM Coordination Meeting held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 27-29 May 2003 for review and appropriate action.

(Presented by the Secretariat)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A COM Co-ordination Meeting was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 27-29 May 2003. The meeting was hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

1.2 The objectives of the meeting were to review status of implementation of the required AFTN/ATS direct speech circuits and to develop a coordinated action plan to implement and upgrade those circuits that were of interest to this meeting.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The following issues discussed at the meeting may be of interesting to this meeting.

AFS Communication between Dhaka and Kolkata

2.1.1 The meeting noted that AFTN diversion routing between Dhaka and Kolkata was coordinated by ICAO regional office in accordance with an action plan agreed at the previous COM coordination meeting held in Kunming in June 2002. Subsequently, the routing changes were implemented by States concerned. As an interim arrangement current AFTN routing for traffic between Bangladesh and India has been established via Bangkok and Mumbai, which meets the specified transit time requirement. However, a direct AFTN circuit between Dhaka and Kolkata is still required to provide an alternate routing for AFTN traffic to/from Bangladesh.

2.1.2 Considering difficulties for the use of the recommended VSAT technology for the time being because of regulatory restriction at Indian side, both Bangladesh and India agreed to establish a 64 Kbps data circuit via International Private Leased Circuit (IPLC) to support a 9600 bps AFTN circuit and an ATS direct speech circuit. The service providers-Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) of India and Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) have been consulted. Special approval is required for sharing the IPLC with voice communication at Bangladesh side.

Target date of September 2003 was agreed for establishment of the AFTN circuit. ATS voice circuit will be established subject to approval by BTTB.

Colombo-Male AFTN Circuit

2.1.3 Sri Lanka informed the meeting its readiness for upgrading the Colombo/Male AFTN circuit. It was informed that Maldives had included the AFTN upgrade in the Airport Upgrading project, phase IV which would start from July 2003. It is expected that the AFTN upgrading will be implemented by the end of 2003. An action plan was developed, accordingly.

Signalling Speed

2.1.4 It was noted that minimum signalling speed available from international telecommunication service provider in some States in the region for upgrading AFTN circuits is 64 Kbps for International Private Lease Circuit (IPLC). Sharing such a circuit for both voice and data was recommended by the meeting.

X.25 Protocol

2.1.5 Thailand informed the meeting that X.25 protocol used for AFTN circuit and also required to support ATN lower layer communication is about to become obsolete as telecommunication service providers do not recommend its use because the quality of the communication lines have been improved and manufactures/vendors no longer produce X.25 related products. It was suggested that guidelines for using communication protocol should be discussed at ATN Transition Task Force meeting.

International Direct Dialling (IDD) hotline for direct speech circuits

2.1.6 It was also noted that IDD hotlines are used by States to support the ATS direct speech circuits. It generally meets the requirement for 15 seconds access time and low-density traffic. Such IDD circuits should be upgraded to dedicated circuits or AIDC should be introduced when requirement warrants.

Dial-up connection for VSAT backup

2.1.7 For those critical circuits supporting both data and voice over a VSAT channel a backup arrangement of dial-up connection with the correspondent AFTN centre should be made.

2.1.8 It was informed that Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh had decided to install and commission ATN facilities in accordance with the regional plan adopted by Asia Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Group (APANPIRG) within the target date by end of 2005. Correspondence on implementation of ATN and the associated circuit with Aeronautical Radio of Thailand was initiated.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the result of discussions at the COM coordination meeting on issues relevant to this meeting and consider issue referred in paragraph 2.1.5.
