



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 4: ICAO/ Member State / Industry Presentations

ICAO PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES LIAISON OFFICE PROGRESS AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES 2024/2025

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) Liaison Officer, hosted by the Government of Fiji, was deployed to the Pacific in October 2023. Activities undertaken and planned in the 2024/2025 timeframe include a programme of visits to PSIDS, and planning and coordination of workshops, training and meetings intended to improve engagement between PSIDS and ICAO, and to provide targeted support in identified priority areas.

This paper informs RASG-APAC of progress in the work of the PSIDS Liaison Office, the support provided by partner States, and urges partner States continue to provide voluntary contributions and in-kind support for PSIDS-related activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Responding to the recommendations of the ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States¹ (PSIDS) Aviation Needs Analysis (the *PSIDS Study*) conducted in 2019, ICAO established the PSIDS Liaison Officer position.

1.1 Following submission by States of their hosting offers, ICAO selected Fiji to host the PSIDS Liaison Officer.

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

1.3 The main functions of the PSIDS Liaison Officer include:

- a) enhance communications and coordination between:
 - i. ICAO and PSIDS;

¹ The 14 States categorized by the UN as PSIDS include Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue (ICAO non-member), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

- ii. ICAO and the Pacific Aviation Safety Office² (PASO)
- iii. ICAO, other UN organizations with offices in the PSIDS region, Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and other relevant international/regional stakeholders;
- b) liaise with the APAC Regional Office to enhance and facilitate technical assistance;
- c) facilitate continuous monitoring over the regional safety and security oversight support system.
- d) establish cooperation mechanisms with the various stakeholders in the Pacific;
- e) provide substantive support to PSIDS on technical matters; and
- f) analyze aviation programme activities and make recommendations on policy development and its implementation.

1.4 The PSIDS Liaison Office was formally opened by the ICAO Secretary General and the Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation for Fiji on 16 August 2024.

1.5 This paper outlines the current work priorities of the PSIDS Liaison Office, the support provided by partner States, and requests that States continue to provide voluntary contributions and in-kind support for PSIDS-related activities.

2. DISCUSSION

Priorities in the Pacific

2.1 The PSIDS Study identified priority needs among the PSIDS including *inter alia*:

- direct safety and security oversight support, including the ability to delegate the conduct of some or all of the technical evaluations necessary for certification, licensing, approval, surveillance, quality control and follow-up activities requiring expertise and experience in the concerned technical domains;
- establishment of independent accident investigation functions;
- advice, training and opportunities for sharing of information and experience in safety oversight functions;
- establishment of national aviation planning frameworks; and
- SAMOA Pathway³ priority areas.

2.2 In recent meetings the PSIDS have also stated a list of collective priorities:

- Government Safety Inspector (GSI) training;
- State safety plans;
- Accident and incident investigation;

² The Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), a regional safety and security oversight organization (RSSOO) established under the Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty (PICASST) to provide aviation safety and security services to 10 PSIDS, namely Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue (non-ICAO member), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

³ The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway is an international framework established by the Third Annual SIDS Conference (Apia, Samoa, September 2014) to support sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships.

- Search and Rescue (SAR);
- Artificial intelligence;
- Infrastructure;
- Supply chain logistics; and
- Cyber security.

2.3 While taking into account the priorities stated collectively by PSIDS, ICAO also recognizes that the priorities of individual States may vary from the collective view, according to their unique local circumstances and challenges. Accordingly, the ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office is engaged in an ongoing process of gathering and updating detailed information on each of the PSIDS, to guide the continuous development and update of the ICAO work plan and the associated strategic plan of action.

2.4 Information gathered thus far, and the outcomes of discussion at the PSIDS-ICAO Collaboration and Coordination Workshop held in Nadi, Fiji, 15-16 October 2024, indicate the following priorities:

- Governance;
- Aviation legislation;
- Treaty ratification, particularly the updated Pacific Islands Aviation Safety and Security Treaty⁴ (PICASST) and the amendment to Chicago Convention⁵;
- Aviation regulatory development;
- Independent accident investigation;
- USOAP CMA audit readiness;
- Civil Aviation Master Plan (CAMP) and National Air Navigation Plan (NANP) development;
- Aerodrome certification, operations and safety management;
- Aviation security; and
- Aviation medicine.

Work Undertaken and Planned in 2024 and 2025

2.5 The following ICAO-supported, PSIDS-focused activities have been undertaken, or are planned, in 2024:

- Common aeronautical Virtual Private Network (CRV) Seminar and Twelfth Meeting of the CRV Operations Working Group (CRV OG/12), Denarau, Fiji, 22 to 26 January 2024;
- Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) Auditor Training Course, Nadi, Fiji, 06 to 17 May 2024;

⁴ PICASST, the treaty governing the establishment and operation of PASO, was updated in 2022 and deposited with the Pacific Islands Forum depository. The updated treaty has yet to be ratified by all PASO member States.

⁵ As at September 2024 17 APAC States, including all 13 ICAO-member PSIDS, have yet to ratify the protocols amending Articles 50 and 56 of the Chicago Convention. Assembly Resolutions A39-5 and A39-7 refer.

- ICAO GAT TRAINAIR Plus Government Safety Inspector – Airworthiness (GSI-Air) training course⁶, Nadi, Fiji, 15 July to 02 August 2024;
- PSIDS – ICAO Coordination Workshop, 15 – 16 August 2024;
- PSIDS SAR Capability Improvement Project (Phase 1⁷), 05 August to 18 October 2024;
- ICAO Instrument Flight Procedures Safety Oversight Workshop, 28 to 30 October 2024; and
- National Aviation Safety Plan Workshop⁸, 18 to 21 November 2024,

2.6 The meeting is invited to note that while the hosting of activities in Nadi, Fiji, moderates the costs of attendance for most PSIDS, their constrained resources, both human and financial, can limit their opportunity to participate.

2.7 Noting the currently identified priorities, the following activities are planned or under consideration 2025, to be held in the Pacific:

- Aerodrome Safety Management System (SMS) and Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aerodromes Workshop⁹;
- Workshops and/or training in:
 - Governance;
 - Aviation Legislation;
 - Treaty Ratification;
 - Regulatory Development;
 - Accident investigation delegation;
- National Air Navigation Plan (NANP) Workshop; and
- Second PSIDS – ICAO Coordination Meeting.

2.8 A provisional activity schedule is provided in **Attachment A**.

Partner State Support for PSIDS Liaison Office Operations

2.9 ICAO extends sincere gratitude to the Government of Fiji for generously hosting the PSIDS Liaison Office.

2.10 The substantial voluntary contributions of funds and in-kind support for ICAO-coordinated, PSIDS-focused activities by the following States is also gratefully acknowledged:

Australia, Singapore, USA, Japan, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia.

2.11 Current and future financial support from partner States is crucial to the success of ICAO's PSIDS Liaison Office initiative and the improvement of aviation outcomes in the Pacific.

⁶ Course provided free of charge by Singapore (Singapore Aviation Academy), and supported by voluntary contributions from USA

⁷ Funded by voluntary contributions from Saudi Arabia

⁸ Funded by voluntary contributions from USA

⁹ Provided by Republic of Korea under the ICAO Developing Countries Training Programme (DCTP)

2.12 Regulatory and technical training in the fields of Government Safety Inspector (GSI) and GSI Instructor, Lead Auditor, and Accident Investigator is also needed, as is the provision of opportunities for on-the-job training for PSIDS personnel following the successful completion of classroom training, particularly to support GSI capability improvement.

2.13 It should also be recognized that as the PSIDS Liaison Office work plan further develops there will be a growing need for appropriately qualified, experienced and Pacific-region aware personnel resources to undertake activities and projects supporting improvement in identified priority areas. ICAO strongly encourages APAC States having the requisite knowledge and understanding of PSIDS' aviation development and challenges to provide in-kind support through provision of appropriately qualified personnel, either through temporary deployments or short to medium-term secondments, to undertake these activities and projects in the Pacific. Temporary assignments and/or secondment opportunities will be promoted through direct approach to relevant States, or through ICAO's standard recruitment processes.

2.14 Accordingly, the meeting is invited to consider the following Draft Conclusion:

Draft Conclusion RASG-APAC/14-X: Regulatory and Service Provider Personnel Support for ICAO PSIDS-Focused Activities		
What: That, noting Pacific Small Island Developing States' (PSIDS') needs for regulatory and technical training, on-the-job training, and appropriately qualified experts to support ICAO-coordinated activities and projects, States are urged to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory and technical training opportunities in air navigation fields; • On-the-job training opportunities; and • Appropriately qualified personnel for temporary deployments or short-to-medium term secondments; to support PSIDS-focused activities and projects.	Expected impact: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political / Global <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Economic <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ops/Technical	
Why: To provide training opportunities and the availability of appropriately qualified experts to support improved aviation outcomes for PSIDS.	Follow-up: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required from States	
When: 29-Nov-2023	Status: Draft to be adopted by RASG-APAC	
Who: <input type="checkbox"/> Sub groups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APAC States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO APAC RO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO HQ <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Encourage all Pacific Small Island Developing States to ratify the protocols amending Articles 50 and 56 of the Chicago Convention (Assembly Resolutions A39-5 and A39-7); and
- b) Encourage partner States to continue to provide financial support for PSIDS-focused activities and PSIDS Liaison Office operations; and
- c) Adopt the Draft Conclusion proposed in paragraph 2.14.

— END —

ATTACHMENT A: ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office Work Plan – Provisional Activity Schedule

Activity	Timeframe	Notes
2025		
Aerodrome Safety Management System and Procedures for Air Navigation Services – Aerodromes (PANS-AD) Workshop	March – April 2025	Carried over from 2024 Developing Countries Training Programme (Republic of Korea)
Government Safety Inspector Training (oversight area TBC)	March – July 2025	OJT opportunities following course completion to be coordinated.
Aviation Legislation Workshop	March – June 2025	Delivered in conjunction where appropriate
Regulatory Development Workshop	April – July 2025	
Treaty Ratification Workshop	May – August 2025	
Governance Workshop	May – August 2025	
Second PSIDS – ICAO Collaboration/Coordination Meeting	August 2025	
USOAP and/or USAP CAT Missions	TBD	
2026		
Accident and Incident Investigation Workshop	TBD	May include items carried over from 2025
USOAP CMA Workshop		
National Air Navigation Plan Workshop		
Aerodrome Certification Workshop		
Aviation Medicine Workshop		
Lead Auditor Training		
<i>General Notes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Workshops nominally 1-week duration;– Activity scheduling dependent on relevant global and regional events including, but not limited to, ICAO Assembly, APAC DGCA Conference, APANPIRG, RASG.– Subject to further coordination between ICAO and PSIDS, and partner/donor States<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Additional activities to be included where identified/prioritized;– Number and timing of activities may be limited by PSIDS’ capacity to support travel, or to release staff.– All activities will require support from partner States (funding, and SMEs)		