International Civil Aviation Organization
Asia and Pacific Office

The 23rd Southeast Asia Regional Aviation Safety Team (SEARAST/23) and National Coordinators Meeting

(Bangkok, Thailand, **21 – 22 January 2025***)*

Agenda Item 2:   Updates from the APAC Ministerial Conference (Delhi Declaration) and 59th DGCA Conference

UPDATES ON DGCA 59 – SAFETY ACTION ITEMS

(Presented by the CTA)

SUMMARY

Philippines hosted the 59th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation for the Asia and Pacific Region in Cebu Island from October 14 to 18, 2024. During the conference, a total of 79 Discussion Papers (DPs) were reviewed, including 19 Papers under Agenda on Safety in Item 3.

Based on the scope of COSCAP-SEA, this Working Paper (WP) provides a summary of the twelve (12) Safety outcomes identified as actionable items, presented during the conference.

The Meeting is invited to consider these actions as outlined below.

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1.   **INTRODUCTION**

1.1   The 59th Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Region was held in the island of Cebu on October 14-18, 2024. The theme for the conference was Shaping the Future of Aviation: Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive.

1.2   The Conference was attended by 350 participants, from 37 States/Administrations, 11 International Organizations and 8 national and 12 international sponsors/exhibitors and deliberated for four days in ten Agenda Items including Safety. There were 79 Discussion Papers presented, and 57 Information Papers submitted]All Discussion and Information Papers along with final report are available at website https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/2024-DGCA59.aspx.

1.3   Under the Safety Agenda Item there have been 19 Discussion Papers and 17 Information Papers producing about 12 Action Items for implementation by all stake holders.

2.   **DISCUSSION**

2.1   Agenda Item 3 on Safety Enhancements was moderated by Capt. Victor Liu – Director General of Civil Aviation, Department of Civil Aviation, Hong Kong China. The Conference derived Forty-Nine (49) Action Items in total, out of which twelve (12) were on Safety.

2.2   The List of relevant Action Items of the Conference is provided in **Appendix A** to this paper and the Action Items related to Safety Agenda Item are 59/2-59/13 which are highlighted for review by the Meeting and urge States/Administrations to take follow action for the effective implementation of all of them.

2.3   The meeting requested APRAST to consider adopting applicable Action Items, if any, to amend their Work Programmes to support States/Administrations in their implementation.

3.   ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The Meeting is invited to:

    a) Note the Safety Action Items 59/2 to 59/13 in the **Appendix A**; and

    b) Discuss and agree with any related matters in providing support on their implementation.

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UPDATES ON DGCA 59 – SAFETY ACTION ITEMS

Appendix A

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
**Agenda Item 3 - Aviation Safety**		
DP/3/1	Action Item 59/2	Acknowledging the significance of ICAO SAFE Funds for implementation support of safety projects to States/Administrations, the Conference urged *donors to continue with and enhance voluntary contributions.*
DP/3/2 DP/3/5	Action Item 59/3	Recognizing the significance of data sharing in the Region to enhance safety, the Conference encouraged States/ Administrations to: 1. enhance cooperation in data collection and usage for monitoring progress of the NASP and NANP; 2. identify and share types of data in line with the development of data protection schemes; 3. explore opportunities for collaboration and participation in the regional data-sharing initiatives; and 4. encourage the sharing of safety data and safety information experiences and lessons learned from various data sharing initiatives.

DP/3/3	Action Item 59/4	Based on the recognized elements of safety promotion, the Conference encouraged:
		
		1. States/Administrations to:
		  a) identify and address the specific challenges that authorities may face in effectively implementing the safety promotion component of Annex 19.
		  b) develop guidelines for selecting safety promotion topics, methods of prioritizing and methods of measuring effectiveness.
		  c) emphasize the importance of securing sufficient human resources and appropriate tools to support effective safety promotion; and
		
		2. EASA to share its safety promotion methodology at the next meeting of the ICAO Safety Management Panel (SMP).

DP/3/4	Action Item 59/5	Recognizing the value of the IFALPA Accredited Accident Investigation scheme in the management of safety occurrences, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to consider the use of IFALPA-related programs and tools for the promotion of positive safety culture.
DP/3/6 DP/3/10 DP/3/11 DP/3/13 DP/3/17	Action Item 59/6	Acknowledging the significance of adopting best practices to enhance safety, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to share experience through ICAO and appropriate platforms on: 1. recruiting and retaining qualified technical personnel, ideally following guidance on ICAO NGAP concept.

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Appendix A

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
DP/3/19		2. implementation of SSPs. 3. use of autonomous vehicle technology in airport operations. 4. effective mitigation of risks arising from unauthorized kite flying, laser, and drones. 5. effective oversight into the transport of dangerous goods by air; and 6. integration of AI technologies in aviation.

DP/3/7	Action Item 59/7	Recognizing the safety risks of turbulence encounters, the Conference encouraged:
		
		1. States/Administrations and industry to:
		
		   a) share experiences and best practices related to turbulence encounters.
		
		   b) make necessary arrangements to improve the submission and availability of air-reports including special air-reports containing turbulence information; and
		
		2. ICAO and States/Administrations to organize workshops/webinars in the Asia/Pacific Region regarding turbulence encounters.

DP/3/8	Action Item 59/8	Noting the guidance provided by the IATA Safety Leadership Charter, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to consider using the IATA Safety Leadership Charter as strong evidence of an airline commitment to safety leadership and positive safety culture.
DP/3/9	Action Item 59/9	Acknowledging the initiatives by international organizations in assessing positive safety culture, the Conference recommended States/Administrations to consider adopting the six categories of positive safety culture indicators in the assessment and promotion of safety culture as suggested in DGCA – 59/DP/3/9.
DP/3/12	Action Item 59/10	Noting the importance of inspector competency, the Conference urged States/Administrations to consider development of advanced training programs, supplementing to existing courses and enhance required facilities in ATOs.
DP/3/14	Action Item 59/11	Recognizing the vital role of turbo-prop operations for connectivity in the region, the Conference encouraged stakeholders to provide the necessary support for its safe and resilient growth.
DP/3/15	Action Item 59/12	Recognizing the Flight Safety Foundation's (FSF) ongoing safety projects, including the Airworthiness Needs Analysis, focusing on continuing airworthiness, and the critical importance of accuracy and analysis, the Conference invited FSF to present their findings at the next AP-RAST meeting.

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Appendix A

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
DP/3/16	Action Item 59/13	Acknowledging the developments in advanced air mobility (AAM) and complex unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operations, the Conference invited States/Administrations to consider participating in the meeting of Asia-Pacific Regulators on AAM and UAS.
Agenda Item 8 - Technical and Regional Cooperation		
DP/8/1	Action Item 59/35	Noting the activities and achievements of APAC Flight Procedure Programme, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to join the FPP as Active/User States.
DP/8/2	Action Item 59/36	To address extra-budgetary priorities in ICAO's triennial work programme, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations and international organizations to offer seconded experts to the ICAO Asia/Pacific offices (Bangkok, Beijing and Nadi).
DP/8/3 DP/8/5 DP/8/8 DP/8/9	Action Item 59/37	Noting the role of Regional Training Cooperation Framework (RTCF) in the development of technical human resources, the Conference invited States/Administrations to: 1. join RTCF; 2. encourage their respective civil aviation training/academic organizations and industry to participate in the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Aviation Training Symposium in Singapore in July 2025; and 3. nominate prospective instructors, especially female candidates for the Train-the-Trainer Programme.
DP/8/4	Action Item 59/38	To continue the support for PSIDS-focused ICAO activities and ICAO PSIDS Liaison Office operations, the Conference encouraged States/Administrations to: 1. continue to provide financial support; 2. provide suitably qualified experts; and 3. provide on-the-job training opportunities for PSIDS personnel following completion of ICAO training courses.
DP/8/6	Action Item 59/39	Noting the need to develop and deploy implementation support and capacity development activities that can address challenges faced by the PSIDS, the Conference urged: 1. ICAO and States/Administrations to collaborate in the development of a sub-regional strategic plan of actions to guide ICAO-coordinated, PSIDS-focused activities and the continuous development and update of the PSIDS Liaison Office work programme; and 2. PSIDS, partner States/Administrations and organizations, to participate in annual meetings to strengthen cooperation, exchange of information and experiences, and align efforts to advance the aviation sector in the Pacific region.

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Appendix A

Discussion Paper No.	Action Item	Description
DP/8/7	Action Item 59/40	Noting the role of the private sector in developing civil aviation and air transport industries, the Conference encouraged the formation of PPPs to collaborate and align public and private objectives to continue supporting State fulfilment of international obligations.
Agenda Item 9 – Updates		
Presentation Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi)	Action Item 59/41	The Conference encouraged States/Administrations to: 1. continue to prioritize efforts towards the realization of the Beijing Declaration commitments. 2. collaborate to achieve the commitments of the Delhi Declaration. 3. share implementation status of Beijing and Delhi Declaration at APANPIRG, RASG-APAC and RASCF Meetings.
DP/9/1	Action Item 59/42	Noting the progress of work of the Asia Pacific Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) Committee (AAC) and the request for an extension, the Conference agreed to a two-year extension of the AAC and encouraged States/Administration to support their ANSPs in contributing towards the work of the AAC.
DP/9/4	Action Item 59/45	The Conference encouraged States/Administrations to: 1. ratify the protocols amending Articles 50 and 56 of the Chicago Convention; 2. nominate a Focal Point for the Ratification of International Air Law Treaties; 3. participate in the third edition of the Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF) in London, UK from 26 to 28 November 2024, in the ICAO International Air Law Course as well as other similar events; 4. inform ICAO before **1 March 2025** of their further progress towards the ratification of international air law treaties by updating/using the DGCA tracking matrix; and 5. contact the ICAO LEB Treaty Section (treaty@icao.int) for any information or assistance with regard to ratification matters.