



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
Asia and Pacific Office

**Thirteenth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group –
Asia and Pacific Regions (RASG-APAC/13)**

Hong Kong, China, 18-19 December 2023

Agenda Item 5: ICAO / Member State / Industry Presentations

**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES LIAISON
OFFICE**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Liaison Office was established in October 2023 on the deployment of the PSIDS Liaison Officer to Nadi, Fiji. The establishment of the new position within ICAO responds to outcomes from the ICAO Assembly and Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) include 13 ICAO member States:

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

1.2 The 39th Session of the Assembly of ICAO (A39, Montreal, Canada, August 2016) considered WP/218, jointly presented by seven of the PSIDS, namely Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu, together with Singapore, proposing ICAO collaborate with Pacific States to consider the merits of establishing a Regional Sub-Office (RSO) in the Pacific.

1.3 Consequently, the Assembly agreed that the Council of ICAO consider conducting a feasibility study for the establishment of such an RSO. The *Pacific Aviation Needs Analysis*, (PSIDS Study), conducted from March to September 2019, resulted in a recommendation, subsequently agreed by the ICAO Council, to establish the position of ICAO PSIDS Liaison Officer.

1.4 The PSIDS Liaison Officer was appointed on 01 August 2023, and deployed to Nadi, Fiji, on 27 October.

2. DISCUSSION

Establishment of the PSIDS Liaison Officer

2.1 PSIDS Study Recommendation ICAO/1 – *PSIDS Liaison Officer Mechanism* included the following (in summary):

- Establish position of PSIDS liaison officer;
- Located in Pacific;
- Enhance communication and coordination between ICAO and;
 - PSIDS;
 - Pacific Aviation Safety Office¹ (PASO);
 - Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat² (PIFS); and
 - UN organizations, Multi-National Development Banks (MDBs), and relevant international/regional stakeholders;
- Enhance and facilitate technical assistance; and
- Facilitate continuous monitoring over regional safety and security oversight support system.

2.2 Under a hosting agreement formalized in May 2023, the PSIDS Liaison Office is graciously hosted by Fiji, in Nadi. Support for the PSIDS Liaison Officer position is generously provided by Singapore.

Initial Post-Establishment Meetings – ICAO Secretary General and PSIDS

DGCA/58

2.3 The ICAO Secretary General, Asia/Pacific Regional Director, other officials and the PSIDS Liaison Officer took the opportunity presented at the 58th Conference of Directors-General of Civil Aviation for the Asia/Pacific Region (DGCA/58, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 15 to 19 October 2023) to meet with the attending delegations from PSIDS States:

Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu.

2.4 The meeting, hosted by the ICAO Secretary General and attended by representatives of several of the States supporting aviation development in the Pacific and PASO, gave the opportunity to provide a briefing on deployment arrangements and preliminary activities being undertaken since the appointment of the Liaison Officer. ICAO stressed to the meeting that the Council of ICAO was deeply invested in the success of this engagement initiative, and that the ICAO presence was intended to work in close collaboration with PSIDS, and with other States and organizations, to harmonize activities and efficiently mobilize resources.

2.5 The PSIDS representatives present highlighted the importance of the *Blue Pacific Continent* concept, the *Pacific Regional Aviation Strategy*, and the critical economic importance of air transport connectivity in the Pacific.

¹ [Pacific Aviation Safety Office \(paso.aero\)](https://www.paso.aero/)

² [Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat – Pacific Islands Forum](https://www.piforumsf.com/)

Air Navigation World and the Singapore Dialogue

2.6 Coinciding with the ICAO Air Navigation World Symposium held in Singapore from 16 to 20 October 2023, the ICAO Secretary General, APAC Regional Director and other officials attended the Singapore Dialogue, which was attended by PSIDS representatives from:

Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

2.7 The PSIDS representatives presented to the Dialogue a list of priority needs in the Pacific, including support for inspector training, State safety plans, accident and incident investigation, search and rescue, artificial intelligence, infrastructure, supply chain logistics and cyber security.

ICAO Activity and Support Needs

2.8 ICAO notes that the PSIDS Study was conducted in 2019, and since that time there has been significant global disruption which may have resulted in some changed circumstances and priorities in the region. Further direct ICAO engagement with the PSIDS may reveal support needs in other areas. While several projects are in their initial or planning stages, the ICAO PSIDS programme will be further developed and adapted according to the needs determined in direct coordination between ICAO and each of the PSIDS.

2.9 APAC States, and International Organizations, are encouraged to provide support for ICAO's PSIDS support activities, through the provision of funding and/or in-kind support, particularly provision of qualified, capable experts for PSIDS-focused projects, workshops and other training activities.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper; and
- b) Discuss any relevant matters, as appropriate.

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