



**NINTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
GROUP (APAC-AIG/9)**

(27-28 October 2021 on Virtual Platform at 11.00 hrs. Bangkok Time UTC+7)

Agenda Item 5: Regional Cooperation

**GLOBAL EXPERIENCE SHARED ON RAIO COOPERATIVE PLATFORM
REAPING BENEFITS TO THE APAC REGION**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper outlines and highlights on the functioning of the Regional Accident Investigation Organizations (RAIO)s already established by other regions globally and the benefits reaped by them through ICAO’s RAIO Cooperative Platform (RAIO CP). Objectives of RAIO CP is to help strengthen existing RAIOs or Investigation Cooperative Mechanisms (ICMs) and assist in the establishment of any new RAIO or ICM so they can be more effective and efficient in supporting their member States.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Assembly Resolution A40-6 states that “ICAO has a policy on Regional Cooperation which is committed to render assistance, advice and any other form of support, to the extent possible, in the technical and policy aspects of international civil aviation to Member States in carrying out their responsibilities pertaining to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and ICAO Strategic Objectives, inter alia by promoting regional cooperation through close partnerships with regional organizations and regional civil aviation bodies.”

1.2 The Assembly Resolution A40-6 “Directs the Council to support the implementation and further development of the Global Aviation Safety Oversight System (GASOS) regarding the necessary measures to strengthen, assess and support RSOOs or RAIOs to assist their Member States in accomplishing certain safety oversight, accident and incident investigation and safety management functions and activities, while ensuring those States maintain their obligations and responsibilities under the Chicago Convention”.

1.3 The RAIO CP was launched on 27 May 2021 and built up on the successful experience coming from the set-up of the Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOO) CP and in the know-how developed along the subsequent RSOO CP functioning

1.4 The main objective of ICAO’s RAIO Cooperative Platform (RAIO CP) is to help strengthen existing RAIOs or Investigation Cooperative Mechanisms (ICMs) and assist in the establishment of any new RAIO or ICM so they can be more effective and efficient in supporting their member States.

1.5 Membership, contributions and benefits:

1.5.1 For the purpose of the Cooperative Platform, a RAIO or ICM would be any regional or sub regional accident and incident investigation body that assists a group of States in meeting their accident and incident investigation obligations or carries out accident and incident investigation activities to support a State or group of States. Any established form of intergovernmental cooperation in aircraft accident and incident investigation based on a formal agreement or similar instrument can be a member of the RAIO CP. Any other aviation accident and incident investigation regional mechanism may join, as decided on a case-by-case basis and if invited by ICAO.

1.5.2 RAIO CP members are expected to actively contribute to the activities of the Cooperative Platform and are called to nominate a focal point and regularly attending meetings, share information and best practices, contribute with expertise; and promote activities of ICAO and the Cooperative Platform in their region in coordination with the corresponding ICAO Regional Offices; within other activities.

1.5.3 Members may take benefits of the access to best practices and guidance material provided by other RAIOS and ICMs; assistance by the Cooperative Platform or other RAIO or ICM experts on specific issues or projects; and direct interface between RAIOS / ICMs and ICAO.

1.5.4 Each ICAO Regional Office designated a RAIO CP focal point who will attend the RAIO CP meetings and participate in the RAIO CP activities in a liaison role.

1.5.5 Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOOs) and industry organizations may be invited in the immediate future to take part in the activities of the Platform as observers, to discuss specific topics of common interest.

1.5.6 ICAO has designated a RAIO Cooperative Platform Secretary, who will be responsible for act as a liaison point between ICAO, RAIOS, and ICMs on relevant issues. The Secretary will also support the related ICAO activities; organize the Cooperative Platform meetings; build mechanisms for the Cooperative Platform to carry out its future tasks; and identify areas where the Cooperative Platform could assist ICAO in its activities; within other tasks.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Most importantly, the establishment of Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organizations (RAIOS) can provide economies of scale by pooling and sharing of required resources, which would allow States with insufficient resources to undertake effective investigations, thus fulfilling their obligations under Article 26 of the Chicago Convention.

2.2 The RAIO CP in turn, maximizes the synergy between regional accident and incident investigation organizations and cooperative mechanisms (RAIOS and ICMs) and, through cooperation, helps strengthen them so they can be more effective and efficient in supporting their member States.

2.3 Five RAIOS and ICMs are already established in different ICAO regions, and all of them joined the RAIO CP since its inception on 27 May 2021. All together, the five RAIOS and ICMs assembly 64 countries, some of the RAIOS and ICMs adding special observers.

2.4 The RAIOS/other regional investigation cooperation mechanisms members of the RAIO CP are: [ARCM SAM](#), AIG Regional Cooperation Mechanism, South America; [BAGAIA](#) Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency established as an independent body under the Banjul Accord Group, Africa; [ENCASIA](#) European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities, created by Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010. Europe; [GRIAA](#) Regional Group for Air Accidents Investigation, Central America; and [IAC](#) Interstate Aviation Committee, European.

2.5 Different RAIOS and ICMs arrangements and possible areas for cooperation in the RAIO CP:

2.5.1 Four RAIO CP members established their RAIO or ICM through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) or similar document; while the remaining one was established following a Regulation adopted in the region.

2.5.2 One RAIO CP member is delegated to conduct investigations by the States, while the other four are focused on cooperation and technical support, with different variants.

2.5.3 All five RAIO CP members are capable of recommending necessary measures and providing technical assistance to enable Member States to overcome the deficiencies related with accidents and incidents investigations identified by the ICAO USOAP and other audits, though this is implemented in different ways in each region.

2.5.4 All five RAIO CP members are able to provide any/some type of assistance to Member States for accident and incident investigations through the RAIO or ICM, or to facilitate support from one State to another State within the respective RAIO or ICM region.

2.5.5 Three RAIO CP members have developed and established a regional training programme and one member stated that this is work in progress, while the remaining member effectively facilitates peer support within States and a broad sharing of related information.

2.5.6 Two RAIO CP members have developed an information system to facilitate access to safety-related and safety-critical information within the region, other two members have done it partially or stated that this is work in progress, and the remaining member has a very mature system in place for that purpose.

2.5.7 Other possible areas for cooperation initially discussed or identified were, for example, the processing and monitoring of safety recommendations, and the development of accident and incident investigation guidance material for Member States. Also, the capability to deploy RAIO or ICM's investigation teams for the purpose of carrying out investigations; the capability to detect underwater locator beacons fitted to flight recorders using internal capability or through documented arrangements and agreements; etc.

2.5.8 RAIO CP members have different frameworks according to their respective regions agreements and needs. Nevertheless, cooperation between regional organizations and cooperation mechanisms across regions and supported by the RAIO CP seems to offer great potential to benefit the RAIO CP Members and their respective States.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to encourage States to note the contents of this paper, and to consider the benefits of establishing an Investigation Cooperative Mechanism (ICM) or RAIO as it may be applicable, with the support of information shared by other regional organizations based on RAIO CP and Consider establishing an Ad-Hoc working sub group in order to :

- a) Support the APAC-AIG to implement in the most practical way a study of the feasibility of adopting an already functioning model of ICM suitable for APAC group of States; and
- b) Develop and conduct a survey questionnaire to determine the willingness of States to part take in the establishment of an RAIO or ICM and submit a report at AIG/10.

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