



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

**Fifth Meeting of the Bay of Bengal Traffic Flow Review
Group (BOBTFRG/5)**

Bangkok Thailand, 6 – 8 December 2023

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

ATMSG/11 MEETING OUTCOMES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents outcomes from the Eleventh Meeting of the Air Traffic Management Sub-Group (ATM/SG/11) for the review and action by BOBTFRG.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Air Traffic Management Sub-Group (ATMSG) is a part of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG). The objectives of the ATMSG meetings are to discuss and plan for the modernization of Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems, seamless ATM, Communications, Navigation, and Surveillance (CNS), and Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM), etc. The Eleventh Meeting of the Air Traffic Management Sub-Group (ATM/SG/11) of the APANPIRG was held from 02 – 06 October 2023, hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS). The meeting was attended by 122 registered participants from 24 States, two Special Administrative Regions of China and three International organizations.

1.2 ATM/SG/11 has continued to address regional matters in the ATM, ATFM, AIM, and SAR Plan fields to support Asia/Pacific States/ Administrations and APANPIRG. All available documentation from ATM/SG/11, including the draft report, is available at the following website: <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2023-ATM-SG-11-New.aspx>

1.3 This is a summary of the agenda items discussed during ATMSG/11, which will aid the member States in Bay of Bengal area in enhancing the safety and efficiency of their airspace and support their airspace operation planning and sustainability of air navigation services on some key developments in Asia-Pacific Region.

2. DISCUSSION

Updating the Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan

2.1 The proposal to update the Asia/Pacific Seamless ANS Plan has been underway, focusing on regional aviation system block upgrades and adhering to ICAO's No Country Left Behind principle. The revisions, particularly for the Performance Improvement Plan, aimed for adoption at APANPIRG/34. The process includes extensive consultations with various ICAO sub-groups and stakeholders.

Application of ATC Separation Standards

2.2 The ICAO conducted a survey to assess ATC separation standards in the Asia/Pacific region, examining minimum horizontal separation in various airspace categories. The results indicated varying degrees of efficiency in applying these standards. A revised annual survey form was proposed to capture more accurately the arrangements between adjacent FIRs.

Update on Response to Conclusion APANPIRG/33/5

2.3 ICAO updated on the follow-up to APANPIRG/33/5 Conclusion related to separation minima in oceanic airspace and their supporting procedures as per ICAO Document 7030 (SUPPS). Extensive coordination has been ongoing among ICAO's Asia/Pacific Regional Office, Air Navigation Bureau (ANB), and Europe/North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Office. A forthcoming State Letter will clarify which standards and procedures in Annex 11 and PANS-ATM require SUPPS support. Implementing procedures and separation minima over high seas generally does not require a SUPPS procedure, unless a regional air navigation agreement specifically mandates it. Detailed confirmation and guidelines will be provided in the finalized State Letter.

Air Traffic Flow Management Steering Group Outcomes

2.4 The outcomes of the 13th ATFM Steering Group meeting included reports on the status of ATFM implementation by APAC Administrations. The meeting highlighted the importance of standardized FPL addressing requirements, noting issues with current non-compliant practices.

Fleet Equipage in Oceanic Airspace

2.5 The meeting discussed the low rate of fleet equipage for reduced separation in the oceanic airspace of Indian FIRs. India called for states to encourage operators to equip ADS-C/CPDLC capabilities. Discussions also touched on the phased implementation of reduced separation standards and the need for harmonious cooperation among stakeholders.

Progression of Free Route Operations (FRTO) in Asia Pacific (APAC) and Singapore's Efforts in Progressing FRTO

2.6 Singapore's advancements in FRTO, including successful Direct Routing Operations trials, were presented. These trials have led to significant fuel savings and operational efficiency. Singapore is advocating for cross-border collaboration in FRTO to enhance regional airspace management and contribute to global carbon emission reduction goals.

Regional ATM Contingency Planning and Contingency Operations Update

2.7 ICAO emphasized the need for member states to report their implementation status of the Regional ATM Contingency Plan. Recent contingency events were outlined, and a workshop has been planned for 2024 to improve regional response and coordination during ATM contingencies.

Standardizing Pronunciation for 5LNCs

2.8 The Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) highlighted the importance of standardizing the pronunciation of Five Letter Name Codes (5LNCs) to prevent communication errors, especially during emergency situations at FIR boundaries. A global standardization approach was proposed.

Update on Progress of the Space Vehicle Launch and Re-entry Coordination Small Working Group

2.9 The progress of the Space Vehicle Launch and Re-entry Coordination Small Working Group (SVLRC SWG) was shared. The group has been developing guidance documents to improve regional coordination for space vehicle activities, with plans for validation through tabletop exercises and meetings.

Datalink Performance Monitoring in Mumbai Flight Information Region

2.10 India provided an update on the progress in monitoring Datalink performance within the Mumbai FIR, as part of efforts to address ATM and airspace safety deficiencies. Future monitoring and action plans were discussed.

Implementation of 3NM Surveillance based Separation in Terminal Airspace of Kolkata

2.11 Since April 2023, India has implemented a reduction in surveillance-based separation at Kolkata Airport, enhancing airspace capacity and runway utilization, and preparing for future traffic growth.

Modernization of ATM and Airspace Capacity Optimisation Initiatives within Colombo FIR

2.12 Sri Lanka's initiatives in modernizing ATM and enhancing airspace capacity in the Colombo FIR were highlighted. These include implementing both longitudinal and surveillance-based separations to improve efficiency in the region.

Management of Air Traffic Controllers in India

2.13 India's implementation of fatigue management regulations for Air Traffic Controllers was discussed. The regulations were designed to mitigate risks associated with controller fatigue, considering the complexity of air traffic and manpower requirements at various ATS stations.

AIDC Test between Mumbai and Muscat

2.14 Updates on the ongoing AIDC tests between Mumbai and Muscat FIRs were provided. These tests aim to implement Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Contract (ADS-C) and Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) capabilities to address identified hotspots at FIR boundaries.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 This BOBTFRG/5 meeting emphasizes the importance for BOB member States to acknowledge that the following aspects are crucial for the development of our BOB area and the Asia-Pacific region:

- a) Member States are encouraged to actively engage in and contribute to ongoing initiatives, particularly in areas like ATM contingency planning.
- b) They should consider the implications of the Seamless ANS Plan update and its impact on regional operations, ensuring alignment with these updates for improved operational efficiency.

c) They also have to collaborate in standardizing practices, such as the pronunciation of 5LNCs, to enhance safety and efficiency across the region.

d) It's crucial to stay updated and participate actively in discussions and workshops, especially those focusing on new technologies and ATM modernization initiatives, to keep abreast of evolving aviation trends and requirements.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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