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PROGRESS IN SIGMET COORDINATION WORK BETWEEN CHINA AND ADJACENT COUNTRIES

(Presented by China)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the progress in SIGMET coordination between China and adjacent countries.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SIGMET Coordination has become a recommended practice under Amendment 79 to Annex 3 (Recommendation 3.4.4) since November 2020.

1.2 China has been making efforts to improve the aeronautical meteorological services at the FIR boundaries with adjacent countries, e.g. using the SIGMET coordination web platform (<http://www.aamets.com>) to conduct SIGMET coordination with adjacent countries.

1.3 Since 2019, China have signed Letter of Agreement (LoA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on SIGMET coordination with Russia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, and Lao People's Democratic Republic, to prevent inconsistencies between SIGMET information and improve SIGMETs issued by the adjacent FIRs.

1.4 This paper presents the progress of SIGMET coordination between China and adjacent countries and some plans in the near future.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 In February 2019, China signed a LoA with Russia to establish procedures for interaction between China (MWO Shenyang, MWO Urumqi, Aviation Meteorological Center (AMC) of CAAC/ATMB) and the Russian Federation (MWO Khabarovsk, MWO Irkutsk, MWO Novosibirsk), to reach a consensus on SIGMET content in order to provide aviation community with consistent information along the borders of adjacent FIRs and to enhance SIGMET coordination effectiveness.

2.2 In 2022, China and the Republic of Korea initiated a Pilot Project on SIGMET Coordination between China (MWO Shanghai, AMC) and the Republic of Korea (Incheon MWO) to coordinate thunderstorm (TS) SIGMETs from 01 UTC to 08 UTC, starting on 1 September 2022.

2.3 In October 2022, China signed a LoA with the Republic of Kazakhstan to establish SIGMET coordination procedures between China (MWO Urumqi, AMC) and Kazakhstan (MWO Almaty), to reach a consensus on SIGMET information along the borders of adjacent FIRs.

2.4 In May 2023, China signed a MoU with Lao People's Democratic Republic with one item of content to conduct the SIGMET coordination between China (MWO Chengdu, AMC) and LAO PDR ((MWO Vientiane).

2.5 In May 2023, China and the Kyrgyz Republic began to consult the cooperation in SIGMET coordination. Now, two counties is signing the LoA to establish procedures for SIGMET coordination between China (MWO Urumqi, AMC) and the Kyrgyz Republic (MWO Manas, MWO Osh).

2.6 Many coordination attempts were made through the SIGMET coordination web platform by adjacent countries mentioned above. Other efforts were also made to improve the SIGMET coordination efficiency, for example, the Aviation Meteorological Office of the Republic of Korea and AMC, Shanghai MWO held an online meeting in February 22nd 2023 and an online meeting is planned on August 30th 2023 to discuss the problems and find solutions for better coordination.

2.7 In general, though there are still not as smooth as expected during the SIGMET coordination, it is helpful in improving the quality of SIGMET information and providing aviation users with unified SIGMET information. It has also improved the mutual understating of the meteorological factors that caused differences in SIGMET issuance between the countries.

2.8 In future, China will continue to cooperate with neighboring countries in the SIGMET coordination and SIGMET improvement. For example, to complete the LoA signing with the Kyrgyz Republic in SIGMET coordination and start formal coordination ASAP, to put the SIGMET coordination pilot project into formal operation with the Republic of Korea to include other meteorological factors and extend the coordination time from 00 UTC to 24 UTC in October 2023 as consulted. China will also held in-person meeting or online meeting regularly to improve the coordination efficiency.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 Note the information contained in this paper.
