1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 China has put great effort on the operation of MWOs in her FIRs to ensure that each MWO can fulfil its responsibility and be operated effectively. With China’s Western Development strategy, there is a significant boost in air traffic in western regions. In order to better providing the aviation weather services, CAAC decided that the responsibilities of two MWOs in the western region (Lanzhou MWO and Kunming MWO) be taken over by the Regional Meteorological Centres of Northwest (named as Xian MWO) and Southwest ATMB (named as Chengdu MWO) respectively, where there are more skilled forecasters, more meteorological observations and numerical forecasts available and more advanced equipment, than those at the two original MWOs. This change is expected to improve the aviation weather service for the increased air traffic.

1.2 After 4 months of preparation work, the two new MWOs are on duty starting from Sep. 1st 2010.

1.3 From September 1st 2010, Chengdu MWO, instead of Kunming MWO, issue SIGMET for the Phnom Penh FIR of Cambodia on behalf of the Phnom Penh MWO.
2. **ACTIVITIES TAKEN BY CHINA**

2.1 The meteorological watch office (MWO) transfer is a complex task. It takes 4 months and involves at least 6 units or departments. Met. Division of ATMB CAAC was responsible for coordinating the related units to work together on this task. Several meetings and conference were launched to discuss working scheme, working plan and detailed working steps.

2.2 In order to achieve the undertaking of responsibility and put the new MWO in operation at 0000 on Sep 1st, 2010 (Beijing LST) as request by ATMB/CAAC, both the meteorological centres in Northwest and Southwest ATMB established special working groups, which consisted of leaders of regional ATMB and meteorological centre as well as senior experts on aviation meteorology and information technology to work for the handover. They organized experts and forecasters to the sub-ATMBs in each responsible FIR to investigate the characteristics of local topography, weather and climate, airspace, flight paths and routes, meteorological data and equipment, and the network for dissemination, etc., and communicate the experience of plateau weather service with local forecasters.

2.3 Several training courses were carried out for the issuance of SIGMET in the new MWOs. They trained the forecasters to learn the responsibilities of MWO, the issuance standards and regulations etc., and invited several local forecasters from the sub-ATMBs for one week to share their experience and skills of weather forecasting and aviation services with the forecasters in the new MWOs, especially on the key-points of how to make better plateau weather forecasts.

2.4 Because Chengdu MWO should issue aeronautical meteorological information for FIR Phnom Penh (Cambodia) from what Kunming MWO did in the past, the experts also helped the forecasters to learn the related knowledge about FIR Phnom Penh for better service provision.

2.5 The setting of Aviation Meteorological Database and Communication was also adjusted to ensure that the SIGMET issued by the new MWOs would be received and exchanged correctly.

2.6 Regional ATMBs who will take over the responsibility of MWOs put great emphasis on the MWO transfer. Mr. Li Zhongji, Director General of Southwest China ATMB addressed on the work (Figure 1 and 2).

2.7 With more than 4-month of preparation, the two new MWOs have succeeded in transferring the responsibilities and the corresponding works from the original MWOs at 0000 on Sep 1st, 2010 (Beijing LST), and took on the responsibilities of MWO officially. The issuance and dissemination of aeronautical meteorological information is now in normal operation. The evaluation reports about the two new MWOs will be summarized after several-months of operation.
3. ACTION BY THE METWSG

3.1 The group is invited to note the information in this paper.

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