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*Asia and Pacific Office*

ICAO

**Nineteenth Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Aviation  
Safety Team (APRAST/19)**

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**Agenda Item 4: Presentations – State / Industry / ICAO**

**FLIGHT SAFETY FOUNDATION REGIONAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT – PHASE TWO**

*(Presented by the Flight Safety Foundation)*

**SUMMARY**

In 2021/2022, the Flight Safety Foundation performed a Global Safety Assessment which included a regional assessment of safety risks in the APAC region. The outcomes of the assessment revealed the need for a further, more detailed review that could help the region better understand regional safety needs and trigger targeted assistance through existing and new regional safety platforms. This working paper presents FSF's intent to conduct a more in-depth comprehensive assessment and analysis of aviation safety issues to address all sectors of aviation in Asia Pacific in 2023 and present its progress and results during future ICAO regional meetings.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In 2021/2022, the Flight Safety Foundation performed a Global Safety Assessment which included a regional assessment of safety risks in the APAC region, produced in collaboration with the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines. The Assessment examined the past safety records, the safety action plans under development, and the impact from the recent COVID-19 pandemic across several global regions including, the APAC region. This has helped to identify how well existing established safety management systems and state safety programs have worked to prepare for the safety challenges during significant operational changes and hazards affecting the traveling public, employees and regulatory authorities. The progress and final outcomes of that project were presented at the RASG-APAC/11, APRAST/17, as well as the 41<sup>st</sup> ICAO Assembly. The outcomes and recommendations stemming from the project were unanimously supported at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

1.2 The outcomes of the assessment revealed the need for a further, more detailed review that could help the region better understand regional safety needs and trigger targeted assistance through existing and new regional safety platforms. The Flight Safety Foundation will conduct a more in-depth comprehensive assessment and analysis of aviation safety issues to address all sectors of aviation in Asia Pacific, specifically Personnel Licensing and Training (PEL), Airworthiness of Aircraft (AIR), Aircraft Operations (OPS), Aircraft Accident and Serious Incidents Investigations (AIG), Aerodromes and Ground Aides (AGA), as well as Air Navigation Services (ANS). The goal of this study is to conduct an assessment of regional aviation safety needs, highlighting risk areas and priorities that represent specific opportunities for targeted safety solutions. The analysis, findings, recommendations, and conclusions will inform and enable the aviation stakeholders and the Foundation to prioritize their regional engagement, including, but not limited to, outreach, technical assistance, and training activities.

## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Asia Pacific region is expected to face a significant growth in the aviation sector over the next two decades, in response to growing intra-regional demand for travel. There is a need for the sector to achieve a continuous improvement in safety, which would help to sustain the growing demand. The capabilities of the region and specific safety risks must be understood along with the likely solutions for meeting the safety challenges in the future.

2.2 Continuous improvement in safety comes with its challenges for the APAC region. The APAC region is diverse, with 39 contracting States, two Special Administrative Regions of China, 13 other Territories, 42 ANS Providers, and an operating environment of 49 Flight Information Regions (FIRs or 40% of the world's FIRs). While the region has done well in monitoring its progress against the Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) goals and targets, more needs to be done to determine the regional safety needs, challenges and opportunities in all sectors. A systems approach is needed in assessing the entire aviation ecosystem and in particular for the areas of Air Navigation Services as well as aerodromes with regard to elements impacting aviation safety and aircraft accident and serious incident investigations.

2.3 ICAO has developed some monitoring tools - available on the Integrated Safety Trend Analysis and Reporting System (iSTARS) - that provides a quick and convenient interface for the collection of safety and efficiency datasets as well as web applications to make safety, efficiency and risk analyses addressing all sectors related to aviation safety. However, little is available that would reflect a State's level of implementation of an air navigation system and the development of adequate air navigation and aerodrome infrastructure that may impact safety.

2.4 **Launch of a Comprehensive Regional Safety Assessment** - The Flight Safety Foundation will be launching a further comprehensive study in the APAC region that will be performed throughout 2023, highlighting Asia Pacific region-specific risk areas and priorities that represent specific opportunities for targeted safety solutions. This can help the region and States to prioritize resources to achieve higher regional safety levels.

2.5 The information gathered will also take into consideration the comprehensive [APAC Regional Aviation Safety Assessment](#) report that was published by FSF on September 2022. The report factored in the Pandemic, as well as the work performed by the global aviation community through the Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) and its response plans, the World Health Organization and National Health requirements.

2.6 The assessment will be performed utilizing all available reference materials, including the latest/updated ICAO global and APAC regional safety plans (2023-2025). The information gathered will take into consideration the targets established in the Beijing Declaration. Its targets serve as a benchmark for States to assess their progress in improving areas at a regional level. The assessment will also consider the Asia-Pacific regional aviation safety priorities and targets and RASG-APAC Annual Safety Reports, including the Regional and sub-regional national aviation safety plans, as well as insights from the ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States Aviation Needs Analysis (PSIDS Study) that was performed by ICAO in 2019.

2.7 FSF will leverage its on-going forums and events where stakeholders from the APAC region convene to elicit relevant information. Where information is not readily available, FSF will seek information from existing surveys that have been performed or launch a survey to appropriate authorities and organizations to elicit the needed information. The information gathered would be validated by engaging with States and industry through meetings, workshops and /or focus group activities, as required.

2.8 Additionally, safety-related regional air navigation information will also be gathered, as well as the progress made on resolving the safety-related deficiencies highlighted through the ASIA/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG).

2.9 The outcomes of the assessment will make recommendations identifying areas of opportunity for specific safety solutions according to functional areas, as well as APAC regional and sub-regional needs, challenges and opportunities that will align with the following GASP Goals:

- GASP Goal 2 – All States to strengthen their oversight Capabilities for PEL/OPS/AIR/AIG/ANS/AGA
- GASP Goal 3 – All States to implement effective State Safety Programmes
- GASP Goal 5 – All States to expand the use of industry programs and safety information sharing networks by service providers
- GASP Goal 6 – All States to ensure the appropriate infrastructure is available to support safe operations

The foundation is planning to complete the assessment and its report by December 2023 and will report its progress and outcomes to the ICAO APRAST as well as RASG-APAC meetings.

### **3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information prescribed in this paper;
- b) encourage States and industry to support the Flight Safety Foundation in its ongoing efforts in performing a comprehensive regional safety assessment in 2023; and
- c) request FSF to present its ongoing progress and final results and recommendations at future APRAST and RASG-APAC meetings during 2023/2024.

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