



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Third Meeting of the Air Traffic Flow Management Task Force
(ATFM/TF/3)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 6 to 9 September 2005

Agenda Item 9: Any Other Business

REVIEW OF APANPIRG/16

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an extract from the report of APANPIRG/16 in relation to the ATFM/TF.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sixteenth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/16) was held at Bangkok, Thailand from 22 – 26 August 2005. APANPIRG/16 was briefed in respect of the activities of the ATFM/TF.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 An extract from the report of APANPIRG/16 in relation to the activities of the ATFM/TF has been included as an **Attachment** to this paper, for review by the meeting.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to review the outcomes of APANPIRG/16 in respect of the ATFM/TF.

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Extract from the report of APANPIRG/16, 22-26 August 2005

Special Coordination Meeting – Bay of Bengal Air Traffic Flow Management (SCM BOB ATFM)

2.3.1 SCM BOB ATFM was convened in conjunction with BBACG/16 (February 2005) in follow-up to the recommendation of RVSM/TF/24 (Bay of Bengal one-year review, November 2004) to progress the establishment of an ATFM plan and implementation of ATFM automated systems for the Bay of Bengal traffic flows. This matter was considered a high priority by users and ATS providers, and was to be progressed in a timely manner.

2.3.2 SCM BOB ATFM, on reviewing the issues, agreed that a dedicated Task Force should be established under the BBACG to progress the matter. Accordingly, the SCM BOB ATFM prepared the following Terms of Reference of the “ATFM Task Force for the Bay of Bengal and South Asia” (ATFM/TF):

Objectives:

The objectives of the Task Force are to:

1. To enhance and facilitate the orderly and efficient flow of Air Traffic across the Bay of Bengal and South Asia;
2. To minimize ground and en route delays;
3. To maximize capacity and optimize the flow of air traffic within the area;
4. To plan for and manage future ATS workload in the light of forecast increased traffic flow within the area; and
5. To assess the economic and environmental impact of the implementation of the ATFM system.

Implementation Programme

To meet these objectives the ATFM/TF shall adopt a phased implementation programme as per the following:

Phase One: Flights planning to transit the Kabul FIR

Phase Two: Other international flights crossing the Bay of Bengal and/or South and South East Asia areas

Phase Three: Future planning for increased traffic within the Bay of Bengal and South and South East Asia areas

(Note: For the purposes of the ATFM/TF, South Asia includes India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).

The Air Traffic Flow Management Task Force (ATFM/TF)

2.3.3 Since the SCM BOB ATFM established the ATFM/TF in February 2005, the ATFM/TF had conducted an informal ‘mini’ meeting in Singapore (March 2005) and two formal meetings, ATFM/TF/1 (Bangkok, April 2005) and ATFM/TF/2 (Delhi, June/July 2005), whilst ATFM/TF/3 has been scheduled for 6-9 September, 2005.

2.3.4 ATFM/TF/2 had considered available options for the conduct of an ATFM Operational Trial across the Bay of Bengal and South Asia. In this regard, the meeting noted Thailand’s readiness to proceed to an operational trial and accordingly, ATFM/TF/2 requested Thailand to continue to develop the Bay of Bengal Cooperative Air Traffic Flow Management Advisory System (BOBCAT) to the stage of an operational trial in close cooperation with concerned States and IATA.

2.3.5 Also under consideration by ATFM/TF was the FAA Dynamic Ocean Track System Plus (DOTS+) automated system which had been in operational use in the United States for 10 years. The system was also being operated by Australia under a technical assistance agreement with the FAA in a primary role to generate flex tracks, however it was also capable of serving as an automated ATFM system tool, using the “Track Advisory” functionality that currently resides within the DOTS+ core system.

2.3.6 The meeting was informed that a special coordination meeting of ATFM/TF was held in Singapore on 10 – 11 August 2005 in order to progress the work towards the implementation of an operational trial of automated flow management systems in the Bay of Bengal. The meeting authorized the issue of an AIC notifying the commencement of an operational ATFM trial on 22 December 2005, which would utilize the Bay of Bengal Cooperative Air Traffic Flow Management Advisory System (BOBCAT) under development by Thailand.