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国际民用
航空组织

Bureau Afrique Occidentale et Centrale / Western and Central African Office

T2/7.1 - 0524

24 July 2013

Subject: AFI Region Seminar/ Workshop on WGS-84 Implementation to Support GNSS and PBN aeronautical operations (Dakar, Senegal, 27 – 29 November 2013).

Action required: To reply and confirm participation by 15 October 2013.

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that a Seminar/Workshop on the implementation of the World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS-84), will be conducted for the benefit of States in the AFI Region, at the ICAO Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, from 27- 29 November 2013, to which your Administration is invited.

This Workshop is pursuant to Conclusion 17/96 of APIRG/17 which called on the ICAO Regional Offices, in Dakar and Nairobi, to assist AFI States having difficulties with WGS-84 implementation to complete the process. As you are aware, current and future developments in satellite technology such as GNSS will, to a large extent, reduce the dependence of civil aviation on ground based navigation aids, as well as permit improvements in overall efficiency of Air Navigation Systems.

The implementation of GNSS is dependent on States providing geographical coordinates based on the same geodetic datum, i.e. WGS-84 in conformity with provisions contained in Annexes 4, 11, 14 and 15 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. It is therefore essential that all ICAO Contracting States be fully compliant with WGS-84 provisions.

To this effect, the Seminar/Workshop will review the results of the survey on the status of implementation of WGS-84 throughout the AFI Region. It is important to recall that Special AFI RAN/8 noted that APIRG and the AFI States had been working towards WGS-84 implementation for many years and that although a large part of the work had been completed by most States, considerable work still remained.

Additionally, the AFI RAN/8 meeting recognized that implementation is now most urgent, as availability of geographical coordinates in the commonly agreed WGS-84 reference system is a prerequisite for States to obtain the benefits of PBN, and also an important step in preparing for the transition from Aeronautical Information Services to Aeronautical Information Management (AIM), for which the provision of digital geographic data of appropriate quality will be essential, bearing in mind that the WGS-84 reference system requires regular updating.

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The Workshop will provide hands on experience in downloading software for converting coordinate data into WGS-84 information. The US National Geospatial Agency (NGA) would provide free PC downloadable software that can transform geographic coordinates between datum and recommended for converting coordinate data for mapping, low-accuracy surveying, or navigation. The MSP GEOTRANS (Geographic Translator –*provided by NGA*) which runs in Microsoft windows is an application programme which allows participants to easily convert geographic coordinates among a wide variety of coordinate system, map projections and datum. The GEOCALC Geodetic tool conversion system will also be provided where given Airport/En route coordinates in a local (National) reference frame can be transformed into Airport/ En route coordinates in a Global (common) reference frame (WGS-84).

In order to allow for a comprehensive analysis of the status of implementation of WGS-84 throughout the AFI Region, it is important that appropriate background information be provided to substantiate any discrepancy in the current implementation status within your State. Your Administration is therefore invited to provide the ICAO Regional Offices in Dakar and Nairobi with information on the status of implementation of WGS-84 over the territory of your State by completing the questionnaire at Attachment D related to WGS-84 implementation, when responding to this letter.

Attendees should anticipate practical exercises including approximately one day of data processing, in addition to numerous informative presentations. I encourage your Administration to actively participate in this event by ensuring that delegates of your State are personnel with responsibility and experience in the field of aeronautical cartography, geodesy and mainly in the implementation of the WGS-84 system. The workshop will be conducted in English Language.

The Objectives of the Seminar/Workshop are to:

- a) increase the level of awareness of AIS/AIM Service providers regarding the need for, and application of the SARPs contained in ICAO Annexes 4 and 15;
- b) accelerate and complete WGS-84 implementation across the AFI Region.
- c) provide a forum for AIS/AIM users to articulate their specific needs and requirements; and
- d) provide a forum where technological advancement and enhancements in the field of AIM can be displayed and demonstrated.

In view of the above, your Administration/Organization is encouraged to submit discussion/information papers covering subjects contained in the provisional agenda. I would be grateful to receive any papers you wish to submit in electronic format at your earliest convenience and in any case not later than 15 October 2013, in order to allow for processing and advance posting on the ICAO website.

Please note that the use of hard copy (paper) documentation at the Seminar/Workshop will be kept to a minimum, in favor of the use of multimedia projectors and electronic copies of documents. Other than in exceptional cases, documentation will not be provided in hard copy format. You are kindly urged to ensure that your participant bring along suitable computer equipment and accessories such as laptops and USB keys to the Workshop to enable them participate effectively.

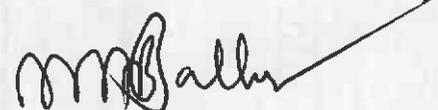
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It would be appreciated if you could, as soon as possible, preferably by 15 October 2013, confirm the participation of your Administration/Organization in this Seminar/Workshop by forwarding your response to the following e-mail address (icaowacaf@dakar.icao.int) with a copy to (gbaldehy@dakar.icao.int) or fax number +22133 8203259, giving the name(s) and official/job titles of your participant(s).

For the use of participants, please find attached, the draft Agenda, Registration form, information bulletin, list of hotels within easy access of the Seminar/Workshop venue and the survey questionnaire related to WGS-84 implementation. The hotel rates indicated require confirmation when reservations are made.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Mam Sait Jallow
Regional Director

- Attachments:**
- Attachment A: Draft Agenda
 - Attachment B: Registration Form
 - Attachment C: Information Bulletin and List of hotels
 - Attachment D: Questionnaire on Survey inventory related to WGS-84 implementation