



ICAO BANGKOK

UNITING AVIATION

ICAO Aviation-Public Health Experts' Roundtable

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- **Background:** ACCRPG/6 (28 Aug) recommended ICAO to host a Roundtable formed by Aviation and Public Health experts in the APAC region (exchange views; bridge understanding; build consensus).
- **Senior-level CAA and PHA reps** from 9 States (Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand)
- **Strong participation**, with over 200 attendees.
- **Opening remarks** provided by **Dr. Liu Fang** (ICAO Secretary General), **Mr. Arun Mishra** (ICAO APAC RD), and **Dr. Babatunde Olowokure** (WHO Director of Health Security and Emergencies).
- Moderated by **Prof. Teo Yik Ying**, Dean of Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore.
- **Prof. David Heymann**, (Chair of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Hazards) shared on the **importance of a standardised risk assessment** in facilitating safe travel
- **Chatham House Rules:** Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s) may be revealed



- Dire effects of COVID-19 on **airport and airline financial viability** may result in a far less connected post-pandemic world.
- ICAO traffic data reveals that regions with higher levels of **intra-regional traffic** (e.g. APAC) will recover more quickly.
- Leverage **Public Health Corridors** or other near-term **travel bubble solutions** to further enhance public confidence in air travel.
- Aviation will rely on PHAs to help determine a **prudent balance between testing and quarantine requirements.**
- **CART Phase II's** updated guidance and upcoming Manual on Testing and Cross Border Risk Management Measures aim to help countries assess testing options as a means to alleviate quarantine measures where possible.



Two main segments of the Roundtable:

Segment 1: Examining strategies to recover air travel

Identify strategies for safe and gradual resumption of international air travel (particularly for mass tourism), without the vaccine being available in scalable manner.

Segment 2: Enhancing mutual trust

Establish building blocks for enhanced trust and mutual respect across countries for a globally harmonized accreditation system for testing capacity.



Key issues surfaced by speakers:

- Impediments to air travel recovery
- Potential resurgence of community transmission with expansion of border re-openings
- Operational complexities of air bubble and transit arrangements
- Testing capacity

Convergence towards key guiding principles:

- A robust and agile risk assessment framework (harmonised approach)
- A nuanced and risk calibrated approach (leverage on mitigating measures)
- Alignment between CAA and PHAs (communication; coordination)
- Adopting a scientific and evidence-based approach
- Local public health measures (capacity; processes; responsiveness)
- A harmonised data collection and sharing framework (transparency; trust)



- Overall, the Roundtable discussion was beneficial in promoting a better understanding of the various considerations and concerns of various Aviation and PH experts in re-opening borders, especially the perspectives of PH experts.
- Participants were able to hear various approaches adopted by States.
- The Roundtable was a stepping stone for further dialogue and engagements between CAAs and PHAs; encourage all to take the conversation further.



Thank you.
Any Questions?