International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO

Thirteenth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management Sub-Group (ATM/SG/13) of APANPIRG

Singapore, 25 – 29 August 2025

Agenda Item 8:   Any Other Business

FREE ROUTE AIRSPACE IMPLEMENTATION WEBINAR

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper promotes the Free Route Airspace (FRA) Webinar for States/Administrations in the Asia/Pacific Region, aimed at introducing the regulatory concept, sharing the technical implementing method, successful cases, and fostering dialogue.

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   With air traffic demand rising in the Asia/Pacific Region, modernizing efficient airspace systems has become essential. In this regard, ICAO continue to support States/Administrations by introducing the importance of solutions such as FRA, which offers greater flexibility and efficiency in flight route planning.

1.2   The 2023 FRA Webinar introduced the concept, objectives, and operational benefits of FRA as outlined in the ASBU framework, along with global implementation experiences. Building on this, the 2024 FRA Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, focused on procedural steps and implementation challenges. The upcoming 2025 FRA Webinar will offer a more in-depth exploration of FRA, covering both foundational concepts and advanced topics.

1.3   As States/Administrations in the Asia/Pacific Region move toward implementation of FRA, the exchange of practical experience and technical know-how is increasingly important. This two-day webinar will cover key operational and technical considerations for FRA deployment, including cross-border coordination. Further details can be found on the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office webpage at https://www.icao.int/APAC/meetingdocs?fid=540.

2.   DISCUSSION

2.1   The FRA Webinar is scheduled to take place on 15 and 16 September 2025, from 0400 to 0700 UTC, via video teleconference. The key objectives of the webinar include:

   a) **Introducing the Regulatory Concept and Benefits of Free Route Airspace**: States/Administrations will gain valuable insights into the current FRA provisional concept, its potential benefits, and its significance in optimizing airspace utilization and enhancing operational efficiency;

b) **Practical Implementation Challenges and Resolving Method**: To address challenges in stakeholder coordination and airspace management during FRA planning and implementation:

    i) to share data-driven strategies, tools, and metrics to evaluate the operational and environmental benefits of FRA; and

    ii) to support the development of procedures and training needed to transition toward FRA;

c) **Fostering Dialogue and Knowledge Exchange:** The webinar will be a platform for government regulators, air navigation service providers, operators, and other stakeholders to engage in dialogue, discuss challenges and opportunities, and exchange knowledge on FRA implementation; and

d) **Interactive Q&A Sessions:** Participants will have the opportunity to address questions and receive expert insights, clarifying any queries and deepening their understanding of FRA implementation.

2.2   The tentative programme for the two-day webinar is provided in **Appendix A**. Please kindly note that the current programme is subject to minor changes as experts are being recruited for presentations and further discussions are ongoing.

2.3   States/Administrations/International Organizations are encouraged to participate in the webinar, and to share the best practices and lessons learned regarding FRA implementation. Those interested in contributing as speakers are invited to contact Mr. Kwon Hyuk Jin, Regional Officer ATM, ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Sub-Office, via email at hykwon@icao.int for further information.

2.4   To ensure the webinar's productivity and effectiveness, it is recommended that the nominated speakers submit their presentation materials by 08 September 2025, via email to the APAC-RSO@icao.int, with a copy also sent to the aforementioned email address.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is invited to:

a) note the information contained in this paper;

b) encourage interested States/Administrations/International Organizations to nominate speaker for the webinar;

c) encourage States/Administrations to participate in the webinar; and

d) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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PROGRAMME OUTLINES
(1200 – 1500 in Beijing Time / 0400 – 0700 in UTC)

Session 1 –Stakeholder Coordination, Procedures & Training

   This session is going to help the States on policies, training, and coordination among stakeholders for seamless FRA operations which mainly contains:

- FRA concept & definition in current regulation, and key takeaways from the webinar (presented by ICAO)

- Civil-military coordination in FRA settings (presented by ICAO)

- Stakeholder engagement and cooperation procedures (ANSPs, AUs, Regulators)

- ATCO and stakeholder training: tools, briefings, and simulations

- FIR Transfer-of-Control (TOC) challenges and solutions

- Bilateral agreements and stakeholders' coordination in FRA settings

- Managing mixed operations (day/night, ATS vs FRA, unpublished points), etc.

➢ Free Route Airspace **(FRA)**, Air Navigation Service Providers **(ANSPs)**, Airspace Users **(AUs)**, Air Traffic Controllers **(ATCO)**, and Air Traffic Services **(ATS)**

Session 2 – Data-Driven Implementation & Operational Integration

   This session will invite States in the Region to apply analytics, technical readiness, and operational improvements to FRA from the following aspects:

- Use of data and metrics in FRA planning and benefit measurement

- Flight level allocation challenges and real-world resolutions

- Role of aircraft operators in flight plan validation

- ATM system feasibility assessment and operational readiness

- Post-implementation review: monitoring traffic and continuous improvement

➢ Air Traffic Management **(ATM)**

Session 3 – Discussions and Wrap Up

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