

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 8th Meeting
Teleconference, 3 April 2020**

1. The 8th RCMTF meeting was held on 3 April 2020 via teleconference.
2. Meeting Participants: States/Administrations: 10/11 members – Australia, China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand (Vice-Chair), Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore (Chair), Thailand, USA
(Absent with apologies, Japan. Australia was connected but unable to speak.)

ICAO: APAC Regional Director, APAC Deputy Regional Director and ROTA.

Adoption of Provisional Agenda:

3. The Provisional Agenda was adopted.

Confirmation of Record of Discussion:

4. The Record of Discussion of the RCMTF 7th Meeting on 25 June 2019 was adopted.

Discussion:

5. Matters Arising

- i. RD and Chair provided an overview on the four areas of work that the RCMTF had completed – identifying the common needs and assistance mechanisms in the region, and enhancing governance and communication for the regional working groups and tasks force (WG/TFs).
- ii. RD and Chair noted that the remaining work would focus on the development of the proposed regional implementation roadmap, as set out in the Terms of Reference (TOR).
- iii. Chair reminded that the RCMTF was expected to conclude its work by the end of the year.

6. Implementation Roadmap

- i. Singapore presented the draft implementation roadmap, and noted that the roadmap had incorporated the four areas of work aforementioned by RD and Chairman, as well as

the recommendations endorsed at the 56th DGCA Conference. Singapore sought further comments on the draft.

- ii. RD noted that the APAC Regional Office had many other responsibilities and suggested that the work could be shared by various members instead of assigning APAC Regional Office as the lead for the most of the items. Malaysia, New Zealand and the US agreed.
- iii. Malaysia, New Zealand and the US complimented the format of the roadmap, noting that it was easy to read and understand in terms of the groupings and tasks and that the format did not require further tweaking.
- iv. RD also suggested incorporating innovation as another initiative, given ICAO's renewed focus in this area.
- v. Noting the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges, Chair emphasised the importance of connectivity, and suggested conducting a survey to better understand regional connectivity needs another initiative. RD and New Zealand agreed, noting that COVID-19 had affected engagements with the Pacific Island States, as demonstrated in the APAC DGCA's COVID-19 telecon on 31 March 2020 which the Pacific Island States did not participate. The region, as a whole, had an important role to consider their difficulties and help remote regions and developing states in need.
- vi. China expressed concerns about whether the proposed assistance mechanism platform would be a duplication of ICAO HQ's existing systems.
- vii. Chair shared that the idea was to pool the information and tailor it to the APAC region. He noted the need to be mindful not to duplicate any existing systems.
- viii. RD agreed with China, and replied that APAC Regional Office would come up with a framework and consider how they could incorporate and align it with ICAO HQ.
- ix. RD, Malaysia and the US would provide detailed comments on the roadmap.

7. Any Other Matters:

a) COVID-19:

- i. RD informed that a regional Task Force will be set up to look at COVID-19-related matters, for the region's future needs as well as current operational difficulties arising from it.
 - ii. APAC Regional Office will circulate the draft Terms of Reference and seek states' nominations on their representatives. RD expected RCMTF members to join the new TF.
8. The meeting invited members to provide further comments and suggestions via email over the month, and volunteer to lead some items in the roadmap. Following the comments, the document will be re-circulated in May or June. A teleconference will also be held to consolidate the comments and next steps.

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