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International Civil Aviation Organization

Fourteenth Meeting of the Air Traffic Management Sub-Group (ATM/SG/14) of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 – 7 August 2026

Agenda Item 6: ATM Coordination and Implementation

6.4: ATS Route Development

ESTABLISHMENT OF ATS ROUTE L770

(Presented by Lao PDR and Thailand)

SUMMARY

This paper presents establishment of new unidirectional northbound RNAV 2 ATS route L770 (NAN–SAGAG) connecting Thailand, Lao PDR, and China, referred to as MEKONG 02 in the latest version of the *Asia/Pacific Region ATS Route Catalogue*, to accommodate increasing air traffic between the Bangkok and Kunming FIRs. ATS route L770 will be established on AIRAC 3 September 2026, reducing flight distance and improving operational efficiency. Its implementation also serves as the first step to establish parallel route structure supplementing ATS route A581.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In order to accommodate expected traffic increase within the APAC region, China, Lao PDR and Thailand pursued establishment of parallel route structure supplementing ATS route A581, connecting Southeast Asia to Central and Western China.

1.2 The initiative was discussed in detail during the first Airspace Management Coordination Meeting among China, Lao PDR and Thailand (24 – 25 June 2024, Bangkok, Thailand), and subsequently discussed further during the Tenth Mekong ATM Coordination Group Meeting (MK-ATM/CG/10) (27 – 28 November 2024, Bangkok, Thailand).

1.3 Subsequently, new entry/exit waypoints and the parallel route structure were further developed in a trilateral workshop organized in Chengdu, China, on 19 – 20 March 2026.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Resulting parallel route structure from the workshop in Chengdu, China (March 2026) is depicted in **Figure 1**.

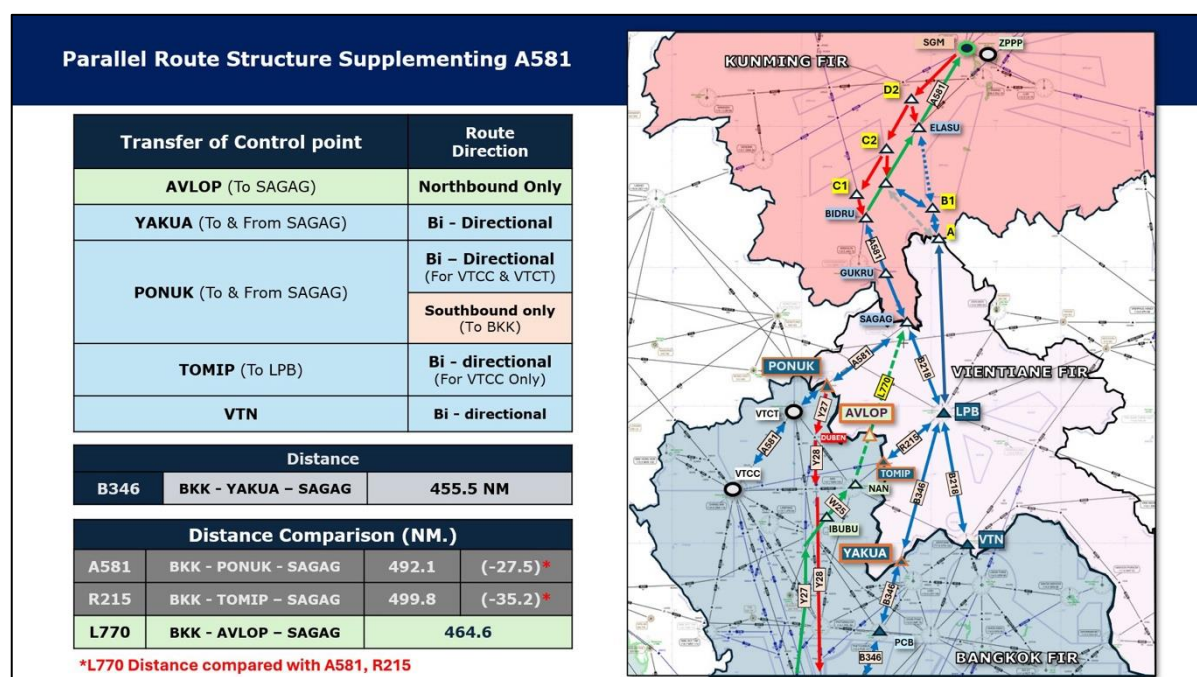


Figure 1. Parallel Route Structure Supplementing A581

2.2 Based on distance comparison in **Figure 1**, ATS route L770 would enhance Southeast Asia – China connectivity through reducing flight distance by approximately 27.5 – 35.2 NM.

2.3 The establishment of ATS route L770 has secured approval from relevant authorities in Lao PDR and Thailand and is scheduled to be established on **AIRAC 3 September 2026**.

2.4 In the meantime, Operational Letter of Agreement between Bangkok ACC – Vientiane ACC has been revised and signed on 22 July 2026. With support of appropriate ATS surveillance service, spacing parameter on ATS route L770 at the new FIR boundary waypoint between Bangkok FIR – Vientiane FIR will initially be 30 NM.

2.5 Establishment of ATS route L770 serves as the first stage of establishment of unidirectional parallel route structure supplementing ATS route A581. The next planned route structure is route structure linking LPB (Vientiane FIR) to ELASU (Kunming FIR) through new FIR boundary waypoint as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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