

Strengthening Regional Cooperation in Accident and Incident Investigation: Experience from ENCASIA

Mario Colavita, *Asia-Pacific Section Manager*
Dept. of International Cooperation
SMSGO Directorate

Your safety is our mission.

Background

- ICAO Annex 13 encourages cooperation among Contracting States in accident and incident investigation.
- Regional cooperation helps address differences in:
 - resources,
 - technical expertise,
 - infrastructure,
 - investigation workload.
- Cooperation can strengthen national capabilities while preserving the independence of each investigation authority.

What is ENCASIA?

- European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities.
- Established under Regulation (EU) No 996/2010.
- Composed of heads of national civil aviation Safety Investigation Authorities of EU Member States, or aviation sector in case of multimodal authorities
- Operates as a decentralised cooperation network, not a centralised investigation authority.
- Investigation responsibilities remain with independent national authorities.



How ENCASIA works

Structured Framework for Cooperation

ENCASIA supports cooperation through:

- Plenary Meetings
- Dedicated Working Groups
- Voluntary exchange of expertise and experience

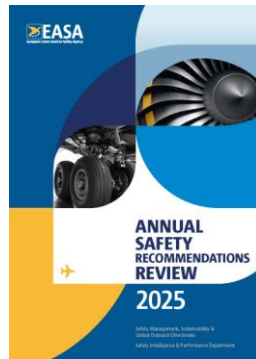
Status of EASA, Permanent Observer



Operating Model

Key areas covered:

- *Mutual Support* and cooperation
- training
- Identification of *Best Practices*
- Establishment of *Peer Reviews*
- Common management and follow-up of safety recommendations
- family assistance and communication
- ICAO-related coordination-



Practical Mutual Support

How ENCASIA Supports Investigation Authorities

- Facilitates **mutual assistance** between authorities.
- Helps authorities access **specialised expertise** not always available nationally.
- Supports response to **major or complex investigations**.
- Enables sharing of:
 - technical knowledge,
 - experienced investigators,
 - tools and good practices,
 - training opportunities.
- Complements national capability and strengthens regional resilience.

Why Structured Regional Cooperation Matters

Value of Regional Cooperation

Experience from ENCASIA shows that structured cooperation:

- supports authorities with different levels of resources
- provides access to specialised expertise not always available nationally
- strengthens resilience of the regional investigation system
- complements national capabilities
- preserves the independence of the authority responsible for the investigation
- consistent with the principles reflected in the ICAO Manual on Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organization (Doc 9946) and ongoing discussions on ICMs within the AIG Panel

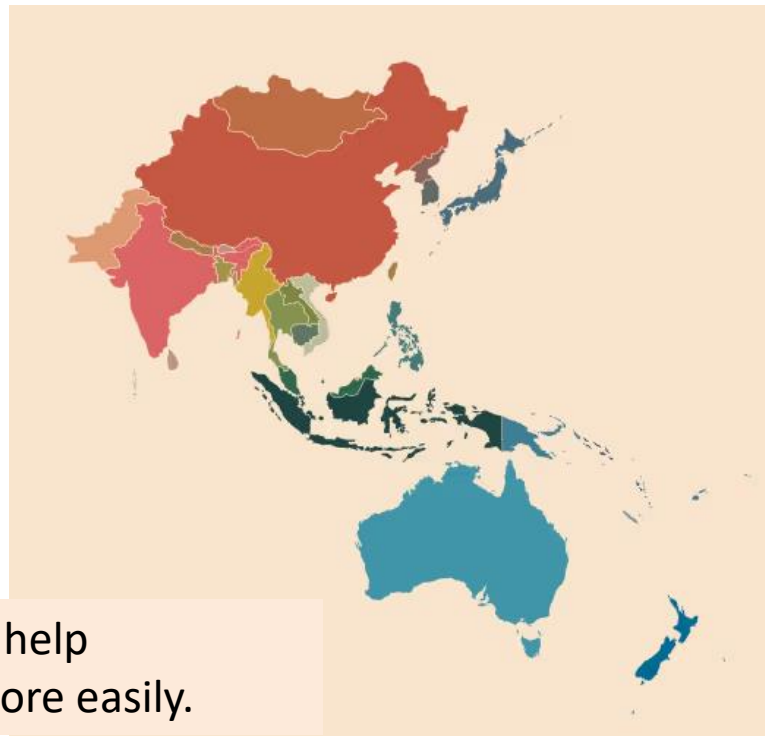
Relevance for the Asia-Pacific Region

Asia-Pacific Context

The Asia-Pacific has:

- a large geographical scale,
- diverse aviation systems,
- varying investigation structures,
- significant differences in resources and technical capabilities.

Flexible and practical cooperation mechanisms can help authorities identify expertise and obtain support more easily.



Opportunities for APAC-AIG

Possible Areas for Further Strengthening

Building on APAC-AIG's existing framework, cooperation could be further enhanced in:

- sharing specialised expertise and resources,
- rapid mutual support for major or complex investigations,
- regional training and competency development,
- voluntary peer-to-peer exchanges,
- sharing guidance and lessons learned,
- cooperation on safety recommendations, family assistance and communication,
- regional coordination on matters of common ICAO interest.

Conclusion

- ENCASIA demonstrates how practical regional cooperation can strengthen accident and incident investigation capability.
- APAC-AIG already plays an important role in regional cooperation and capacity building.
- Further strengthening should:
 - build on existing arrangements,
 - reflect Asia-Pacific needs and institutional realities,
 - focus on practical areas of greatest added value.

Thank you!



easa.europa.eu/connect



Your safety is our mission.

An Agency of the European Union 