International Civil Aviation Organization

Fifth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Traffic Management Automation System Task Force (APAC ATMAS TF/5)

Chengdu, China, 5 – 7 June 2024

Agenda Item 2:   Review of Outcomes of Relevant Meetings

OUTCOMES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF AERONAUTICAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION GROUP OF APANPIRG (ACSICG/11)

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcomes of Eleventh Meeting of the Aeronautical Communication Services (ACS) Implementation Coordination Group (ACSICG/11) for information and action.

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1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Eleventh Meeting of the Aeronautical Communication Services (ACS) Implementation Coordination Group (ACSICG/11) was held at ICAO APAC Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 to 22 March 2024. The Meeting was attended by Eighty-two (82) participants from Twenty (20) States/Administrations, Two (2) International Organizations and One (1) industry partner. The meeting report, working papers, information papers and other resources can be accessed at https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2024-ACSICG11.aspx

1.2   This paper presents relevant information and updates from the meeting.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1.   The summary of discussions in the meeting is given in the following paragraphs.

58th APAC DGCA Conference Action Items on CRV – Sec (WP/07)

2.2.   The paper presented the Air Navigation (ANS) related Action Items of the 58th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation Asia and Pacific Regions (DGCA/58) for review and action by the Meeting. The DGCA/58, hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 15 to 19 October 2023. The Meeting noted that the Conference formulated 51 Action Items and one action item, 58/23, related to CRV. By action item 58/23, the Conference urged States/Administrations to implement CRV by December 2023 and encouraged Pacific States to work with their partner States to facilitate CRV connectivity. The Meeting was suggested to review and take proper action on the Action Items related to CRV/Air Navigation derived from the DGCA/58 and identify Air Navigation issues, if any, that need to be brought to the attention of the DGCA/59 in Philippines from 14-18 October 2024.

Review the report of the Twelfth Meeting of Common aeRonautical VPN Operations Group (CRV OG/12) - Sec (WP/03)

2.3.   The paper summarized the relevant outcomes of the Twelfth Meeting of the Common aeRonautical Virtual Private Network Operations Group of APANPIRG (CRV OG/12) held *from 23 to 26 January 2024* in Denarau Island, Fiji. CRV OG/12 meeting report, working papers, information papers, and other resources can be accessed by following link:

       https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2024-CRV-Seminar-and-CRV-OG-12.aspx

Update the APAC CRV Implementation Table

2.4.   The latest updates presented on the planning and implementation status of CRV were as follows:

-       **Under Operation**
Australia, Bhutan, China, Hong Kong China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, PNG, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the USA and Vietnam.

-       **Under Provisioning**
Cambodia, French Polynesia, Macao China, New Caledonia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka,

-       **Hot Prospects in 2024**
Bangladesh, Brunei, Lao PDR, and Maldives

-       **Not joined yet**
Afghanistan, DPRK, Kiribati, Marshal Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Russia, ICAO MID States

MPLS/IP Based Inter-Regional Connection

2.5.   The CRV OG/12 Meeting noted the current discussion status for the potential interconnection of CRV and REDDIG II and CRV and New PENS. The CRV OG/12 Meeting recalled the efforts made for CRV and REDDIG II Interconnection and noted that the ICAO APAC Office has requested PCCW Global contact Cirion Technologies to discuss the interconnection proposal. However, despite several coordination in 2023, no concert technical proposal is ready to work further for CRV and REDDIG II interconnection.

Space-Based Very High Frequency (VHF) Communication Services – Singapore (WP/16)

2.6.   The paper summarized the progress of the technical and regulatory studies of space-based VHF communications (voice and data) in the frequency band 117.975-137 MHz in International Telecommunication Union ("ITU"), ICAO Future VHF Subgroup ("FVSG"), and ICAO Frequency Spectrum Management Panel ("FSMP"). The paper shared that there are two companies working in parallel to the launch prototype satellites with VHF payload for Proof-of-Concept (PoC) Demonstration between 2023 and 2025. To conduct the PoC demonstration, there will be a need for ICAO regional office to assign appropriate VHF frequencies so that verification tests could take place. The meeting was invited to support the ICAO activities on space-based VHF at the FVSG and FSMP, and support the frequency assignments for proof-of-concept demonstration when the need arises.

2.7.   Regarding the current plan for the proof-of-concept demonstration, the meeting was informed that any ANSP interested in participating in the demonstration should engage directly with the two service providers, and notify and coordinate with ICAO APAC for the frequency can be used.

ICAO Secretariat will maintain communication with the service providers to ensure the region stays updated on developments.

ATMB Carries out Datalink-based All-Phase Datalink ATC Service Validation – China (IP/15)

2.8.   The paper presented the progress of flight validation of All-Phase Datalink ATC Service in China. Since 2019, the ATMB has carried out flight validation of All-Phase Datalink ATC Service based on the ACARS ATS protocol. The future plan to carry out all-phase digital and voice hybrid flight validation in Xinjiang based on the ACARS ATS protocol and FANS 1/A protocol in 2024 was introduced.

AMHS and AIDC Implementation Status in Republic of Korea (IP/11)

2.9.   The paper presented information about the AMHS and AIDC Implementation Status in the Republic of Korea (ROK). ROK has also been implementing the transition from AFTN to AMHS for domestic clients since 1Q 2024. Currently, about 15% of domestic clients have been converted to AMHS, and all clients are expected to be converted by 2028. Furthermore, the meeting noted that ROK is operating Incheon and Daegu ACCs within Incheon FIR using an AIDC application with Fukuoka ACC and Dalian ACC in China in Japan respectively. The means of transmitting AIDC messages between Korea and Japan were migrated successfully from IPLC(X.25) to CRV in Feb 2024, adding XOT (X.25 over TCP/IP) routers before the CRV CE router in both Incheon and Fukuoka ACCs. ROK further shared its plan to operate AIDC Between Incheon ACC in Korea and Shanghai ACC in China.

Current Status of AMHS Implementation in Japan (IP/12)

2.10.   The paper presented the status of the transition from AFTN to AMHS between Fukuoka and Moscow. In February 2024, Russia informed Japan that AFTN circuit would be disbanded after July 31, 2024, because Moscow's equipment supporting the AFTN/X.25 protocol has run out of life this year and the International Private Leased Circuit between Fukuoka and Moscow will be closed. Therefore, Japan and Russia are coordinating the interim action until AMHS connection over CRV.

2.11.   An alternate plan has been proposed and considered to be conducted is that AMHS connection over the dedicated IP-VPN provided by a Japanese telecommunication provider and another Russian telecommunication provider to contribute stable and efficient Aeronautical fixed service. However, if it is not practical, Japan will start another alternate plan to progress inter-regional information exchange with Asia Pacific region and Europe region by joining New Pan-European Network Service (NEW PENS) and making AMHS connections with other communication centers in Europe region. Furthermore, if AFTN circuit is disbanded after August 1, 2024, the alternate routing of "U" is needed until the interim connection above mentioned is in operation.

2.12.   The meeting noted that Japan is coordinating with Russia to maintain AFTN circuit between Fukuoka and Moscow to the end of 2024, and Japan will keep ICAO Regional Office and concerned COM centres (Beijing and Hong Kong) informed on the update of this issue to ensure the availability of alternate route to support operations.

Repository of AIDC Implementation Status in APAC – Sec (WP/10)

2.13.   The paper presented the latest repository of AIDC Implementation Status in APAC region and invites States/Administrations to review and continue to update the AIDC implementation status and Focal Point for AIDC Implementation if necessary. The meeting updated the table of AIDC Implementation Status in APAC region, and the list of focal point for AIDC Implementation, which are to be addressed by this meeting in **WP/05.**

Provisional Concept Note of Seminar on Aeronautical Communication Services in APAC Region – Sec (WP/14)

2.14.   The paper presented the background and a provisional concept note of the Seminar on Aeronautical Communication Services for APAC Region in 2025 for review and action by the meeting. To promote a better understanding of the challenges and future development tendency in Aeronautical Communication provisions, the Meeting was invited to discuss how to organize a Seminar to share individual implementation experiences, latest updates at global and regional level, and deliberate on concerned topics/issues among the Asia/Pacific Member States against the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) of ACSICG.

2.15.   The meeting reviewed and appreciated this proposal, and agreed to support ICAO APAC Office to organize a series of webinar to cover the items contained in the Concept Note other than a two-day Seminar. ICAO Secretariat will consult with concerned parties to prepare the webinars with priority for User Requirements for Air Traffic Services by IATA, ICAO Trust Framework, ICNSS project, space-based VHF.

Review Work Programme for ACSICG and AMHS Focal Point – Sec (WP/09)

2.16.   With the successful group review of the work programme (Action Item List) from ACSICG/10, the meeting further discussed implementation issue with individual State and noted the issue with the AMHS connection between Brisbane and Johannesburg, the AFTN connection between Fukuoka and Moscow, and invited States to advise ICAO Secretariat in case of new issues identified.

2.17.   Considering the lack of information for AMHS to SWIM transition at regional level, the meeting agreed to form a correspondence group (CG) to study the transition strategy for the region by experts from States/Administrations, industry partners and concerned international organizations, on voluntary basis.

2.18.   This AMHS to SWIM transition CG (ATSCG) will study relevant issues including the AMHS/SWIM gateway, guidelines, profiles, with focus on the development of use cases for different scenarios. The ATSCG will monitor the progress of SWAMWAY Study Group of ICAO EUR NAT/AST TF.

2.19.   Fiji, Hong Kong China, Japan, Singapore (Lead), Thailand, USA agreed to join ATSCG, and Frequentis agreed to provide expert to act as consultant. ICAO Secretariat will consult IATA and CANSO for additional support.

Date and Venue for the Next Meeting

2.20.   The meeting discussed to meet Face-to-Face (F2F) with a tentative dates 24-28 March 2025 to further progress the tasks listed in the Terms of Reference, including one day joint meeting with MET/IE WG.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

   a)   note the information contained in this paper; and

   b)   discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.

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