

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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AGENDA ITEM 3: AVIATION SAFETY

**STRENGTHENING CIVIL-MILITARY AVIATION SAFETY
COOPERATION FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT SHARED
AIRSPACE**

(Presented by Thailand)

SUMMARY

Emerging safety challenges affecting shared airspace, including GNSS interference, border-area occurrences, unmanned aircraft operations, State aviation missions, and security-related activities, require effective coordination among civil aviation, military aviation, and relevant State agencies.

Recognizing Action Item 60/16 of DGCA/60, Thailand shares its experience in developing a national cooperative framework and proposes a practical regional approach for States and Administrations to strengthen coordination mechanisms, develop safety information-sharing or information handling arrangements, and establish joint review forums or workshops to support SSP implementation while respecting national security considerations.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL-MILITARY AVIATION SAFETY COOPERATION FOR SAFE AND EFFICIENT SHARED AIRSPACE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aviation system continues to evolve with increasing traffic demand, emerging technologies, and growing complexity in airspace operations. At the same time, States are facing new safety challenges that may involve both civil aviation and security-related aviation stakeholders.

1.2 In recent years, issues such as GNSS interference, airspace-related occurrences near border areas, and other operational impacts affecting civil aviation have demonstrated the importance of maintaining effective communication, coordination, and situational awareness among relevant organizations.

1.3 Recognizing these challenges, the 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation Asia and Pacific Regions (DGCA/60) encouraged States and Administrations to strengthen civil-military aviation safety coordination, establish appropriate safety information sharing mechanisms, and enhance interoperability to support common understanding and efficient operations.

1.4 Such cooperation contributes not only to aviation safety but also to the safe and efficient use of shared airspace, supporting both civil aviation activities and national security requirements.

1.5 The interfaces between civil and military aviation activities are increasing and becoming more complex. This can impact existing hazards or create new hazards related to those interfaces that should be managed through State Safety Programme (SSP).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Effective aviation safety management relies on timely access to relevant safety information, common situational awareness, and appropriate coordination among stakeholders involved in the aviation system. Recent developments in the Asia-Pacific Region have demonstrated that certain safety issues may affect both civil aviation and security-related aviation organizations, reinforcing the importance of safety information sharing, collaborative safety management, and coordinated responses to emerging safety concerns.

2.2 While civil aviation authorities and security-related aviation organizations often operate under different mandates, both sectors share a common objective of maintaining safe airspace operations. Strengthening cooperation between these sectors may provide opportunities to identify emerging safety concerns earlier and improve coordination when operational impacts arise.

2.3 Thailand has established several mechanisms that support inter-agency cooperation, including the National Civil Aviation Safety Board (NCASB), which serves as a national forum for discussing aviation safety matters among relevant stakeholders. Thailand also publishes an Annual Safety Report to communicate national safety performance, emerging risks, and safety priorities.

2.4 These mechanisms provide a foundation for broader discussions on safety information sharing, operational coordination, and collaborative safety management between civil aviation and security-related aviation organizations.

2.5 Building upon these existing mechanisms, Thailand has identified opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between civil aviation and security-related aviation organizations, particularly in areas related to:

- a) safety information sharing and safety awareness;
- b) enhancement of situational awareness concerning emerging safety issues;

- c) coordination regarding operational impacts affecting civil aviation safety;
- d) exchange of safety trends, lessons learned, and best practices; and
- e) collaborative safety initiatives supporting State Safety Programme (SSP) implementation.

2.6 Such cooperation may contribute to a better understanding of safety issues that affect shared airspace operations while respecting national security considerations and the protection of sensitive information.

2.7 In support of these objectives, Thailand has initiated the development of a cooperative framework to strengthen civil-military aviation safety coordination. The framework includes designated focal points, regular safety coordination activities, exchange of safety information and lessons learned, collaborative workshops, and opportunities for joint safety promotion and capability development activities, as mutually agreed by participating organizations.

2.8 As part of this initiative, Thailand has initiated stakeholder engagement through existing national coordination mechanisms, including the National Civil Aviation Safety Board (NCASB), to strengthen safety information sharing and operational coordination between civil aviation and security-related aviation organizations. Initial discussions have identified opportunities to enhance common situational awareness, support safety intelligence development, and strengthen collaborative safety initiatives at the State level.

2.9 While the level of maturity and institutional arrangements may differ among States and Administrations, emerging safety issues affecting shared airspace operations are increasingly regional in nature and may involve multiple State authorities. These include GNSS interference, airspace-related occurrences near border areas, unmanned aircraft operations, State aviation missions, security-related activities, and other operational impacts that may affect civil aviation safety. In many cases, these issues require timely coordination beyond the civil aviation authority alone.

2.10 Thailand considers that a practical regional approach could focus on three common elements:

- a) the establishment or strengthening of national civil-military and inter-agency aviation safety coordination mechanisms;
- b) the development of appropriate safety information-sharing protocols or information handling arrangements; and
- c) the establishment of joint review forums, workshops, or other regular platforms to exchange safety trends, lessons learned, coordination issues, and best practices.

2.11 Such arrangements should be adapted to each State's national context, existing SSP framework, institutional structure, and applicable security and confidentiality requirements. The objective is not to require the unrestricted disclosure of sensitive or security-related information, but to enable relevant safety information to be shared at an appropriate level to support common situational awareness, safety risk management, and coordinated responses to emerging safety concerns.

2.12 Thailand believes that strengthening civil-military and inter-agency aviation safety cooperation can support SSP implementation, enhance situational awareness, and contribute to safer and more effective shared airspace operations. Thailand is ready to share its experience in developing a national cooperative framework and to work with interested States and regional partners to further exchange practical approaches on this subject.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) agree that States and Administrations should establish or strengthen national civil-military and inter-agency aviation safety coordination mechanisms, in continuation of Action Item 60/16, to support the management of safety issues affecting shared airspace operations;
- c) encourage States and Administrations to consider designating appropriate focal points and developing safety information-sharing protocols or information handling arrangements, taking into account national security considerations and the protection of sensitive information;
- d) encourage States and Administrations to consider establishing joint review forums, workshops, or other regular coordination platforms to support the exchange of safety trends, lessons learned, coordination issues, and best practices related to civil-military and inter-agency aviation safety cooperation; and
- e) agree that States and Administrations may share progress, experiences, or good practices related to the implementation of such coordination mechanisms at DGCA/62 or other appropriate regional aviation safety forums.

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