

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

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

Information Paper 4 (IP-4)

Agenda Item 9: Presentation from Members States

Updates the status of aviation sector in Cambodia

(Presented by Cambodia)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides an overview of the current state of the aviation sector in Cambodia, focusing on safety, infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives. Key focus areas include the preparation for the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP- CMA), implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) and Safety Management System (SMS), improvements in aerodrome certification and Air Navigation Services (ANS), capacity-building needs, voluntary safety reporting mechanisms, and emerging risk mitigation strategies.

The paper highlights progress and challenges and proposes recommendations for further enhancement. Notable advancements include preliminary audits and corrective actions for USOAP-CMA, integration of safety management practices, and infrastructure developments like airport expansions and modernized navigation systems.

Challenges remain in ensuring compliance and effective oversight. The paper emphasizes the need for ongoing capacity-building, international collaboration, and strategies to address emerging risks. Regional cooperation is essential for a robust, safe, and efficient aviation sector in Cambodia and across COSCAP-SEA Member States.

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

- a) Enhance capacity-building support.
- b) Strengthen international collaboration.
- c) Develop strategic frameworks to address emerging risks.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** Cambodian aviation sector experienced significant growth in the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the pandemic severely impacted operations, leading to a decline. Post-pandemic, the sector has demonstrated resilience, gradually returning to growth with year-on-year improvements. This paper provides an overview of the current state of aviation

in Cambodia, with a focus on safety, infrastructure, and capacity-building initiatives.

- 1.2. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the progress achieved, identify key challenges, and propose actionable recommendations for further enhancement of Cambodia's aviation industry. The key focus areas addressed in this paper include the preparation for the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP-CMA), the implementation of the State Safety Programme (SSP) and Safety Management System (SMS), improvements in aerodrome certification and Air Navigation Services (ANS), capacity-building needs, voluntary safety reporting mechanisms, and emerging risk mitigation strategies.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. USOAP-CMA Preparation

Cambodia has just received an ICAO ICVM audit from 4-12 June 2025 covering audited areas of LEG, ORG, OPS, ANS and AGA during which it made substantial progress, and through primary result showing that the Cambodia's EI increased from 52.76% to 67.88%. If this EI remains unchanged until official final report issued, it means that Cambodia EI overpasses APAC EI which is now at 66.6% and it is close to global EI which is at 70.3%. Despite these achievements, challenges remain in ensuring sustained compliance and oversight. To further strengthen audit readiness, Cambodia is implementing enhanced training programs and establishing dedicated oversight teams.

2.2. SSP/SMS Implementation

The State Safety Programme (SSP) and Safety Management System (SMS) remain key priorities for Cambodia. Significant progress has been made in integrating safety management practices into daily operations, all service providers have implemented SMS for improving risk management frameworks and addressing operational vulnerabilities. Challenges such as resource constraints and stakeholder engagement variability continue to hinder full implementation. Lessons learned are being applied to refine safety protocols and improve Cambodia's overall aviation safety performance.

2.3. Aerodrome and ANS Improvements

Cambodia has undertaken notable advancements in aerodrome certification and Air Navigation Services (ANS), with airports achieving higher safety standards by upgrading navigation systems to enhance operational efficiency and expanding airport facilities to accommodate rising passenger traffic such as Siem Reap Angkor International Airport have been operated and the new airport in Phnom Penh that will be operating very soon is Techo International Airport. These modernization efforts have led to improved airport operations and air traffic management, strengthening Cambodia's aviation infrastructure.

2.4. Capacity-Building Needs

Assessments have revealed training and resource gaps requiring continuous capacity-building initiatives. Collaborative programs supported by COSCAP- SEA and ICAO as well as EU-ASEAN SCOPE APP Support to development of Civil Aviation Master Plan of Cambodia remain instrumental in addressing these gaps. Cambodia is actively exploring targeted training programs for aviation personnel, and strategic partnerships with international aviation organizations. Capacity-building efforts will ensure a skilled workforce and reinforce compliance with global aviation standards.

2.5. Voluntary Safety Reporting and Emerging Risk Mitigation

Cambodia has introduced voluntary safety reporting mechanisms to strengthen proactive risk identification and mitigation through Mandatory and Voluntary Occurrence Reporting Procedures and on the way of establishing the Occurrence Reporting Regulation. Additionally, emerging risks in aviation safety are being monitored, with structured mitigation strategies in place. These proactive measures aim to improve overall aviation safety, allowing for swift responses to potential threats.

2.6. Success Stories and Best Practices

Several success stories stemming from COSCAP-SEA and ICAO-supported programs as well as EU-ASEAN highlight the effectiveness of collaborative efforts. Key case studies emphasize innovative strategies and operational improvements. Cambodia is actively exploring regional cooperation with other Member States to facilitate knowledge sharing, benchmarking, and adoption of best practices in aviation safety and operational efficiency.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. Cambodia has made considerable progress in advancing aviation safety, infrastructure, and capacity-building efforts. Despite achievements, compliance and oversight challenges persist, requiring sustained intervention.

3.2. Proposed Actions for COSCAP-SEA Steering Committee:

- a) Enhanced capacity-building support, with continued training initiatives.
- b) Strengthened international collaboration to leverage expertise and resources.
- c) Development of strategic frameworks to address emerging risks proactively.

3.3. The importance of regional cooperation cannot be overstated, as it remains critical in achieving a robust, safe, and efficient aviation sector in Cambodia and across COSCAP-SEA Member States.

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