

International Civil Aviation Organization Asia and Pacific Office

Fourteenth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Asia and Pacific Regions (RASG-APAC/14)

(Bangkok, Thailand, 28-29 November 2024)

Agenda Item 2: Updates from ICAO, APRAST and APAC-AIG outputs for RASG-APAC consideration and approval

UPDATES ON DGCA 59 – SAFETY ACTION ITEMS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

59th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Region was held in Cebu Island, Philippines from October 14-18, 2024. The Conference deliberated about 79 DPs in total of which 19 DPs were based on Agenda Item 3; Safety.

This WP presents a brief account of the twelve (12) Safety outcomes identified as Action Items based on 19 DPs and 17 IPs presented at the conference. Action by the Meeting is on Paragraph 3.0 below.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 59th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Region was held in the vibrant island of Cebu on October 14-18, 2024. Theme for this year's conference, Shaping the Future of Aviation: Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive, is timely and relevant on both global and regional scales.
- 1.2 The Conference was attended by 350 participants, from 37 States/Administrations, 11 International Organizations and 8 national and 12 international sponsors/exhibitors and deliberated for four days in ten Agenda Items, inter-alia, Safety. There were 79 Discussion Papers presented, and 57 Information Papers submitted (136 Conference Papers in total) under 10 Agenda Items of the Conference. All Discussion and Information Papers are available at website https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/2024-DGCA59.aspx.
- 1.3 Under the Safety Agenda Item there have been 19 Discussion Papers and 17 Information Papers generating about 12 Action Items for implementation by all stake holders.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The Theme Topic of the 59th DGCA Conference was set as: "Shaping the Future of Aviation: Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive".
- 2.2 A high-level Panel Discussion was held on the first day moderated by Mr. Thomas Tannhauser A. Fortun Assistant Director General-II, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines with the elite panel members invited by the top management from:

- a) Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore,
- b) Civil Aviation Administration of China,
- c) Federal Aviation Administration of the USA,
- d) Philippines Airlines,
- e) Japan Civil Aviation Bureau and
- f) Mactan-Cebu International Airport.
- 2.3 The Theme Topic was also discussed as Agenda Item 1, moderated by Dr. Vinolia Salesi, Director of Civil Aviation, Civil Aviation Division, Ministry of Infrastructure, Tonga.
- 2.4 Agenda Item 3 on Safety Enhancements was moderated by Capt. Victor Liu Director General of Civil Aviation, Department of Civil Aviation, Hong Kong China. The Conference derived Forty-Nine (49) Action Items in total, out of which twelve (12) were on Safety.
- 2.5 The List of Action Items of the Conference is provided in **Appendix A** to this paper and the Action Items related to Safety Agenda Item are 59/2-59/13 which are underscored for review by the Meeting and urge States/Administrations to take follow action for the effective implementation of all of them.
- 2.6 The APRAST may also consider adopting applicable Action Items, if any, to amend their Work Programmes to support States/Administrations in the implementation.
- 2.7 Looking ahead, the DGCA/60 will be hosted by Japan in 2025 with the Theme Topic adopted by the 59th APAC DGCA Conference as "*The sustainable skies of the Asia-Pacific region: towards increased economic prosperity and social well-being by air transportation of people and goods in the Region*". Accordingly, emphasis will be given to the theme topic in formulating discussion and information papers for DGCA/60.
- 2.8 States/Administrations are encouraged to submit discussion Papers identifying policy and high-level strategic matters related to safety issues to be brought to the attention of DGCA/60.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The Meeting is invited to:
 - a) Note the Safety Action Items 59/2 to 59/13 in the **Appendix A**; and
 - b) Discuss and agree any related matters in providing support to States/Administration on implementation.

LIST OF ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM THE 59th APAC DGCA CONFERENCE

Discussion	Action Item	Description
Paper No.		
		Agenda Item 1 - Theme Topic
DP/1/1 DP/1/2	Action Item 59/1	Acknowledging importance of the theme topic "Shaping the Future of Aviation: Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive", the Conference urged States/Administrations, international organizations and industry to: 1. adopt emerging technologies in accordance with ICAO SARPs and guidance materials; and
		2. continue efforts to improve gender equality, synchronize efforts to achieve strategic objectives, goals, programs, and initiatives of ICAO to advance international civil aviation in an environmentally sustainable manner for next 80 years.
	A	genda Item 3 - Aviation Safety
DP/3/1	Action Item 59/2	Acknowledging the significance of ICAO SAFE Funds for implementation support of safety projects to States/Administrations, the Conference urged donors to continue with and enhance voluntary contributions.
DP/3/2	Action Item 59/3	Recognizing the significance of data sharing in the Region to
DP/3/5		enhance safety, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to:
		 enhance cooperation in data collection and usage for monitoring progress of the NASP and NANP;
		2. identify and share types of data in line with the development of data protection schemes;
		3. explore opportunities for collaboration and participation in the regional data-sharing initiatives; and
		4. encourage the sharing of safety data and safety information experiences and lessons learned from various data sharing initiatives.
DP/3/3	Action Item 59/4	Based on the recognised elements of safety promotion, the Conference encouraged:
		1. States/Administrations to:
		a) identify and address the specific challenges that authorities may face in effectively implementing the safety promotion component of Annex 19;
		 b) develop guidelines for selecting safety promotion topics, methods of prioritizing and the methods of measuring the effectiveness;
		c) emphasize the importance of securing sufficient human resources and appropriate tools to support effective safety promotion; and

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
Taper No.		2. EASA to share its safety promotion methodology at the next meeting of the ICAO Safety Management Panel (SMP).
DP/3/4	Action Item 59/5	Recognizing the value of the IFALPA Accredited Accident Investigation scheme in the management of safety occurrences, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to consider the use of IFALPA-related programs and tools for the promotion of positive safety culture.
DP/3/6 DP/3/10 DP/3/11	Action Item 59/6	Acknowledging the significance of adopting best practices to enhance safety, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to share experience through ICAO and appropriate platforms on:
DP/3/13 DP/3/17 DP/3/19		 recruiting and retaining qualified technical personnel, ideally following guidance on ICAO NGAP concept; implementation of SSPs;
DF/3/19		3. use of autonomous vehicle technology in airport operations;4. effective mitigation of risks arising from unauthorised kite flying, laser, and drones;
		5. effective oversight in the transport of dangerous goods by air; and6. integration of AI technologies in aviation.
DP/3/7	Action Item 59/7	Recognizing the safety risks of turbulence encounters, the Conference encouraged:
		States/Administrations and industry to:
		a) share experiences and best practices related to turbulence encounters;
		b) make necessary arrangement to improve the submission and availability of air-reports including special air-reports containing turbulence information; and
		2. ICAO and States/Administrations to organise workshops/webinars in the Asia/Pacific Region regarding turbulence encounters.
DP/3/8	Action Item 59/8	Noting the guidance provided by the IATA Safety Leadership Charter, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to consider using the IATA Safety Leadership Charter as strong evidence of an airline commitment to safety leadership and positive safety culture.
DP/3/9	Action Item 59/9	Acknowledging the initiatives by international organizations in assessing positive safety culture, the Conference recommended States/Administrations to consider adopting the six categories of positive safety culture indicators in the assessment and promotion of safety culture as suggested in DGCA – 59/DP/3/9.

Discussion	Action Item	Description
Paper No.		
DP/3/12	Action Item 59/10	Noting the importance of inspector competency, the Conference urged States/Administrations to consider development of advanced training programs, supplementing to existing courses and enhance required facilities in ATOs.
DP/3/14	Action Item 59/11	Recognizing the vital role of turbo-prop operations for connectivity in the region, the Conference encouraged stakeholders to provide the necessary support for its safe and resilient growth.
DP/3/15	Action Item 59/12	Recognizing the Flight Safety Foundation's (FSF) ongoing safety projects, including the Airworthiness Needs Analysis, focusing on continuing airworthiness, and the critical importance of accuracy and analysis, the Conference invited FSF to present their findings at the next AP-RAST meeting.
DP/3/16	Action Item 59/13	Acknowledging the developments in AAM and complex UAS operations, the Conference invited States/Administrations to consider participating in the meeting of Asia-Pacific Regulators on AAM and UAS.
	A	genda Item 4 - Air Navigation
DP/4/1 DP/4/2	Action Item 59/14	Acknowledging that harmonization and cooperation are vital for successful ATM implementation, and recognizing the importance of seamless ATM operations and the advent of TBO, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to participate in the Data Analytics Group (DAG) under the APANPIRG ATM Sub Group and the Asia Pacific Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) Committee (AAC), and to adopt a data-driven approach to enhance the efficiency and performance of ATM in regional ATM projects.

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
DP/4/3 DP/4/4 DP/4/9	Action Item 59/15	Acknowledging that GNSS RFI events such as jamming and spoofing jeopardize the safety and resiliency of airspace operations, consistent with the recommendations of the Fourteenth Air Navigation Conference, the Conference urged:
DP/4/10 DP/4/11		States/Administrations to: a) take appropriate actions to detect and mitigate GNSS RFI
DP/4/13		sources; b) monitor, report, and share GNSS RFI events such as jamming and spoofing events and best practices of mitigation measures through APANPIRG;
		c) maintain adequate conventional Ground Based Navigation Aids (GBNA)/minimal operational networks (MONs) to support aircraft navigation;
		d) foster enhanced cooperation and collaboration regarding GNSS RFI events with military;
		e) bring proposals for improvement in RT phraseology regarding reporting of GNSS RFI events to relevant ICAO forum; and
		2. ICAO to organize a workshop for sharing best practices and lessons learned for managing and mitigating GNSS RFI events.
DP/4/6	Action Item 59/16	Acknowledging the operational benefits of implementing seamless UPR, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to explore the implementation of UPR and FRA between neighbouring FIRs.
DP/4/12 DP/4/14 DP/4/16	Action Item 59/17	Noting the importance of harmonization and collaboration among sub-regional ATFM initiatives, the Conference reaffirmed that States/Administrations should continue promoting ATFM collaboration in accordance with APANPIRG and its Sub-Groups' Terms of Reference, and their activities.
		m 5 - Aviation Security and Facilitation
DP/5/1	Action Item 59/18	To promote digital transformation (DX) of security and to help ensure a sustainable future for air transport, the Conference encouraged relevant aviation security stakeholders to share experience, information and best practices on the development and testing of DX in airport security screening systems and operations and to allocate the necessary technical experts and financial budget for DX research and development.
DP/5/2	Action Item 59/19	The Conference encouraged the sharing of relevant information between States/Administrations and stakeholders engaged in or impacted by One Stop Security (OSS) arrangements to minimize creating any new vulnerabilities in the global aviation security system and assist to assess risks to their respective national civil aviation systems and operations.

Discussion	Action Item	Description
Paper No.		
DP/5/3	Action Item 59/20	Noting the importance of the full and effective implementation of PNR and API requirements, the Conference agreed that States/Administrations should establish robust PNR and API systems in accordance with relevant ICAO Annex 9 – <i>Facilitation</i> SARPs and UNSCRs 2178 and 2396; and to avail themselves of assistance as necessary.
DP/5/4 DP/5/7	Action Item 59/21	Noting the importance of airport security-by-design principles and the need to strengthen training for management personnel in security planning, design, operation and management, the Conference requested that these topics be shared with ICAO AVSEC Panel Working Group on Guidance Material (WGGM) for consideration.
DP/5/5	Action Item 59/22	Noting the importance of the development of new technology including the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for airport security systems and operations, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to strengthen research, information sharing, development of specifications, testing methods, and experience in incorporating AI applications into national aviation security operations.
DP/5/6	Action Item 59/23	Recognizing the importance of USAP-CMA audit preparation, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to share experience, including forming audit expert groups, the conduct of mock audits and to ensure National Coordinators participate in the periodic USAP-CMA National Coordinator training sessions.
	Agenda Item 6	- Economic Development of Air Transport
DP/6/1	Action Item 59/24	Noting the need for modernising and expanding airport infrastructure to accommodate the increasing demand for air travel in Asia/Pacific, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to support, as appropriate, the operations of and infrastructure investment in airports.
DP/6/2	Action Item 59/25	Considering the challenges faced by airlines in sharing passengers' personal data with other organizations, the Conference encouraged the seven Asia/Pacific States that are members on the ICAO Council to support the proposal at the Legal Committee at the 233 rd Council Session to establish a multi-disciplinary group on data protection.
DP/6/3	Action Item 59/26	Recalling the benefits offered by the freedoms of the air to facilitate various aspects of air travel, the Conference encouraged States/Administration to use appropriate mechanisms to support air traffic growth in the Asia/Pacific region and to implement sustainable aviation practices.

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
Taper No.	Agenda	Item 7 - Aviation and Environment
DP/7/1	Action Item 59/27	Recognizing the urgent need to meet the ICAO's global
DP/7/2		aspirational carbon emissions reduction goals for international aviation, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to:
DP/7/3		1. support the implementation of the Long-Term Aspirational
DP/7/4		Goal (LTAG) and the ICAO Global Framework for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Lower Carbon Aviation
DP/7/5 DP/7/6		Fuels (LCAF), and other cleaner aviation energies, including the Finvest Hub;
		2. engage further in the ICAO ACT-SAF program and promote
DP/7/7		the development, deployment, and scaling up of SAF within
DP/7/10 DP/7/11		and beyond the Asia/Pacific Region in close coordination with ICAO;
		3. Submit updated and quantified State Action Plans to ICAO, incorporating innovations in technologies and cleaner energies, outlining respective policies, actions, and roadmaps, including long-term projections, and ensuring the use of the best available data as supported by updated ICAO guidance and tools;
		4. Notify the ICAO Secretariat of their decision to voluntarily participate in the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA);
		5. Support the implementation of CORSIA and actively participate in the ICAO ACT-CORSIA program; and
		6. Participate in upcoming ICAO environment events.
DP/7/1	Action Item 59/28	To promote cooperation and collaboration in the Asia/Pacific region to enhance SAF availability and recognizing that an early lead in SAF development can gain environmental, social, and economic benefits by transitioning to cleaner and more affordable energy sources, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to establish a supportive regulatory environment for SAF production and infrastructure.
DP/7/4 DP/7/5	Action Item 59/29	Recognizing the urgent need for significant progress in developing SAF to reduce CO ₂ emissions from international civil aviation, and the necessity for cooperation between governments and industry stakeholders to build SAF capacity in the region, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to:
		1. report on progress and challenges encountered in achieving the CAAF/3 outcomes;
		2. share SAF best practices and conduct SAF seminars and educational programs; and
		3. establish national policies specific to SAF.
DP/7/11	Action Item 59/30	Recognizing the urgent need for SAF producers to access ICAO-approved Sustainability Certification Schemes, the Conference:
		1. invited ICAO to expedite the approval of new Sustainability

Discussion	Action Item	Description
Paper No.		· · · · · ·
		Certification Schemes for SAF, LCAF, and other cleaner aviation energies;
		2. invited ICAO to develop specific training programs for States/Administrations and industry stakeholders to enhance their expertise on CORSIA certification requirements, with a special focus on addressing various challenges; and
		3. encouraged States/Administrations to establish a robust national regulatory framework for SAF certification that aligns with ICAO's CORSIA Standards.
DP/7/7	Action Item 59/31	To ensure the availability of critical resources for States/Administrations to comply with CORSIA offsetting requirements and significantly reduce CO ₂ emissions in the aviation sector, the Conference urged States/Administrations to: 1. strengthen collaboration in developing CORSIA-Eligible
		Fuels (CEF) and CORSIA-Eligible Emissions Units (CEU); and
		2. promote information exchange and knowledge sharing on the development of CEFs and CEUs.
DP/7/8	Action Item 59/32	Recognizing airports' need for a roadmap to decarbonization, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to consider participating in the ACI "Net Zero Roadmap Decarbonise Your Airport" programme.
DP/7/9	Action Item 59/33	Recognising the exemplary water recycling initiatives in their contribution to sustainable airport operation, the Conference recommended that this matter be brought to the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection.
DP/7/12	Action Item 59/34	Emphasizing the importance of collaboration among academia, industry, and government to tackle complex problems more effectively, and highlighting the need for international cooperation among States/Administrations to share information, align policies, and develop unified strategies, the Conference recommended that the ICAO Asia/Pacific Office facilitate collaborative opportunities by organizing workshops, conferences, and other events to support the development and deployment of SAF, hydrogen and electric propulsion technologies.
		8 - Technical and Regional Cooperation
DP/8/1	Action Item 59/35	Noting the activities and achievements of APAC Flight Procedure Programme, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to join the FPP as Active/User States.

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
DP/8/2	Action Item 59/36	To address extra-budgetary priorities in ICAO's triennial work programme, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations and international organizations to offer seconded experts to the ICAO Asia/Pacific offices (Bangkok, Beijing and Nadi).
DP/8/3 DP/8/5 DP/8/8 DP/8/9	Action Item 59/37	Noting the role of Regional Training Cooperation Framework (RTCF) in the development of technical human resources, the Conference invited States/Administrations to: 1. join RTCF; 2. encourage their respective civil aviation training/academic organizations and industry to participate in the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Aviation Training Symposium in Singapore in July 2025; and 3. nominate prospective instructors, especially female candidates for the Train the Trainer Programme
DP/8/4	Action Item 59/38	candidates for the Train-the-Trainer Programme. To continue the support for PSIDS-focused ICAO activities and ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office operations, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to: 1. continue to provide financial support; 2. provide suitably qualified experts; and 3. provide on-the-job training opportunities for PSIDS personnel following completion of ICAO training courses.
DP/8/6	Action Item 59/39	Noting the need to develop and deploy implementation support and capacity development activities that can address challenges faced by the PSIDS, the Conference urged: 1. ICAO and States/Administrations to collaborate in the development of a sub-regional strategic plan of actions to guide ICAO-coordinated, PSIDS-focused activities and the continuous development and update of the PSIDS Liaison Office work programme; and 2. PSIDS, partner States/Administrations and organizations, to participate in annual meetings to strengthen cooperation, exchange of information and experiences, and align efforts to advance the aviation sector in the Pacific region.
DP/8/7	Action Item 59/40	Noting the role of the private sector in developing civil aviation and air transport industries, the Conference encouraged the formation of PPPs to collaborate and align public and private objectives to continue supporting State fulfilment of international obligations.

Discussion	Action Item	Description
Paper No.		Agenda Item 9 – Updates
Presentation	Action Item 59/41	The Conference encouraged States/Administrations to:
Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi)	Action Item 39/41	 continue to prioritize efforts towards the realization of the Beijing Declaration commitments; collaborate to achieve the commitments of the Delhi Declaration; share implementation status of Beijing and Delhi Declaration at APANPIRG, RASG-APAC and RASCF Meetings; and consider the feasibility of hosting the 3rd Asia/Pacific Ministerial Conference.
DP/9/1	Action Item 59/42	Noting the progress of work of the Asia Pacific Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) Committee (AAC) and the request for an extension, the Conference agreed to a two-year extension of the AAC and encouraged States/Administration to support their ANSPs in contributing towards the work of the AAC.
DP/9/2	Action Item 59/43	The Conference noted the report of the RCM Task Force on the examination of the feasibility of an Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission, and its recommendations on the way forward for the region. The Conference: 1. thanked the RCM Task Force for the completion of the study; 2. agreed that the region should strengthen existing mechanisms and develop new mechanisms to address the needs and priorities of the region, and noted that the DGCA Conference has been an important gathering of the DGCAs in the region; 3. endorsed the recommendations of the report: a) The APCAC could be feasible over the long term; b) The region is encouraged to strengthen the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation and support for the ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office by providing resources, expertise, and contributions; c) The region should strengthen the DGCA Conference through initiatives such as: i. setting up a small team comprising representatives from States/Administrations to support the running of the DGCA Conference; ii. establishing a formal Terms of Reference covering the purpose, representation and scope, and iii. improving two-way communication between the DGCA Conference and the Montreal Group. d) The region should pursue the Regional Training Cooperation Framework and its initiatives; e) The region could establish a dedicated forum, to be held as a side meeting during the DGCA Conference for

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description	
1 4 6 4 1 1 1 1 1		States/Administrations to discuss and agree on regional aviation issues of common interest;	
		4. tasked the RCM Task Force to follow up on the recommendations, taking into consideration the comments of the Conference regarding the need for inclusiveness and avoidance of duplication of efforts;	
		5. requested the RCM Task Force to provide a progress report at the next DGCA Conference, including details of the proposed dedicated forum, covering its purpose, scope and representation; and	
		6. encouraged the RCM Task Force to include appropriate participation from the international and regional organizations that support the DGCA Conference through regular attendance.	
DP/9/3	Action Item 59/44	Noting the Montreal Group of Asia/Pacific Council representatives report on ICAO Council discussions, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to attend the ICAO 80 th Anniversary in Chicago on 4 and 5 December 2024.	
DP/9/4	Action Item 59/45	The Conference encouraged States/Administrations to:	
		1. ratify the protocols amending Articles 50 and 56 of the Chicago Convention;	
		2. nominate a Focal Point for the Ratification of International Air Law Treaties;	
		3. participate in the third edition of the Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF) in London, UK from 26 to 28 November 2024, in the ICAO International Air Law Course as well as other similar events;	
		4. inform ICAO before 1 March 2025 of their further progress towards the ratification of international air law treaties by updating/using the DGCA tracking matrix; and	
		5. contact the ICAO LEB Treaty Section (treaty@icao.int) for any information or assistance with regard to ratification matters.	
	Agenda Item 10 - Other Business		
DP/10a/1	Action Item 59/46	The Conference noted with thanks, the confirmation of the generous offer by Malaysia to host the 61 st APAC DGCA Conference in 2026.	
DP/10a/2	Action Item 59/47	The Conference recommended that all States/Administrations establish an effective ICAO State Letter process and share their best practices at relevant fora.	

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
DP/10a/3	Action Item 59/48	The Conference expressed their strongest, unanimous support for the Asia/Pacific Region to have at least one more seat in the ICAO Council, in addition to the existing seven seats.
DP/10b/1	Action Item 59/49	The Conference endorsed the 60 th APAC DGCA Conference (to be hosted by Japan) theme topic as "The sustainable skies of the Asia-Pacific region: towards increased economic prosperity and social well-being by air transportation of people and goods in the region".