



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

The Tenth Meeting of the Aerodromes Operations and
Planning Sub-Group (AOP/SG/10)

Bangkok, Thailand, 10 to 14 August 2026

Agenda Item 4: Provision of AOP in the Asia/Pacific Region

REPORT ON THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC AERODROME ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP (AP-AA/WG/8)

(Presented by CHAIRPERSON OF AP-AA/WG)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Assistance Working Group (AP-AA/WG/8).

This paper relates to –

Strategic Objectives:

*A: **Safety** – Enhanced global civil aviation safety*

*B: **Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency** – Increase Capacity and improve efficiency of the global civil aviation system*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Eighth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Assistance Working Group (AP-AA/WG/8) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 to 24 April 2026. 45 participants from 11 Member States, 1 International Organization and 3 Speakers attended the Meeting.

1.2 There were 17 Working Papers, 10 Information Papers and 3 Presentations considered by the Meeting.

1.3 The full report of the meeting is posted on the ICAO APAC Office website and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.icao.int/APAC/meetingdocs?fid=38031>

1.4 **Appendices** referred to in this Working Paper carry the same Appendix numbers as those in the Report of the AP-AA/WG/8 Meeting or the relevant Working Paper presented at AP-AA/WG/8 Meeting, as applicable, for easy reference.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Some important discussions of the AP-AA/WG/8 Meeting are summarized below:

Requesting States/Administrations to Share Updates on Aerodrome-Related Information

2.2 The Secretariat presented a proposal requesting States/Administrations to share updates on aerodrome-related information as follows:

- a) International Aerodromes to be Published in the ANP;
- b) Certification of Aerodromes;
- c) Publication of the Status of Certification of Aerodromes in AIP;
- d) Implementation of the Global Reporting Format (GRF);
- e) Implementation of Aircraft Classification Rating-Pavement Classification Rating (ACR-PCR);
- f) Implementation of Airport Master Plan;
- g) Implementation of Wildlife Hazard Management Programme (WHMP); and
- h) Runway Safety Team (RST).

2.3 AP-AA/WG/8 endorsed the proposal for States/Administrations to submit the requested information to the ICAO APAC Office by the end of February each year and formulated the following Draft Conclusion for consideration by AOP/SG/10:

Draft Conclusion AP-AA/WG/8 – 1: Sharing updates on aerodrome-related information			
What: That, APAC States/Administrations be invited to submit updates on aerodrome-related information to the ICAO APAC Office by the end of February each year.		Expected impact: ☐ Political / Global ☐ Inter-regional ☐ Economic ☐ Environmental ☒ Ops/Technical	
Why: For monitoring and reporting of the implementation progress of the aerodrome design and operation provisions and key safety initiatives.		Follow-up: ☒ Required from States	
When: 14-Aug-26		Status: Draft to be adopted by Subgroup	
Who: ☒ Sub groups ☒ APAC States ☒ ICAO APAC RO ☐ ICAO HQ ☐ Other: XXXX			

Progress Report on Development of Guidance Material on Alternative Means of Compliance (AMOC) for Rescue and Firefighting (RFF) Services at Aerodrome Category 1 and 2

2.4 AP-AA/WG/8 reviewed the progress made by the Small Working Group (SWG), established under Task 7/1, in developing regional guidance material on Alternative Means of Compliance (AMOC) for Rescue and Firefighting (RFF) Services at Aerodrome Categories 1 and 2. The regional guidance material aimed to support a risk-based, outcome-focused approach that maintains safety objectives while enhancing regulatory flexibility and sustainability.

2.5 AP-AA/WG/8 noted the progress made by the SWG, including the review of State practices, FAA regulatory approaches and relevant ICAO provisions, as well as the identification of key gaps related to extinguishing agent quantities, rescue equipment and training for small aerodromes. The Meeting also noted that the next steps would focus on further State engagement, development of the regional guidance material, and agreement on the fundamental AMOC principles.

2.6 AP-AA/WG/8 endorsed the continuation of the SWG's work and invited States/Administrations to share their experiences and practices to support the development of the regional guidance material. India and Nepal agreed to join the SWG. The final draft of the Guidance Material on Alternative Means of Compliance (AMOC) for Rescue and Firefighting (RFF) Services at Aerodrome Categories 1 and 2 is expected to be presented to AP-AA/WG/9 for consideration.

Runway Safety Team (RST) and Runway Safety Go-Team

2.7 AP-AA/WG/8 noted that ten States/Administrations (China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand) had submitted responses to the ICAO APAC Office to the APAC State Letter Ref.: T 11/5.13.2 – AP111/24 (AGA) dated 3 September 2024 regarding RST questionnaire.

2.8 AP-AA/WG/8 also noted that, out of 386 aerodromes used for international operations in Asia/Pacific Region, only **215** aerodromes had established the RST.

2.9 At the request of the AP-AA/WG/8, the Secretariat re-circulated the RST Questionnaire to States/Administrations to follow up with States/Administrations that had not responded to the above ICAO APAC State Letter.

2.10 The FAA offered to provide technical experts to support future ICAO Runway Safety Go-Team activities, upon request.

Collaboration among ICAO and Other Safety Partners and Various Platforms for Assistance to States in AGA Area

2.11 AP-AA/WG/8 noted various initiatives taken by ICAO, COSCAPs, ACI and other ICAO Safety Partners in assisting Asia Pacific States to improve USOAP CMA EI, to overcome challenges associated with the certification of aerodromes and encouraged States that need AGA assistance to approach respective COSCAPs, PASO, ACI and Champion States for their assistance and support in AGA area and put additional resources and efforts to enhance EI in AGA area.

2.12 AP-AA/WG/8 requested the ICAO APAC Office to organize training courses and/or workshops on ICAO Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS), Electrical Systems/Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL), Rescue and Fire Fighting Services (RFFS), Emergency Planning and Preparedness, and Heliports to support States/Administrations in the implementation of ICAO SARPs.

AP-AA/WG Task List

2.13 AP-AA/WG/8 reviewed and updated the Task List as provided in **Appendix F** to the Report of the AP-AA/WG/8. The Working Group agreed to include 6 new tasks (Task 8/1 – 8/6) to be delivered by the Expert Group as per the timeline indicated in the Task List.

Proposal for an Amendment to Terms of Reference of AP-AA/WG

2.14 The Secretariat presented a proposal for an amendment to the current Terms of Reference (TOR) of the AP-AA/WG.

2.15 While work under the expanded scope of the TOR approved by AOP/SG/7 in July 2023 is ongoing, there is a need to address future challenges arising from the periodic amendments to ICAO Annex 14, Volumes I and II, PANS-Aerodromes (Doc 9981), and other ICAO documents related to aerodrome design and operations. The Secretariat therefore proposed amending the Terms of Reference of the AP-AA/WG to establish the Working Group on a permanent basis until dissolved by AOP/SG.

2.16 AP-AA/WG/8 supported the proposed amendment to the current Terms of Reference of the AP-AA/WG and endorsed the following Draft Decision for consideration by AOP/SG/10:

Draft Decision AP-AA/WG/8 - 2: Proposal for Amendment to AP-AA/WG's TOR		
What:	That, the Terms of Reference of the Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Assistance Working Group (AP-AA/WG) be amended as in Appendix A of AP-AA/WG/8 – WP/15.	Expected impact: ☐ Political / Global ☐ Inter-regional ☐ Economic ☐ Environmental ☒ Ops/Technical
Why:	To allow Working Group to continue its work on the on-site technical assistance to States for certification and surveillance of aerodromes, new tasks under the TOR, and to function on a permanent basis, until it is dissolved by the AOP/SG.	Follow-up: ☐ Required from States
When:	14-Aug-26	Status: Draft to be adopted by Subgroup
Who: ☒ Sub groups ☐ APAC States ☒ ICAO APAC RO ☐ ICAO HQ ☒ Other: AP-AA/WG		

Coordination Mechanism among Aviation, Land Use and Environmental Authorities

2.17 AP-AA/WG/8 discussed the need for strengthened coordination among aviation, land-use and environmental authorities to address challenges arising from unplanned development in the vicinity of aerodromes. The Meeting noted that incompatible land use, urban encroachment, and environmental factors such as noise sensitivity and wildlife hazards may adversely affect aviation safety and operational efficiency, particularly in the absence of structured coordination mechanisms.

2.18 AP-AA/WG/8 agreed to establish a Small Working Group (SWG), led by India and supported by Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and ACI, to develop regional guidance on coordination mechanisms among aviation, land-use and environmental authorities. The proposed regional guidance aimed to promote the integration of aviation considerations into land-use and environmental planning processes. The Meeting also agreed to include this activity in the AP-AA/WG Task List as Task 8/1.

Information Papers and Presentations

2.19 The following Information Papers and Presentations were considered by AP-AA/WG/8:

- 1) Certification of Joint User Aerodromes in Pakistan (IP/03);
- 2) Pakistan's Experience with Conduct and Acceptance of Task and Resource Analysis (TRA) for Certified Aerodromes (IP/04);
- 3) Thailand's Experience on USOAP Audit (IP/05);
- 4) Safety Oversight Functions at Joint User Defence Airports in India (IP/06);
- 5) Safety Management System - Safety Culture In Aerodrome Operations (IP/07);
- 6) Safety Implications of Runway Marking Overpainting on Rubber-Contaminated Surfaces: Resultant Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Risks and Maintenance Considerations (IP/08);
- 7) Aerodrome Safety Vis-As-Vis Environmental Protection (IP/09);
- 8) Maldives' ICAO USOAP CMA Audit Experience (IP/10);
- 9) IATP Aircraft Recovery Pool & Aircraft Recovery Preparedness (PPT/01);
- 10) Disabled Aircraft Recovery - Introduction and Lessons Learned from ARFF Trainings (PPT/02); and

- 11) Aircraft Recovery - Lessons Learned, Risk Trends and Preparedness Strategies (PPT/03)

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) review and adopt the **Draft Conclusion** and **Draft Decision** (AP-AA/WG/8–1 to 8–2) presented in Paragraphs 2.3 and 2.16; and
- c) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

— — — — —

Asia/Pacific Aerodrome Assistance Working Group (AP-AA/WG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE
(Proposal for Amendment to AP-AA/WG's TOR)

Objective:

The main objective of the establishment of AP-AA/WG is to realize the commitment of the “Beijing Declaration” - to certify all aerodromes used for international operations by 2020, support the certification of heliports used for international operations, fulfil the objectives of the AOP/SG to address identified AOP deficiencies listed in APANPIRG database for their resolution and to improve the AGA EI resulting from USOAP CMA activities and meet Global Aviation Safety Plan 2023—2025 targets.

Scope of works:

To meet the above objective the AP-AA/WG shall carry out the following tasks:

- (1) **Conduct** a survey on States which have not completed the implementation of aerodrome certification for all international aerodromes, with an AGA EI below 75%, and/or AOP air navigation deficiencies to establish the requirements for assistance;
- (2) **Review** the air navigation deficiencies in the field of AOP (as listed in the APANPIRG air navigation deficiencies database) and assist the concerned State(s) to develop corrective action plans;
- (3) **Assist** States which have not implemented aerodrome certification, with non-satisfactory aerodrome certification related PQs, and/or aerodrome certification related air navigation deficiencies to establish an aerodrome certification process including developing specific operating regulations, training programme and training plan, guidance material for all technical areas, aerodrome inspector handbook with checklists, procedures for accepting non-compliances, and surveillance programme, safety oversight of ground handling, establishing runway safety programme, and implementation of Global Reporting Format (GRF) using existing platforms, such as COSCAPs, PASO and introducing a new methodology, such as, Asia Pacific Aerodrome Assistance Go-Team;
- (4) **Assist** States which have not implemented heliport certification to establish a heliport certification process, including developing specific operating regulations, training programme and training plan, guidance material for all technical areas, heliport inspector handbook with checklists, procedures for accepting non-compliances, and surveillance programme;
- (5) **Assist** in conducting seminars/workshops/trainings for the aerodrome regulatory and aerodrome operator staff in APAC region; provide experts to deliver presentations at the seminars/workshops in aerodrome and heliport certification, implementation of Safety Management System (SMS) and other technical areas such as aerodrome emergency planning, runway safety, ground handling, etc.; and
- (6) **Maintain** the register of AGA Experts nominated by States and Industry Partners in accordance with *Conclusion APANPIRG/33/3 - Assistance to APAC States that require assistance in AGA area including certification and surveillance of aerodromes.*

Composition: The AP-AA/WG would be composed of subject matter experts nominated by APAC States/Administrations and International Organizations, familiar with Annex 14, PANS-Aerodromes

(Doc 9981) and its guidance materials and in particular on aerodrome certification procedures and ICAO USOAP CMA.

Working Methods: As far as practicable, the work should be carried out through electronic correspondences and web-conferences. The Working Group will hold at least one face-to-face meeting a year. The AP-AA/WG may be assembled on need basis to assist States. On-site assistance may be provided to States, if required, on cost-recovery basis through Asia Pacific Aerodrome Assistance Go-Team platform. The ICAO APAC Office would do necessary coordination. The ICAO COSCAPs will support the implementation of Tasks.

Time frame: The tenure of the AP-AA/WG would last until September 2026 it is dissolved by the AOP/SG.

— — — — —

AP-AA/WG TASK LIST (Updated at AP-AA/WG/8)

	ACTION ITEM/PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME	STATUS	REMARKS
1/1	Develop a survey on States which have not completed the implementation of aerodrome certification for all international aerodromes, with an AGA EI below 75% and/or AOP air navigation deficiencies to establish the requirements for assistance	India to lead Bangladesh, Nepal and Thailand to assist	December 2019	Closed	From TOR Conclusion AOP/SG/4-8 agreed to circulate the survey to APAC States / Administrations Circulated through SL AN 3/3 – AP258/20 (AGA) dated 18 December 2020 Interim results presented in AP-AA/WG/3 WP/12 [Continued in Task 3/1]
1/2	Review the status of air navigation deficiencies in the field of AOP (as listed in the APANPIRG air navigation deficiencies database) and assist the concerned State(s) to develop corrective action plans	States COSCAPs to support	Continuous	Open	From TOR
1/3	To assist States which have not completed the implementation of aerodrome certification for all international aerodromes and/or with an AGA EI below 75% in establishing an aerodrome certification process, develop a set of	Thailand to lead (c & d) Philippines – item (c) Bangladesh – item (d) India – item (e) & (f) Nepal – item (g) Malaysia (lead), India and Nepal – item (a), (b) & (h)	January 2020	Closed – Item (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) & (h) Closed - Item (d) and (h)	From TOR Tasks 1/3 (a), (b), (c) and (g) completed and documents are posted on APAC Website https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/eDocs.aspx Agreed by Decision AOP/SG/4-7 SL AN 3/3 – AP257/20 (AGA) dated 18 December 2020

	ACTION ITEM/PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME	STATUS	REMARKS
	generic documents, such as: (a) specific operating regulations; (b) organization structure of the aerodrome regulatory unit; (c) aerodrome certification procedure manual; (d) generic aerodrome inspector handbook with checklists; (e) generic template of the aerodrome manual; (f) training programme and training plan; (g) procedures for accepting non compliances; and (h) surveillance programme.	Secretariat to support Request support from TCB/IPAV Thailand – item (d) Malaysia (lead), India and Nepal - item (h)	May 2021 December 2021		Task 1/3 (a), (b), (d), (e), & (f) completed and documents are posted on APAC Website https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/eDocs.aspx Task 1/3 (h) completed (AP-AA/WG/4 – WP/08) and document will be posted after approval by AOP/SG/6 on APAC Website https://www.icao.int/APAC/Pages/eDocs.aspx
3/1	For the aerodrome assistance survey questionnaire: (a) Recirculate to States / Administration which have yet to respond (b) Conduct analysis and recommend way forward	Secretariat India and Nepal	May 2021 December 2021	Closed	Task 3/1 (a): SL Ref.: AN 3/3 - AP075/21 (AGA), dated 5 May 2021 Task 3/2 (b): AP-AA/WG/4-WP/09 Task 3/1 (a) & (b) completed.

	ACTION ITEM/PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME	STATUS	REMARKS
4/1	Develop Generic Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual	Malaysia (Lead), India	December 2022	Completed	AP-AA/WG/5-WP/09 Task 4/1 completed.
4/2	Develop Generic Exemption Policy and Procedure Manual	Australia (Lead), Nepal	December 2022	Completed	AP-AA/WG/5-WP/10 Task 4/2 completed.
AP-AA/WG/5 [13 – 16 March 2023]					
5/1	Develop a Generic Guidance for the evaluation of Aerodrome SMS	Australia, Maldives, Thailand (Lead)	First draft GM by December 2023	Completed	AP-AA/WG/6-WP/06
AP-AA/WG/6 [02 – 05 April 2024]					
6/1	Share State's experiences of operation and maintenance of aerodromes without runway side stripe marking at AP-AA/WG/7	Lao PDR to share experiences at AP-AA/WG/7	AP-AA/WG/8 AP-AA/WG/9		
6/2	Review and improvise the RST Questionnaire presented through AP-AA/WG/6-WP/07	Thailand (Lead), Pakistan, Philippines, Malaysia, Maldives, India, Cambodia	End of May 2024.	Completed	Incorporated in the Final Report of AP-AA/WG/6 Reminder to States.
6/3	Share State's experiences, and mechanism established to resolve conflicts between Aviation Authorities and Environmental and/or Land Use Authorities.	Pakistan to share its experience for land use vis-à-vis aviation safety at Islamabad Airport. India (TBC)	AP-AA/WG/7	Completed	AP-AA/WG/7 – IP/09 (Pakistan)
6/4	Share State's Challenges and Mechanism established for certification of Military Aerodromes used for international Operations.	India and Malaysia to share its challenges and proposed/possible solution derived for certification of Military	AP-AA/WG/7	Completed	AP-AA/WG/7 – WP/13 (Malaysia) AP-AA/WG/8 – IP/06 (India)

	ACTION ITEM/PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME	STATUS	REMARKS
		Aerodromes used for international Operations			
6/5	Share State's Experience, challenges and/or practices for safety oversight of Ground Handling Services.	India, Malaysia and Thailand to share experiences and practices at AP-AA/WG/7	AP-AA/WG/7	Completed	AP-AA/WG/7 – WP/15 (Malaysia) AP-AA/WG/7 – IP/06 (India) AP-AA/WG/7 – IP/12 (Thailand)
AP-AA/WG/7 [27 – 30 May 2025]					
7/1	Develop Regional Guidance on Alternative Acceptable Means of Compliance with Regard to RFF Services for Aerodrome Category 1 and 2.	Fiji (Lead), Maldives, Wellington Airport (New Zealand), Philippines, Solomon Islands, USA (TBC), ACI	By AP-AA/WG/9, Progress update at AP-AA/WG/8	Ongoing	AP-AA/WG/8 – WP/09
7/2	Sharing experience on USOAP Preparation	Thailand, Maldives, New Zealand (TBC)	AP-AA/WG/8	Completed	AP-AA/WG/8 – IP/05 (Thailand) AP-AA/WG/8 – IP/10 (Maldives)
7/3	Aerodrome SMS Workshop to address USOAP CMA PQs related to SSP and SMS in conjunction with AP-AA/WG/8	COSCAP-SEA (Lead), USA, India, Pakistan	AP-AA/WG/8 2027		
7/4	Addressing Issues related to Certification of Military Aerodromes used for international Operations.	Workshop on Civil/Military Cooperation in Aerodrome Operations	In 2026		
7/5	Review Appendix A to AP-AA/WG/7 - WP/18 - Guideline for Runway Classification and	India (Lead), Pakistan, Thailand, Philippines	By 15 June 2025 First online Meeting on 5		

	ACTION ITEM/PLANNED ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIME FRAME	STATUS	REMARKS
	amend/update as necessary		June 2025 at 13:00 BKK Time AP-AA/WG/9		
7/6	Pakistan's experience with conduct and acceptance of Task and Resource Analysis (TRA) for Certified Aerodromes	Pakistan	AP-AA/WG/8	Completed	AP-AA/WG/8 – IP0/4 (Pakistan)
AP-AA/WG/8 [21 – 24 Apr 2026]					
8/1	Develop Regional Guidance on coordination mechanism among aviation authority, land use authority and environmental authority	India (Lead), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, ACI	2028		
8/2	Amend and update Generic Aerodrome Inspector Handbook with Checklists	Thailand	AP-AA/WG/9		
8/3	Pakistan's experience in the certification of ground handling	Pakistan	AP-AA/WG/9		
8/4	Malaysia's experience in the certification of heliport	Malaysia	AP-AA/WG/9		
8/5	Safety requirements for helicopter landing area	India	AP-AA/WG/9		
8/6	State Action Plan on implementation of new ICAO OLS concept	Pakistan	AP-AA/WG/9		