



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Seventh Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG and
Tenth Meeting of CNS/ATM IC Sub-Group of APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 21 July 2003

**Agenda Item 10: Implementation of ICAO Warning Systems –
International Airway Volcano Watch (IAVW)**

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF VOLCANIC ASH TASK FORCE (VA TF) FOR IAVW

(Presented by the VA TF Rapporteur, Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper provides information about the recent activities of Volcanic Ash Task Force for IAVW.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Volcanic Ash warning ad-hoc working group was established in accordance with the decision of the COM/MET SG/2 Meeting held in 1994. After its satisfactory contribution to the IAVW, the sixth meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG agreed to dissolve it into a new organization, Volcanic Ash Task Force (VA TF).

1.2 It was agreed that the TF consisted of members from the States hosting the VAACs in the ASIA/PAC Region: Australia, Japan, New Zealand and United States with the member from Japan acting as Rapporteur of the TF. Experts from United Kingdom and IATA are also the members of the TF.

1.3 Terms of Reference of the TF are:

- (a) monitor the operational efficiencies of the IAVW within the ASIA/PAC regions.
- (b) continually seek ways to improve the operational efficiencies of the IAVW within the ASIA/PAC regions.

2. Activities of the VA TF (1)**- Investigation of the statistics for the number of VA advisories**

2.1 All VAACs in the ASIA/PAC regions have been working vigorously. To review the performance, TF has compiled the statistics for the number of VAAs issued in the ASIA/PAC regions from 1998 to 2002 (see attached figure 1).

2.2 JMA has archived past VAAs from all VAACs. The data is used to sum up the total number of VAAs in addition to the compiled data supplied by each VAAC.

3. Activities of the VA TF (2) - Questionnaire to MWOs

3.1 The VA TF, in cooperation with ICAO ASIA/PAC Office, has sent out questionnaires to MWOs in the ASIA/PAC regions. The purpose of this questionnaire is:

- 1) to acquire basic information about MWOs that issue SIGMET based on Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA)
- 2) to clarify the status of VAA utilization in the region.

3.2 The preliminary result for item 2 is shown in table 1. Also, TF is compiling the answers for item 1 to make the directory of MWOs concerned. This directory contains useful information as organization's name, contact point and contact person's name of each MWO etc.

4. Action by the meeting

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the information in this document.

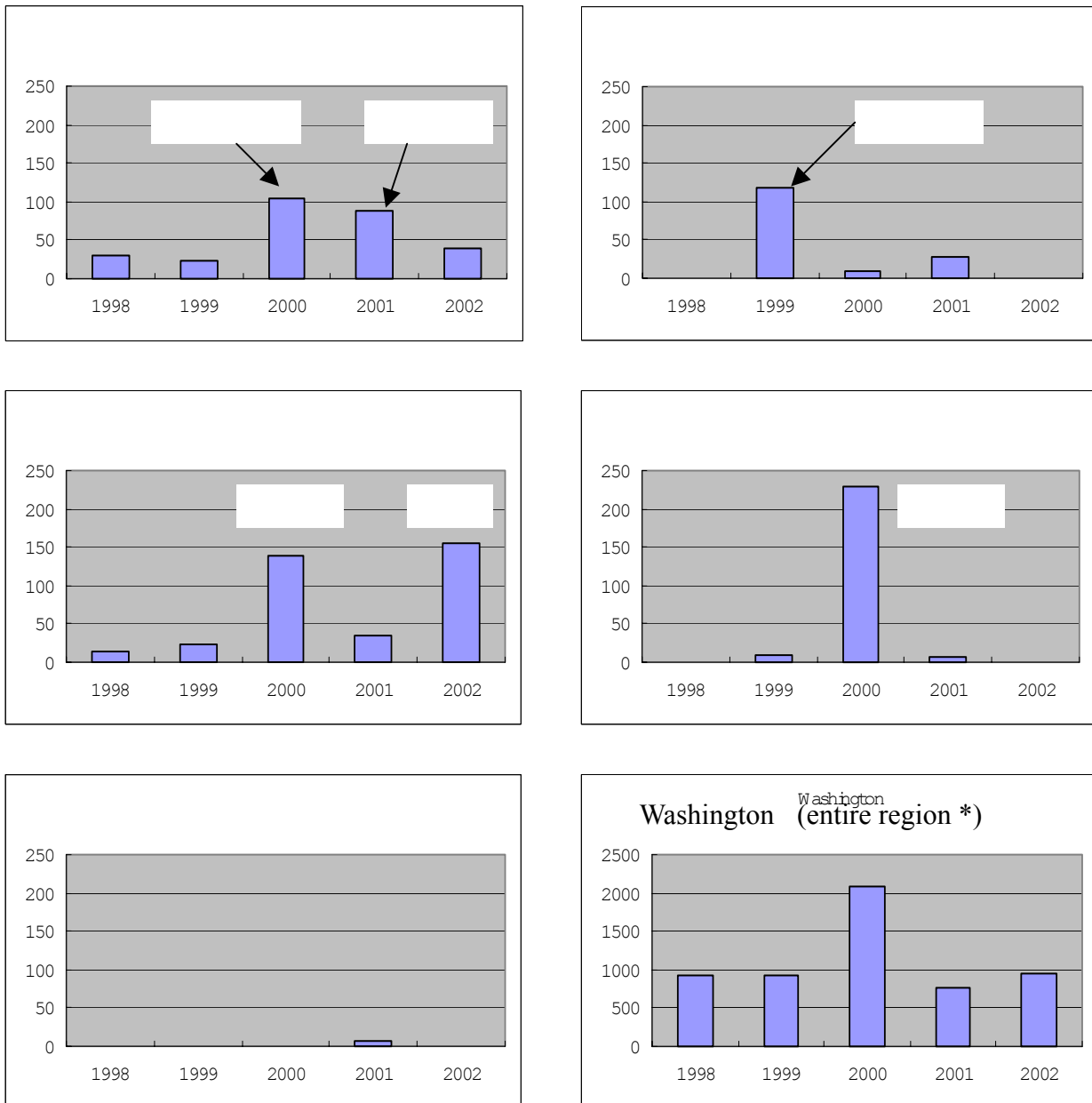
ATTACHMENT 1

Figure 1 The number of VAAs issued for the ASIA/PAC region from 1998 to 2002. Some bars are labeled with volcano names for which the most VAAs were issued in the year. These statistics are based on the data supplied by VAACs and the database of JMA. The numbers of Darwin VAAs are counted in the fiscal year of Australia (July to next June).

* VAAs issued for the Central or South America volcanoes are also included.

Table 1 Preliminary result of the questionnaire survey (item 2)

Number of Answers	12	
2. Have you ever issued SIGMET triggered by VAA?		
Yes	4	
No	8	
N/A	0	
3. How frequently have you issued SIGMET?		
(1) occasionally	1	
(2) every time after VAA arrives	3	
N/A	0	
4. How long, in average does it take to issue SIGMET after VAA arrives?		
(1) less than 10 minutes	3	
(2) less than 20 minutes	2	
(3) less than 30 minutes	1	
(4) less than 40 minutes	0	
N/A	6	
5. When you issue SIGMET, do you need to get permission from supervisor?		
Yes	3	
No	6	
N/A	3	
6. Please choose your satisfaction with VAA?		
6.1 Timing		
(1) very good	1	
(2) Good	7	
(3) fair	1	
(4) poor	0	
(5) very poor	0	
N/A	3	
6.2 Ease		
(1) very good	2	
(2) Good	5	
(3) fair	2	
(4) poor	0	
(5) very poor	0	
N/A	3	

ATTACHMENT 2

Table 1 (continued)

6.3 Contents		
(1) very good	1	
(2) Good	7	
(3) fair	1	
(4) poor	0	
(5) very poor	0	
N/A	3	
6.4 If you chose "poor" in any question, please state the reason.		
No comments		
7. Comments and/or requirements for VAA		
In situations where we receive Aircraft Observations and/or Air Traffic Reports of Eruptions/Ash, before the advisories, we can issue sigmets immediately, especially if advisories are delayed. However, once advisories arrive, sigmets already issued are duly updated. (Fiji)		
So far, we have not issued any SIGMET related to VAA as volcanic ash occurred outside FIR of responsibility. VAA received were disseminated to aviation users with flight documentation through "aviation briefing terminals". (Malaysia)		
MALDIVES IS NOT AFFECTED BY VOLCANIC ASH (Republic of Maldives)		
Every there (Everywhere?) there is active volcanic activity and eruption. (Papua New Guinea)		