



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization***INFORMATION PAPER****Eleventh Meeting of the Meteorological Services
Working Group (MET/S WG/11)**

Virtual meeting, 24 to 26 March 2021

Agenda Item 6: Guidance and education related to the provision of meteorological services**VAAC TOKYO MANAGEMNET REPORT**

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the VAAC Tokyo IAVW Management Report for the period 1 July 2020 through 31 January 2021.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) Tokyo is operated by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), which is responsible for observing meteorological, climatological, geophysical and oceanic phenomena and issuing information accordingly as national service. The VAAC Tokyo coverage includes the East Asia, the Northwest Pacific region and part of the Arctic Circle. This report covers operations since 1 July 2020 through 31 January 2021.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 VAAC Tokyo issued 1326 volcanic ash advisories (VAAs) during the period from 1 July 2020 through 31 January 2021 for 9 volcanoes within the VAAC Tokyo area of responsibility (AoR). Figure 1 shows the total number of VAAs issued by VAAC Tokyo since 2009.

2.2 VAAC Tokyo issued no VAA on behalf of VAAC Darwin for its backup operations. Test VAAs were provided for the Asia/Pacific SIGMET test in December 2020.

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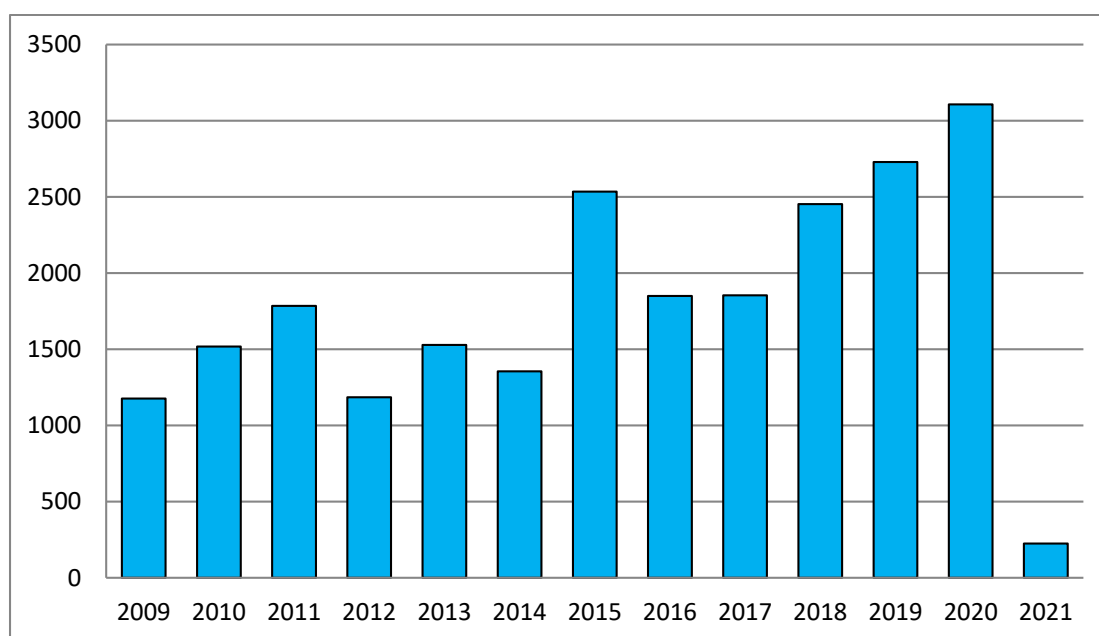


Figure 1: Total number of Volcanic Ash Advisories (VAA) issued by VAAC Tokyo since 2009.

Significant eruptions in the VAAC area of responsibility

2.3 During the period, volcanoes in the Kamchatka Peninsula and the Kuril Islands, such as Klyuchevskoy, Bezymianny, Sheveluch, Karymsky and Ebeko actively erupted; some of these events with volcanic ash expanding across Northern Pacific (NOPAC) routes or towards Pacific Organized Track System (PACOTS) routes affected aviation operations. Among these events, a series of eruptions of Bezymianny (21 to 23 October 2020) was estimated to reach up to FL310.

2.4 Active volcanoes in Japan, such as Suwanosejima, Nishinoshima, Sakurajima and Satsuma-Iojima also periodically erupted. VAAC Tokyo issued the largest number of VAAs (415) for Suwanosejima in VAAC Tokyo AoR during the period.

Significant Operational and Technical Changes

2.5 In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many staff of VAAC Tokyo have begun working from home from April 2020, except some essential officers and operational shift forecasters. Forecasters are operating from the JMA HQ office, but in case unlikely outbreak occurs, VAAC Tokyo has a plan to move its operational functions to the backup operating room in the JMA HQ office or the other JMA office located in the suburbs of Tokyo, to maintain continuous monitoring and advisory services. During the relocation, VAAC Tokyo and VAAC Darwin have mutually confirmed that VAAC Tokyo ask VAAC Darwin to provide backup operations.

2.6 In November 2020, Japan Meteorological Agency's headquarters moved from Otemachi to Toranomom (3-6-9 Toranomom, Minato City, Tokyo 105-8431, Japan). We have already notified the relevant counterparts and requested revision of the Handbook on the IAVW. The contact information has been changed as follows.

- Operational phone number: +81 (3) 3434 9120
- FAX: +81 (3) 3434 9121
- Administrative phone number: +81 (3) 3434 9119

- Email addresses: in addition to the operational (vaac.tokyo@volash.kishou.go.jp) and administrative (vaac.tokyo-adm@volash.kishou.go.jp) email addresses, please also add vaac.tokyo@jma.go.jp.

VAAC Back-up between Darwin and Tokyo

2.7 VAAC Darwin and VAAC Tokyo concluded a mutual backup agreement in March 2014; VAAC Darwin provides backup operations for VAAC Tokyo AoR, and VAAC Tokyo provides backup operations for the area north of 20 degrees south in VAAC Darwin AoR.

2.8 During the period, VAAC Tokyo performed back-up operations for VAAC Darwin on 6 October 2020 but no VAA on behalf of VAAC Darwin for its backup operations.

Volcanic Ash Exercise

2.9 VAAC Tokyo also participated in the APAC VOLCEX 20/02 in July 2020 as an observer.

Regional cooperation

2.10 On 16 September 2020, with an invitation from VAAC Darwin, VAAC Tokyo participated in Vulcan Working Group Meeting held by the Bureau of Meteorology of Australia through a web conference. At the meeting, VAAC Tokyo presented research and development status.

Future Development

2.11 VAAC Tokyo is planning to replace our operating system in March 2021, and then will be able to create IWXXM ver 3.0 advisories.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 Note the information contained in this paper.
