



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

First Meeting of the APAC ANSP Committee (AAC/1)

Bangkok, Thailand, 17 – 18 April 2023

Agenda Item 3: Work Program

Common Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

(Presented by China)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the main challenges that ANSPs in the Asia Pacific Region are facing, at this critical period of civil aviation recovery and development, with the aim of building a common situational awareness and consensus within the APAC ANSP Committee, so as to promote the next step in a more efficient and consistent manner. At the same time, this paper proposes recommendations on key areas for the APAC ANSP Committee to discuss and carry out in its future endeavor.

1. INTRODUCTION

The APAC ANSP Committee (AAC) was established at a critical period in the recovery and development of civil aviation in Asia Pacific. After three years of quiet airspace, the Asia Pacific region has witnessed a steady recovery in recent months. The rebound of flight operations revealed that the potential for economic development in the region remains high, thus it is timely for the region to accelerate the implementation of the Asia Pacific Seamless ANS Plan and ANS modernization strategies, which will set the foundations for future development.

Faced with such situation, ANSPs will continue to play key roles. On the one hand, after a long period of low flight operation, we need to ensure that personnel competence meets the operation requirements and safety standard is not degraded, on the other hand, ANSPs are facing different degrees of financial challenge, we need to further optimize the financial structure and improve cost efficiency. Over the years, CANSO has made great contributions in these aspects, the establishment of the AAC will elevate the cooperation in this region to a new level.

Therefore, it's important to have a consistent understanding and common awareness of the current situation and challenges we face, and we need to have a unified focus on the direction we should move in the next phase.

2. DISCUSSION

Currently, the challenges ANSP in the Asia Pacific region is facing include but are not limited to:

- a. Insufficient operational collaboration and information sharing;
- b. New safety risks brought by new airspace users and digitalization;

- c. Slow application in new aviation technology;
- d. Imbalanced infrastructure investment and training resources.

Accelerating recovery and development is the top priority for the region, and strengthening cooperation and communication remains our best option. Given the high degree of fragmentation in the Asia Pacific region, the AAC will play a critical role in promoting and facilitating cooperation among ANSPs to provide seamless air navigation services.

In terms of operational collaboration and information sharing, there is still no standardized operational information sharing platform or unified ATFM system in the Asia Pacific region. CANSO has made remarkable efforts in this area over the years, and through the AAC, we can gather more consensus and continue to move towards a standardized, integrated and unified operational collaboration mode.

Regarding safety management, we have common standards, similar challenges and localized solutions, and there are also many excellent localization practices in the region, the AAC will be another good platform to share and exchange. At the same time, different manufactures provide different solutions, thus the cooperation and sharing in safety-related data and event analysis will help to improve the overall safety level in the Asia-Pacific region.

The application of new technologies is an important component of ANS capabilities modernisation. During COVID, some States have jointly carried out trial operations of new technologies and achieved good results. The AAC could create collaborative platforms, initiate cross-border trials, and provide suggestions on digitalization and new service models, such as managed services and cloud-based technologies, etc.

In terms of infrastructure investment, improving cost efficiency and reducing uncertainty between inputs and outputs is a common challenge. One solution is moving from infrastructure-based to service-based model, and embracing more digital solutions, another possible option is infrastructure support and aids among countries. Collaborations on training can also be strengthened. Some States in the region have established international profession training system under the guidance of ICAO documents, but currently most training collaborations are based on bilateral cooperation. The AAC could gather and coordinate these training resources, initiate regular multi-lateral professional training for the whole region. In addition, the exchange of personnel and secondment between ANSPs can also be strengthened.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
 - a) note the information contained in this paper; and
 - b) discuss the recommended follow up actions as appropriate.

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