

22nd COSCAP Southeast Asia Steering Committee Meeting (SCM/22)

(Diamond Hotel, Manila, Philippines, 19-20 June 2025)

Information Paper 1 (IP-1)

Agenda Item 9: Updates from Member States

**Timor-Leste's recent progress on aviation safety oversight systems, aerodrome development,
and ASEAN transportation integration**

(Presented by Timor-Leste)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This information paper outlines Timor-Leste's recent achievements in strengthening its civil aviation safety oversight systems and enhancing aerodrome infrastructure and certification. It summarizes key developments since the 21st COSCAP-SEA Steering Committee Meeting, including regulatory harmonization and inspectorate capacity building.

Action: The COSCAP Southeast Asia Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Acknowledge Timor-Leste's progress in aviation safety oversight and infrastructure development.
- b) Support continued regional cooperation and targeted capacity-building assistance; and
- c) Consider further technical support to sustain long-term compliance with ICAO SARPs and ASEAN transport commitments.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Government of Timor-Leste recognizes the pivotal role of civil aviation in promoting national development, regional integration, and international connectivity. Since its restoration of independence in 2002, Timor-Leste has progressively developed a regulatory framework aimed at achieving full ICAO compliance.

1.2 As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Timor-Leste continues to face limitations in human resources and technical capacity. Nonetheless, the Government, with support from COSCAP-SEA, ICAO, and bilateral partners remains committed to advancing its safety oversight capabilities.

1.3 Notable progress has been made in areas including technical inspector development, foundational implementation of State Safety Programme (SSP) and Safety Management Systems (SMS), and aerodrome certification efforts. These efforts have also

been closely linked with Timor-Leste's active engagement in ASEAN transport integration mechanisms.

1.4 A significant milestone was achieved with the successful hosting of the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA) from 26 May to 4 June 2025, which demonstrated the State's commitment to institutional coordination and continuous improvement.

2. SAFETY OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

2.1 With continued technical assistance from COSCAP-SEA and development partners, Timor-Leste has strengthened its capabilities across key ICAO oversight areas, including Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA), Personnel Licensing (PEL), Flight Operations (OPS), Airworthiness (AIR), and SSP implementation.

2.2 Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport (WPDL) remains Timor-Leste's only ICAO-certified aerodrome. A major development occurred in April 2025 with the ground-breaking ceremony for the comprehensive redevelopment of WPDL. This project aims to expand terminal capacity, upgrade airside infrastructure, and enhance compliance with ICAO Annex 14 Standards, positioning the airport as a regional gateway capable of accommodating projected traffic growth. Certification of Rota do Sândalo International Airport is in progress, with Aero Dili currently operating Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft on domestic routes.

2.3 In May 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Indonesia enabled the successful certification of Aero Dili's A320 and A319 fleet, further enhancing Timor-Leste's compliance with Annexes 6 and 8.

2.4 Timor-Leste has concluded and ratified bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASAs) with the majority of COSCAP-SEA Member States. A key development includes the ASA with Malaysia, signed and ratified in 2024, which facilitated the launch of direct services between Kuala Lumpur and Dili.

2.5 Oversight functions have expanded with the certification of two foreign Aircraft Maintenance Organizations (AMOs) - FL Technic and Garuda Maintenance Facility GMF- Indonesia and the certification of two national ground handling service providers. These developments have significantly enhanced the quality of maintenance training and ground operations, contributing to improved service standards and overall aviation safety.

2.6 Ongoing collaboration with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has supported regulatory modernization. Notably, procedures for the validation and conversion of foreign personnel licenses have been adopted in accordance with ICAO Annex 1 Standards.

2.7 Timor-Leste maintains active membership and financial contributions to ICAO, COSCAP-SEA, and CASP-AP, reinforcing its commitment to international civil aviation governance.

3. ASEAN TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK READINESS

3.1 Following the completion of the 2024 ASEAN Self-Assessment on Land and Air Transport, Timor-Leste confirmed its readiness to accede to the ASEAN Framework Agreement on the Multilateral Agreements on Air Services (MAAS, MAFLPAS, MAFLAFS).

3.2 Timor-Leste has integrated all ICAO Annexes into its Civil Aviation Safety Regulations (CASRs) and aims to ratify relevant ASEAN transport protocols by the end of 2025 as part of its regional integration roadmap.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Timor-Leste expresses appreciation for the continued support provided by COSCAP-SEA, ICAO, and regional development partners in strengthening its aviation safety oversight systems.

4.2 The recent appointment of a new Board of Directors at the Civil Aviation Authority of Timor-Leste (AACTL) in April 2025 is expected to bring renewed momentum to regulatory reform and strategic international engagement.

4.3 Looking forward, national priorities include full implementation of the SSP/SMS frameworks, enhanced training for technical inspectors, expansion of aerodrome certification, and further alignment with ASEAN transport commitments. Timor-Leste reaffirms its dedication to the COSCAP-SEA Programme and looks forward to continued collaboration through capacity-building initiatives, technical assistance missions, and regional peer learning.

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