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Third Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Design and Operations Task Force (AP-ADO/TF/3)

Video Teleconference, 9 to 11 February 2022

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**Agenda Item 2: Planning, Design, Construction and Operation of Aerodromes**

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION – WP/07 – ALPHA NUMERIC CALL SIGN PROJECT**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This paper presents outcomes from APANPIRG/31 (2020) supporting Working Paper 07 – Alpha Numeric Call Sign Project.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 WP/07 provides information and proposed actions by the meeting to support the Alpha Numeric Call Sign Initiative.

1.2 This paper provides additional information arising from the 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation and Regional Group (APANPIRG/31, December 2020).

**2. DISCUSSION**

APANPIRG/31 Outcomes on Alpha Numeric Call Signs

2.1 The Report of the APANPIRG/31 Meeting included the discussion under Agenda Item 3.3 (Regional Airspace Safety Monitoring Group – RASMAG outcomes) of causal factors contributing to Category D (ATC system loop error) Large Height Deviations (LHDs):

*3.3.24 With regard to Category D (ATC system loop error) events, the Japan Airspace Safety Monitoring Agency (JASMA) had provided more detailed analysis to the meeting after ICAO asked whether English Language Proficiency (ELP) might be an issue. While acknowledging the potential role of ELP, Japan noted that some of these incidents were due to similar call signs.*

3.3.25 *In response to a query from ICAO, IATA clarified that its successful similar call sign initiative that had been implemented in the Middle East (MID) Region had not been able to progress in the APAC Region. One of the reasons for this was the reluctance of aerodrome operators to implement change until an automated tool was available to accommodate alphanumeric call signs.*

3.3.26 *Noting the grave safety risks from such occurrences, and noting the endorsement by the ATM/SG/8 and the AOP/SG/4, APANPIRG/31 agreed to the following Conclusion:*

***Conclusion APANPIRG/31/11: Alphanumeric Call Sign Initiative***

*Noting:*

- 1) The extreme safety risks associated with pilot-ATC miscommunication and the number of Category D (ATC Loop Error) Large Height Deviations (LHDs);*
- 2) APANPIRG Conclusion 27/15 and ATM/SG Conclusions 5-5 and 5-6 regarding the Asia/Pacific Alpha Numeric Call Sign (ANCS) project; and*
- 3) Alpha numeric call signs were a well-established call confusion mitigation;*

*That, leading Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and aerodrome operators, in coordination with CANSO and ACI, were urged to consider a trial to identify and overcome any barriers for the implementation of alphanumeric call signs, with a view to developing a project for the Asia/Pacific (APAC) Region.*

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to take this information into consideration in discussion of AP-ADO/TF/3 – WP/7.

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