



ICAO

OPENING REMARKS AT ICAO APAC CYBERSECURITY WEBINAR

14 JUNE 2021

Dear Colleagues, Experts, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening!

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic made 2020 a challenging year, and the challenge continues in 2021. This prolonged challenge also provides opportunities to innovate and navigate the new norm. One way is to invest time and effort to upskill our workforce. The ICAO Asia & Pacific Office is organizing a series of webinars in the year 2021 on various diverse topics of interest. The primary objectives of these webinars are to increase participants' awareness and understanding of the ICAO requirements needed to support regional planning and implementation activities, including implementation of Regional Aviation Safety Plan 2020-2022, the Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan, and the Beijing Declaration.

The webinars are an excellent platform to share information and experience that will eventually help us to understand the challenges and identify the means to address these challenges. Let us make the best use of this information sharing activity. The webinar today on cybersecurity highlights the importance of resilient cyber infrastructure in supporting today's new business norms.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the global aviation system is a highly complex and integrated ecosystem that comprises ICT systems critical for the safety and security of civil aviation operations. Cyber threats are currently growing at an increasing rate and therefore becoming a pertinent concern to civil aviation. This threat context is especially relevant today, as increasing IP-based network connectivity, new concepts such as System-wide Information Management (SWIM), are making us more connected than ever before and also integrated as a single operating global network. We also need to be cognizant of the fact that many legacy technologies and related procedures have not yet benefitted from the modern security-by-design architecture. Given the dynamic nature of cyber threats to the Air Navigation, airport and other critical aviation systems, it is time for all relevant entities in the national and international levels to work collaboratively in order to provide a more proactive and aligned collective response to cyber threats through a cross cutting approach.

Cybersecurity is an inherent component of CNS/ATM implementation, and has been widely addressed in various ICAO APAC Regional forums over the years. The first APAC Regional Cybersecurity Symposium was held in May 2018 at Hong Kong China.

Today's webinar is also organized in response to an action item of the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Communications, Navigation and Surveillance Sub-Group of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (Dec 2020), which called for joint efforts of concerned parties in building regional capability in the Asia Pacific Region to deal with the challenges relevant to cybersecurity.

This webinar will provide updates on the ICAO trust framework and more importantly discuss the cyber threats during phases of CNS/ATM system design, implementation and operation at global, regional and national level. Essentially, the objectives of the webinar are to share information and experience, develop awareness on cyber issues affecting aviation, and foster a cyber-safety culture that promotes a resilient and secure cyberspace.

Ladies and Gentlemen. You will all agree that an event of this nature is only as good as the presenters and an interactive audience. I can assure you that we have some of the best experts with a wealth of experience present with us today. It is only appropriate that at the onset I extend a warm welcome to all speakers who come from as far away or diverse as Canada, USA, Australia, Singapore, China and Spain to support this one-day event. Of course, you the audience also have a role to play, by your active and interactive participation. To attain a safe, secure and environmentally friendly air transport system across the Region, we need strong leadership and commitment as well as close collaboration amongst not only the States, but also the aviation industry's safety and security partners. On behalf of the ICAO Asia & Pacific Office, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Nokia and Thales for supporting this special experience-sharing event. Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, the primary role of the APAC Office is to foster planning and implementation of the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and ICAO provisions by the States for the safe, secure and efficient air transport system. We are indeed appreciative of your commitment to implement ICAO provisions as well as collaborate extensively on the international front, which will result in the gradual and steady recovery of air transport in the region.

Thank you and I wish you all a fruitful and productive webinar. Stay safe.



Dr. Manjit Singh
Acting Regional Director