



# RCM TF/9

Agenda 5 a) - Recap of Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission Task Force (APCAC TF) Report

-Secretariat Presentation



# APCAC TF

## 54th APAC DGCA Conference Discussion Paper

- presented by the Chair of the APCAC TF
- on the progress of the feasibility study undertaken into the potential establishment of a Civil Aviation Commission for the Asia Pacific Region



## Introduction

- The discussion paper - 'APCAC Feasibility Study Progress Report'
- APCAC Task Force Expert Group meeting of March 2017
  - to make update on the progress of the first phase of work
  - next steps in relation to consideration of progressing the feasibility study



Initial work consisted of the following steps:

- Task 1: Endorsement of key regional priorities, including an Asia Pacific States survey;
- Task 2: Summarising the existing coordinating forums in the Asia Pacific collaboration framework, including a brief description of the role of each forum;
- Task 3: Mapping the endorsed issues to the existing framework;
- Task 4: Exploring options to enhance the existing framework to better address the endorsed issues;
- Task 5: Examining the role, operations, benefits and challenges of other Civil Aviation Commissions; and
- Task 6: Assessing the findings and determining the next steps.



# Findings and Analysis

## Task 1: Endorsement of key regional priorities, including an Asia Pacific States survey

- Conducted a survey to determine the objectives, interests, opportunities, and challenges each State/Administration is facing, and the priority of each issue/challenges
- 15 States/Administrations responded. Ranked issues in a priority order of importance. A list of the top ten priorities were identified



## Two key priorities identified:

- assistance to build their capabilities to improve safety and security (including implementation of USOAP and USAP corrective action plans); and
- additional capacity building to develop the next generation of aviation professionals and address emerging regional and global challenges.



## The other eight issues were identified in the order of priority:

- Optimise/improve existing regional platforms for coordination on technical and operational matters. ATM Modernisation and harmonization
- Information Sharing
- Air Services Liberalisation
- Harmonize civil aviation policies and practices. Enhance regional cooperation
- Consensus building on key aviation issues
- Identify matters of common interest
- Opportunity to provide an Asia Pacific position in international for a
- Enhance regional search and rescue. Environmental impacts



## Task 2: List of existing coordinating forums in the Asia Pacific collaboration framework

- There were some 20 groups, with a further 27 sub-groups identified with the role of each forum.



## Task 3: Mapping endorsed issues to the existing framework

- Priority issues raised by the survey can be mapped to the current framework
- But some of the lower priority issues, could not
- There is an opportunity to put in place an overarching coordination mechanism to act between the roles and responsibilities of the groups of the framework and the DGCA Conference.
- Therefore, potentially there is a role for a coordinating mechanism to examine the requirements of States who need capability and capacity building support, and ensure that support is tailor-made to respective States.



## Task 4: Exploring options to enhance the existing framework to better address the endorsed issues

- Opportunity to enhance the existing framework
- Task 4 builds on the work done in Tasks 1, 2, 3
- Findings were drawn from responses to a survey covering the key areas from Chairs of 16 of the 47 ICAO WG/TFs
- Responses affirmed that there is a robust and comprehensive regional structure in place
- The regional structure works
- Collectively, the existing WG/TFs are addressing all of the region's priorities



## Task 4: contd..

- Responses confirmed that the region does not lack platforms for information-sharing and regional cooperation. Existing efforts, (e.g. tailored assistance to States, have had a significant & positive impact
- increase the ICAO Secretariat's manpower
- Enhance existing regional platforms (such as APAC DGCA Conf.)
- Key challenges to the effectiveness of WG/TFs - lack of suitable and sufficient expertise, low State response/participation rates etc.
- Expert Group recognised the opportunity to enhance and strengthen the existing framework in a systematic way



## Task 5: Examining the role, operations, benefits and challenges of other Civil Aviation Commissions

- An overarching coordination role is a feature of other regional Civil Aviation Commissions
- Unable to obtain info. on financial contributions and operating costs of the CACs
- Some States in APAC already face financial challenges
- Difficulties faced by the CACs in coordinating the differing positions of MSs on key issues though supported by political platforms
- No such structures exist in APAC Region



## Task 6: Assessing the findings and determining the next steps

- The paper reported that there was no agreement on the findings or the next steps.



## Opportunities for Enhancements in the APAC Region

- Paper reported that, there are a number of opportunities to enhance State and Regional safety and air navigation outcomes in the Asia Pacific
- Provision of any further capacity development asst. must be identified strategically, delivered most effectively and efficiently
- Need to strengthen the ICAO Regional Office
- Provision of tactical regional support to DGCA's in the form of strategic advice



## Conclusions

1. Much progress has been made in the Tasks 1-5 undertaken in Phase 1 of the work of APCAC TF Expert Group

Continuing need to find improved means of coordination and support for many States in APAC

There was agreement on the region's top two key priorities

2. As of date of reporting, the TF had noted that majority of members were of the view that there was insufficient basis to establish an APCAC.

TF noted that there were various regional cooperation and collaboration mechanisms to address the challenges

Majority of TF members felt there was scope to enhance and strengthen these mechanisms



## Conclusions

2. (contd..) TF noted the shortage of resources to continue the feasibility study while noting that the need to continue working on building and enhancing existing regional capacity and capability building mechanisms
3. Bearing the regional priorities in mind, the report said that the Taskforce agreed on the need to focus on a coordinated regional approach towards capability and capacity building, and technical assistance.



## Action Item 54/25 - 54 DGCA Conference

Noting that APCAC Taskforce has determined that there was insufficient basis to establish an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (APCAC), the Conference:

- a) Agreed to conclude the APCAC feasibility study and establish a new Taskforce to focus exclusively on strengthening and evolving existing regional mechanism for regional cooperation, towards capability and capacity building and technical assistance; and
- b) Encourage States/Administrations to participate in the new Taskforce



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