

**Task Force to Strengthen and Evolve Existing Regional Mechanism for
Regional Cooperation, towards Capability and Capacity Building and Technical Assistance (RCMTF)**

**Summary of Discussion of 5th Meeting - Teleconference
12th February 2019**

1. The 5th RCMTF meeting was held on 12th February 2019 through teleconferencing.

2. Meeting Participants:

States/Administrations: Australia, China, Hong Kong China, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore and United States of America. (Absent with apologies: Thailand)

ICAO: Regional Director, APAC RO, ROTA

3. Mr. Tay Tiang Guan, the Chairman of the RCMTF thanked the TF members for joining the teleconference. The teleconference was to provide an update on the various TF Action Items, which would be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting in March 2019.

4. Confirmation of Record of Discussion / Adoption of Provisional Agenda:

The Record of Discussion of the RCMTF 4th Meeting held on 23 October 2018 in Fiji was confirmed. The Provisional Agenda was adopted. (Attached at Appendix 1.)

5. Discussion:

Update of Action Items List:

a. 1/1 Outcome of survey – APAC RO

- APAC RO distributed a State Letter on the ‘Survey on common and evolving needs’ on 30 November 2018 followed by two subsequent reminders dated 8 January 2019 and 25 January 2019. The last date for reply was 31 January 2019. The survey matrix has been prepared (Appendix 2) and circulated (12 Feb. 2019) based on 16 detailed responses from Australia, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong China, Macao China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Tonga. [After-note: Nauru and Singapore have sent in their response.]
- In order to collect substantial data e.g. at least 50% response rate and to ensure adequate geographical representation of responses, the meeting decided to extend the deadline of the survey to 5 March 2019.
- Data received would be analyzed and discussed at the next meeting in March 2019.

b. 1/3 Discussion paper on governance – Australia

- APAC RO thanked and congratulated Australia for a concise and lucid paper on Governance issues relating to regional bodies. It was noted that information from the APCAC Task Force report presented to the 54th DGCA Conference, which the RCMTF took in to consideration in its previous deliberations, had been also used in developing this paper. APAC RO further noted that the ‘Symptoms’ listed in the paper were relevant for the RCMTF to address and therefore, agreed with the Proposals for the Task Force presented in the ‘Governance’ paper.
- APAC RO also proposed that,
 - chairmen of various APAC contributory bodies be kept informed of the work being done by the RCMTF and consulted on the development of a template Terms of Reference;
 - the RCMTF during its review of the various TORs also take into consideration some of the existing TORs of Regional Groups in other regions in order to adopt the best practices; and

- this work be taken up by a small group from RCMTF led by Australia and supported by the APAC Regional Office.
 - Australia agreed to progress on the paper and would inform the RCMTF of the time frame to complete its work.
 - New Zealand and Singapore volunteered to assist Australia. Other States/Administrations were invited to contact Australia if they are interested to join the small group
 - Further outcome would be presented at the next meeting in March 2019. (Governance Paper attached as Appendix 3)
- c. 1/4 List of existing and potential funding – APAC RO
- The RCMTF noted APAC RO's update on the summary of the existing and potential funding mechanisms. (Attached as Appendix 4)
- d. 1/5 List of sustainable funding – Singapore and US
- Singapore and the US prepared a paper on current sustainable development funding sources, which was circulated to TF members. (Paper attached as Appendix 5)
 - The RCMTF noted the various UN and World Bank financing sources, which are aimed at sustaining global environment efforts/climate change. Particularly, UN, WB, ADB financing would usually be provided only with Government intervention and channeled to States Ministries (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Foreign Resources etc.). Justifications for such funding would be onerous as aviation is seldom prioritized by State Governments.
 - APAC RD also shared the challenges faced by ICAO in working with and securing funding from these sources. He cited the current Pacific Island Developing State's Needs Study as an example.
 - Hong Kong China emphasized the importance of identifying the States' intended purposes for funding, instead of focusing on just funding sources. Chairman agreed and noted that the analysis of the survey returns (item 1/1) could provide information to bridge this gap.
 - It was suggested that ICAO APAC RO could consolidate items 1/4 and 1/5 and table the funding list at appropriate forums.
- e. 1/6 Approach for industry participation – US
- The US updated on the development of approach for greater industry participation in funding including identifying existing and potential funding opportunities. (Attached as Appendix 6)
 - It was suggested that a round table discussion involving relevant industry players and funding organizations could be organized at the sidelines of fora such as APRAST, DGCA Conference. Generally, there was a willingness of the industry partners to participate in funding.
 - The topic of such round table discussions should be specific e.g. focusing on implementation of aviation safety and air navigation initiatives.
 - This would be similar to the industry roundtable discussions that ICAO HQ had conducted in Montreal, to get industry partners and States to work together, e.g. ASIAP (Aviation Safety Implementation Assistance Partnership). Similar arrangement could be promoted to get regional support.
 - ICAO APAC Office updated that the industry had been invited since last year to sponsor events hence allowing opportunity for the industry to interact with regional groups. APAC RD also cited the examples of Boeing and Airbus supporting COSCAPs through funding.
 - The US was invited to consolidate the ideas and prepare a paper for discussion at the next meeting in March 2019.
- f. 1/7 Improvements for alignment/coordination within APANPIRG – Hong Kong China

- Hong Kong, China would follow up to prepare a paper on suggested improvements with respect to alignment/coordination amongst WGs/TFs of APANPIRG to the APAC RO for consideration, within the specified timelines.
- g. 1/8 Communication strategies – New Zealand, Australia and Singapore
- A paper was circulated before the teleconference (Attached at Appendix 7). The paper identified what needed to be changed to enhance communication platforms and mechanisms at various levels across the APAC region and proposed recommendations to achieve it.
 - Summary of the paper was presented to the teleconference. The paper was well received. APAC RD noted that the key stakeholders i.e. States/Administrations should be consulted prior to any implementation. An appropriate platform for consultation could be the DGCA Conference.
 - Chairman requested for Hong Kong, China to incorporate their input for 1/7 into New Zealand's paper.
 - Citing difficulties tracking down the appropriate contact persons handling ICAO matters within the CAAs, Australia suggested that States/Administrations appoint a key ICAO point-of-contact to facilitate communication. APAC RD highlighted that there was already an existing system in place for the dissemination of ICAO State Letters, though it was made more difficult for States with limited resources.
 - The paper would be further discussed at the next meeting in March 2019.
- h. 1/9 Best practices in ICAO State Letter management – Hong Kong China and Republic of Korea
- Hong Kong, China and ROK updated that they had existing systems in place and would share their best practices at the next meeting.
 - ROK also offered to share the software that it had developed to handle State Letter management.
 - The meeting suggested that ICAO APAC RO consider providing the list of State Letter focal points of States on the ICAO APAC RO website.
6. The next meeting of the RCMTF will be a face-to-face 1 ½ day meeting on 14th and 15th (1/2 day) at the ICAO APAC Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand.

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