



ICAO

**SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL
AVIATION SAFETY TEAM (APRAST/16)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 17 to 18 March 2021 on Virtual Platform

APRAST/16-WP/7

Agenda Item 5

Agenda Item 5: Presentations – State / Industry / ICAO

**UPDATE ON SAFETY SUB-GROUP (S-SG) OF APAC COVID CONTINGENCY AND
RECOVERY PLANNING GROUP (ACCRPG) OF APAC REGIONAL STATES**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

S-SG of ACCRPG has been meeting quite regularly and frequently to share best practices and offer possible resolutions to states facing the challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic. All such information shared are published on ICAO APAC website for ready adoption by the states. As we are approaching sunset date for filing of alleviations on CCRD and majority of regional states may revert back to normal operations the need for holding meetings as a standalone group may/or may not be required. As a way forward this paper proposes APRAST to view pros and cons in merging this group into APRAST mechanism in utilizing the arrangement as a readymade technical group increasing capacity of APRAST in supporting regional states on a regular basis as well as during a similar future pandemic/disruption to Aviation.

Action by the meeting is in Para 3.0.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 History of the Meeting

1.1.1 The ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Information Sharing web-conference, 31 March 2020, on the subject of “COVID-19”, decided to form a task force/group to assist the DGCAs in coordinating their approach to the management of civil aviation through, and out of, the current extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.1.2 Consequently to the above, the ICAO APAC Regional Office hosted the First Meeting of the ICAO APAC COVID-19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG/1) via web conference from Bangkok, Thailand, on 05 June 2020.

- a) Aviation safety-related measures sub-group (Recommendations 1, 2 and 3);
- b) Aviation public health-related measures sub-group (Recommendations 4 and 5);
and
- c) Aviation Security- and facilitation-related measures sub-group (Recommendations 6, 7, 8 and 9).

1.1.3 Consequently, as a result, Safety Sub Group was formed and conducted its first meeting 11th June 2020 with S-SG Members Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, USA, ACI, Boeing, IATA, IFALPA, COSCAP-SA and EASA. So far S-SG has held 14 meetings and the last was held in February 2021.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 S-SG, as a sub group established by ACCRPG in order to support the regional states in the safety technical areas during COVID pandemic, may cease to operate after the ACCRPG is terminated when the states are fully recovered from CCRD alleviations or felt no longer necessary. During S-SG/14 this matter was deliberated and decided to explore the possibilities of combining the S-SG to APRAST as a continuation to support and guiding APAC states through APRAST. Main advantages of such merging with APRAST were considered as:

- a) Strengthening the technical capacity and capability of APRAST,
- b) Be in the readiness to have a built-in subgroup to support states in a future emergency situation or any other pandemic,
- c) Ability to assemble swiftly and to take action immediately as a non-regular work force based on virtual platform arrangements,
- d) Continuation on records keeping and solidarity with all stake holders of Aviation Safety

2.2 Based on such discussions at last S-SG, ICAO APAC Secretariat was requested to present a Working Paper to APRAST/16 seeking concurrence from APRAST.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note and make use of the documents shared by S-SG supporting APAC states in resumption of Aviation during and after COVID-19 pandemic, available on APAC website
(Hyper link; <https://www.icao.int/APAC/ACCRPG/Pages/FS-eDocs.aspx>); and
- b) Consider merging of S-SG sub group into working body of APRAST, after it's tenure ends with the termination of ACCRPG, as a permanent technical arm supporting APAC States, in addition to present sub groups increasing technical capacity.