



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 Update on APRAST

UPDATES ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY PLAN WORKING GROUP (AP-RASP-WG)

(Presented by the Co-Chairs of AP-RASP Working Group)

SUMMARY

The paper outlines the progress made by the AP-RASP Working Group (WG) in implementing the AP-RASP 2023-2025. The WG has been actively monitoring Action Items (AIs) from the plan and reporting on the progress, with custodians making good progress in meeting timelines and achieving safety objectives. A key achievement is the upcoming Asia Pacific Safety Management Seminar in February 2025, led by WG members. As 2025 approaches, the WG has begun considering the working arrangements and initial concepts for updating the next edition of the AP-RASP, covering the 2026-2028 period.

The meeting is invited to take note of the progress made by the Action Item Custodians and to note the preliminary ideas for the AP-RASP 2026-2028 update.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Plan (AP-RASP) 2023-2025 Edition serves as the guiding framework for the region's aviation safety objectives. The AP-RASP Working Group (WG) has been working diligently to ensure the achievement of these objectives. Central to this effort is the roadmap outlined in the AP-RASP, which includes specific Action Items (AIs). A key responsibility of the WG is to monitor and report on the progress of these Action Items, continuously gathering, consolidating, and presenting updates to ensure transparency and accountability.

2. ACTION ITEM PROGRESS UPDATE

2.1 The AI Custodians have made notable progress, adhering to the indicated timelines and addressing relevant actions aimed at achieving acceptable safety levels as outlined in the roadmap. An update on the various action items managed by the AP-RASP WG and AI Custodians can be seen in the table below:

| Action Item No. | Action Item | Action Item Custodian | Achievements in 2024 and Current Status |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| A.I.20 | Develop an inspector competency building framework (ICBF), and any new RASG-APAC/ APRAST SEIs for urgent risks | Farid I. W. (Indonesia) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft ICBF Manual has been created. • Feedback from Member States and International Organizations on the manual is requested by APRAST/23. • Assistance is needed to coordinate a meeting to develop a tangible action plan. |
| A.II.1 | Conduct workshops and courses to promote effective implementation of SARPs, especially in the technical areas of ANS, AIG, and AGA | Shayne Campbell (USA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mechanism was developed by the team to track relevant workshops. |
| A.III.1 | Support the robust implementation and continuous improvement of SMS and SSP | Yamani Chan (Hong Kong, China) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent progress achieved in planning the ICAO Asia Pacific Safety Management Seminar, scheduled for 3-5 February 2025. |
| A.IV.1 | Establish a mechanism to collect and analyse SSP SPI data from APAC States and common industry indicators | Sohyun Park (Republic of Korea) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on discussions during attendance at APRAST/22, there are no outstanding actions or requests at this time. |
| A.IV.4 | Establish a mechanism for regional aviation safety data collection and sharing and support States'/ Administrations' participation in regional aviation safety data-sharing projects | Nick Leow (Singapore)* *member of the SRP WG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SRP Working Group tabled a working paper on this action item at APRAST/22. • The proposal includes establishing a regional safety data collection and sharing mechanism through focused discussions, which may evolve into a "Safety Day" in the future. |
| A.V.4 | Continue to encourage States/ Administrations to informally share information and coordinate on operational issues in the USOAP Audit Areas of OPS, ANS, and AGA by conducting regular meetings and via the platform established in the previous triennium | SL Wong (ACI) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two sharing workshops have been held in 2024, with one more to be organized in December 2024. • A new AI Custodian and SharePoint host are required, considering the current custodian's retirement. |

2.2 One notable outcome of these efforts is the organization of the Asia Pacific Safety Management Seminar, scheduled for 3-5 February 2025. The development and planning of this seminar are being driven entirely by members of the AP-RASP WG under Action Item A.III.1. Organized in collaboration with the Flight Safety Foundation, this seminar will bring together civil aviation authorities, air navigation service providers, airlines, and other industry professionals to share best practices in safety management. The seminar, themed “Addressing the Challenges of Annex 19 Implementation Together and Promoting a Positive Safety Culture,” aims to foster stronger safety partnerships and promote the integration of Safety Management Systems (SMS) and State Safety Programmes (SSP). The meeting is invited to take note of this event and consider participating to support regional safety initiatives.

2.3 The State and Industry AP-RASP WG Co-Chairs commend AI Custodian, Ms. Yamani Chen (Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department), and her Co-Custodians, Mr. Maneesh Kumar (Directorate General Civil Aviation of India) and Ms. Nelsie Fabila (Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines) for their leadership in organizing this important initiative.

2.4 The Co-Chairs wish to formally acknowledge and extend their appreciation to the following colleagues for their significant contributions to the Working Group as they transition in their careers:

- Mr. Michael Burgess (Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Australia), who served as the State Co-Chair of the AP-RASP Working Group from August 2023 to September 2024. His leadership has been greatly valued, and we extend our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavours.
- Mr. SL Wong (Airports Council International), the Action Item Custodian for A.V.4, has demonstrated exceptional commitment to organizing regular workshops and maintaining a well-organized repository of presentations. We thank him for his dedication and wish him a fulfilling retirement.

2.5 In light of the transition for the State Co-Chair position, Australia nominated Mr. Maneesh Kumar for the role of State Co-Chair of the AP-RASP Working Group during the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Team (APRAST/22), held on 30 September to – 4 October 2024 at the ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand. The proposal was seconded by Cambodia, Bhutan, and Hong Kong, China. The meeting elected Mr. Maneesh Kumar, who serves as the Joint Director General at DGCA India, as the AP-RASP WG State Co-Chair.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Currently, the Asia Pacific Regional Aviation Safety Plan (AP-RASP) 2023-2025 is aligned with the existing ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) 2023-2025.

3.2 At the Fourteenth Air Navigation Conference (AN-Conf/14) held in Montréal this September, AN-Conf/14-WP/8 titled “Towards the 2026-2028 edition of the global aviation safety plan” was presented. The paper contained a list of global safety issues for inclusion in the draft 2026-2028 edition of the GASP, including the updating of current GASP goals and targets. Furthermore, the paper stated that, to support the achievement of GASP goals and targets and ensure the alignment of RASPs and National Aviation Safety Plans (NASPs) with the 2026-2028 edition of the GASP, ICAO will revise its guidance material and tools by the end of 2025.

3.3 As the year 2025 approaches, it is essential to begin considering updates to the current AP-RASP for the next triennium i.e. 2026-2028, which needs to be harmonized with the upcoming GASP 2026-2028, other guidance materials, and tools. Thus, the AP-RASP WG would like to propose the establishment of a dedicated team within the AP-RASP WG.

3.4 The proposed work statement of this team is to identify the gaps between the current AP-RASP 2023-25 and other upcoming ICAO Docs, such as ICAO GASP 2026-2028, and propose an implementation plan to address those gaps. In addition, this team will work within the AP-RASP WG to develop the AP-RASP for the next triennium i.e. 2026-2028. Development of AP-RASP 2026-2028 will also require coordination with other working groups i.e. the Safety Enhancement Initiative Working Group (SEI WG) and Safety Reporting Programme Working Group (SRP WG) to include updated safety statistics and safety initiatives aimed at addressing key risks in the region.

3.5 The AP-RASP WG Co-Chairs propose to discuss this proposal further at APRAST/23. If approved, Member States are encouraged to nominate volunteers to join the team and assist in the plan's development. Active participation and collaboration from both Member States and working groups will be essential for creating a comprehensive safety plan that addresses the region's key risks and, subsequently, its effective implementation.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the good progress made by the Action Item Custodians;
- b) Discuss and agree on the adequacy of the progress made so far in the implementation of Action Items (AIs) by the Custodians and stakeholders
- c) Support and participate in the Asia Pacific Safety Management Seminar, which will be held on 3-5 February 2025 at the ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, Thailand.
- d) Nominate candidates for the position of Action Item Custodian for A.V.4; and
- e) Note the preliminary ideas for the AP-RASP 2026-2028 update and encourage APAC states to nominate volunteers for this work.

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