



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

Seventh Meeting of the Asia and Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group (APAC VOLCEX/SG/07)

Online, 14 December 2021

Agenda Item 2: Review outcomes from previous meetings

REVIEW OUTCOMES FROM VOLCEX/SG/06

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper summarises outcomes from the 6th meeting of the Asia and Pacific Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group (APAC VOLCEX/SG/06) held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 – 21 June 2019.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Regional Office hosted the sixth meeting of the APAC Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group (VOLCEX/SG/06) in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 – 21 June 2019 (Ref: <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2019-VOLCEX-SG6.aspx>).

1.2 Forty (40) experts from thirteen (13) Member States/Administrations and three (3) International Organizations participated in VOLCEX/SG/06. Mr Zulkarnain, from the Meteorological, Climatological and Geophysical Agency of Indonesia (BMKG), presided over VOLCEX/SG/06 as Chairperson, and Mr Peter Dunda, ICAO Regional Officer, Aeronautical Meteorology and Environment, acted as Secretary.

2. DISCUSSION

Volcanic Ash Exercises APAC VOLCEX 18/02 and 19/01

2.1 Indonesia reported on the volcanic ash exercise VOLCEX 18/02 on the simulated eruption of Tandikat-Singgalang volcano in West Sumatra, Indonesia, from 00:50 UTC to 10:20 UTC on 20 September 2018.

2.2 Indonesia's report contained some recommendations for the participating units to improve the responses to volcanic ash events. The recommendations related to the availability (on SADIS) of volcanic ash advisory information (graphical format) and METAR and ASHTAM messages, coordination between the meteorological service provider and air navigation service provider (for the common understanding of operational matters such as the status of SIGMET information), timeliness

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of exchange of special air reports, and cross-boundary coordination of SIGMET information when volcanic ash is forecast to enter adjacent FIRs.

2.3 VOLCEX/SG/06 encouraged the relevant authorities and operational units concerned to consider appropriate follow-up testing to validate that corrective actions have resolved the issues.

2.4 New Zealand presented a report of the volcanic ash exercise VOLCEX 19/01 on the simulated eruption of Raoul Island volcano, in the Kermadec Islands region of the South Pacific, from 2100 UTC 6 May to 0300 UTC 7 May 2019.

2.5 New Zealand's report contained sixteen (16) actions for the participating units to follow up on issues identified in the exercise related to the content, provision, dissemination and exchange of volcanic ash information.

2.6 VOLCEX/SG/06 noted that the leaders of VOLCEX 18/02 and VOLCEX 19/01 would continue to coordinate the necessary follow-up actions and requested the exercise leaders to provide a progress report to future VOLCEX/SG meetings and other ICAO APAC groups as appropriate.

Updates to the terms of reference (ToR) and work plan

2.7 Following a request by the twenty-third meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group (MET SG/23), VOLCEX/SG/06 updated the scope of the steering group's ToR to include, in addition to volcanic ash exercises, the regular review of lessons learnt from actual volcanic ash events.

2.8 Several participants provided updated contact details, which VOLCEX/SG/06 included in the updates to the contact list in the ToR.

2.9 VOLCEX/SG/06 removed the detailed tasks and quality expectations from the ToR document. Instead, it appended them to an ICAO APAC VOLCEX Directive template as a resource for further development by the leader and participants of each volcanic ash exercise.

2.10 VOLCEX/SG/06 also updated the ToR to include the Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Team (APRAST) as one of the bodies to which the steering group will report relevant outcomes of its work.

2.11 VOLCEX/SG/06 noted that Japan and Philippines would conduct the volcanic ash exercise APAC VOLCEX 19/02 in Philippines in September 2019, which would demonstrate SIGMET coordination in response to forecast areas of volcanic ash cloud affecting adjacent FIRs.

2.12 Japan and Republic of Korea were also planning a volcanic ash exercise to simulate an eruption of the Mt. Ulreung volcano off the coast of Republic of Korea, affecting international routes between the areas of responsibility of Japan and Republic of Korea.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a. Note the information contained in this paper; and
 - b. discuss any relevant matters, as necessary.
