International Civil Aviation Organization

WORKING PAPER

Asia and Pacific (APAC)
Twenty-second Meeting of the Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG/22)

Bangkok, Thailand, 18 to 21 March 2024

Agenda Item 6: Guidance material related to meteorological information exchange

ROBEX HANDBOOK UPDATE – ROC'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IWXXM EXCHANGE

(Presented by Hong Kong China and Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the proposed updates to the ROBEX Handbook to ensure clarity of the guidance concerning the ROCs' responsibilities for the distribution of IWXXM formatted OPMET data.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   MET SG/24 adopted the following **Conclusion MET SG/24-11** regarding ROC's responsibilities for the distribution of all types of IWXXM formatted OPMET data to States within the Asia Pacific Region.

Conclusion MET SG/24-11: *IWXXM Exchange Approach*	
What: That, IWXXM exchange in APAC Region shall be aligned with *Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange using IWXXM* (fourth edition, November 2020) and, specifically, that Regional OPMET Centres (ROCs) are responsible for the distribution of all types of IWXXM formatted OPMET data to States within the Asia Pacific Region.	
Why: While the ICAO provisions for the dissemination of meteorological information in both TAC and IWXXM form coexist, due to technical differences between the old and new formats, the Regional OPMET exchange scheme for IWXXM formatted data shall necessarily differ from the traditional OPMET exchange scheme for TAC messages.	
Expected impact: ☐ Political / Global ☐ Inter-regional ☐ Economic ☐ Environmental ☒ Ops/Technical	
Follow-up: ☒Required from States	
When: As soon as practicable	**Status:** Adopted by Subgroup
Who: ☒Sub groups ☒APAC States ☒ICAO APAC RO ☐ICAO HQ ☐Other: MET/IE WG	

1.2   In relation to the MET SG/24's adoption of the above **Conclusion MET SG/24-11**: *IWXXM Exchange Approach*, the MET/IE WG/19 raised the following action:

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
MET/IE WG/19 **01**	Propose updates to the ROBEX Handbook: to ensure clarity of the guidance concerning the ROCs' responsibilities for the distribution of IWXXM formatted OPMET data	WG

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   Currently in the APAC Region, TAC formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA are distributed by originating MWO or TCAC/VAAC directly to other MWOs or TCACs/VAACs or other destinations without any re-distribution by ROCs in between (e.g. MWO 1 → MWO 2).

2.2   On the other hand, for IWXXM formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA:
- ROC is responsible for collecting the IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA from NOCs under its area of responsibility (AoR), and disseminating them to all other ROCs in the APAC Region (e.g. NOC 1 → ROC 1 → ROC 2 → NOC 2).
- ROC is also responsible for collecting IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA from other ROCs in the APAC Region and disseminating to NOCs under its AoR (e.g. NOC 1 ← ROC 1 ← ROC 2 ← NOC 2) for further distribution to users.
- Originating centres need to send IWXXM formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA to their corresponding ROC.

2.3   Considering the different exchange schemes for TAC-formatted and IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA in the APAC Region, it is proposed to update ROBEX Handbook to clarify that ROC needs to distribute the IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA to other ROCs and to NOCs under its AoR. The proposed updates to Section 8 of ROBEX Handbook, which includes ROC's responsibilities mentioned para. 2.2, are provided in **APPENDIX** of this paper for consideration by the meeting.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to

a)   note the information in this paper; and

b)   review the proposed updates to APAC ROBEX Handbook in **APPENDIX**.

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APPENDIX – Proposed updates to Section 8 of ROBEX Handbook

8. EXCHANGE OF SIGMET, TCA and VAA

8.1   SIGMET should be prepared by the meteorological watch offices (MWO) designated by the State's meteorological authority. The MWOs and their areas of responsibility are given in ANP, Volume II, Table MET II-1.

8.2   SIGMET messages should be distributed to all RODBs within the Region, who should also make the SIGMET messages available on request. In order to facilitate that, the originating MWOs should use the WMO headings given in the *ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide, Appendix D* for their SIGMET bulletins

Note: The required distribution of SIGMET to MWOs and ACCs in the adjacent FIRs described in the ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide is not part of the ROBEX   exchange and should be arranged by the States outside the ROBEX scheme.

8.3   SIGMET messages should be distributed to other ICAO regions and made available for redistribution through SADIS and WIFS. This distribution should be carried out through the relevant IROGs.

8.4   Detailed information on the format of the SIGMET messages is provided in the *ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide*.

8.5   Tropical cyclone advisories (TCA) and volcanic ash advisories (VAA) should be issued by the designated tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisory centres (TCAC and VAAC), as indicated in *FASID Table MET 3A and MET 3B*.

8.6   The TCACs and VAACs should send their advisories to the APAC RODBs. The RODBs should make TCAs and VAAs messages available on request. In order to facilitate that, the originating TCACs and VAACs should use the WMO headings given in the *ASIA/PAC Regional SIGMET Guide, Appendix D*.

8.7   VAA and TCA messages should be distributed to other ICAO regions and made available for redistribution through SADIS and WIFS. This distribution should be carried out either directly by the VAACs and TCACs or through the relevant IROGs.

8.8   ROCs are responsible for the distribution of the IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA.

- ROC is responsible for collecting IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA from NOCs under its area of responsibility (AoR), and disseminating them to all other ROCs in the APAC Region.
- ROC is also responsible for collecting IWXXM-formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA from other ROCs in the APAC Region and disseminating to NOCs under its AoR for further distribution to users.
- Originating centres need to send IWXXM formatted SIGMET, TCA and VAA to their corresponding ROC.