

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

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**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**STRENGTHENING AVIATION SECURITY IN AN EVOLVING
THREAT ENVIRONMENT**

(Presented by Thailand)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

The increasing prevalence of cyber threats, including GNSS spoofing and jamming, has heightened the vulnerability of air traffic service providers and other aviation entities. While these threats have not yet escalated into major security incidents, they raise significant concerns regarding both flight safety and broader aviation security.

In response, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), in collaboration with the Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Limited, has conducted workshops focused on aviation security risk assessment and security exercises. These initiatives aim to enhance risk awareness and response capabilities, support effective prioritization of limited resources, and address both existing and emerging threats.

Thailand's experience demonstrates that, while oversight and quality control mechanisms are in place, sustainable improvements in aviation security require more than guidance and training alone. Strengthening security culture through enhanced cooperation and support between regulators and operators - including through focused initiatives such as workshops - is essential to ensuring a coordinated and effective response to both existing and emerging threats to aviation safety and security.

Link to
GASeP
Global
Priority

Global Priority 1: Enhance risk awareness and response
Global Priority 2: Maintain a strong and effective
security culture
Global Priority 6: Increase cooperation and support

STRENGTHENING AVIATION SECURITY IN AN EVOLVING THREAT ENVIRONMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aviation security landscape is becoming increasingly complex, driven by both emerging and persistent threats. Against this backdrop, there is a need for regulators and operators to adopt alternative and appropriate approaches to mitigate risks arising from both emerging and persistent threats.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 In Thailand, the air traffic service providers and other relevant entities, such as the communication, navigation, and surveillance system providers, the aeronautical information services providers, and meteorological services for air navigation providers, currently place greater emphasis on safety concerns and have traditionally prioritized safety over security principles.

2.2 The current threat and risk landscape in aviation has evolved from a focus on physical attacks targeting airports and aircraft operators to an increasing prevalence of cyber-attacks. As a result,

2.3 air traffic service providers and other entities find themselves in a more vulnerable position than in the past.

2.4 This vulnerability is substantiated by documentation from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), various international working groups, and stakeholders within the aviation community, as well as reports in public media that indicate an increasing incidence of GNSS spoofing and jamming.

2.5 The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand has noted an increase in reports related to GNSS spoofing and jamming within the region. While these issues have not yet escalated to become a security incident, they nevertheless raise significant questions regarding flight safety and broader security implications. The rapid evolution of cyber threats suggests that technological advancements and relevant countermeasures may not be adequate for prevention.

2.6 In response, it is essential for both regulators and operators to thoughtfully reassess their policy frameworks, technologies, and operational procedures to effectively address these emerging threats.

2.7 However, changes in security policies and requirements designed to counteract these emerging cyber threats could have significant implications for overall security arrangements. This includes potential impacts on the development and deployment of security technologies, associated costs, implementation timelines, and security outcomes as a whole

2.8 It is also important to note that an intense focus on emerging threats should not diminish the attention given to existing vulnerabilities, such as potential attacks on aeronautical facilities. These facilities remain vulnerable as they are generally regarded as soft targets. Typically safeguarded by only baseline security measures, such as fencing and CCTV, and frequently situated outside the airport airside, these facilities are inherently more accessible and therefore more vulnerable to attack.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 Rather than solely relying on changes to security policies, requirements, and the deployment of security technologies to mitigate cyber threats, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, in collaboration with the Aeronautical Radio of Thailand Limited, acting as both the air traffic service provider and the communication, navigation and surveillance system provider, has initiated workshops focused on aviation security risk assessment and security exercises.

3.2 These workshops were conducted to enhance risk awareness and response capabilities, with a focus on prioritizing the allocation of limited resources to address both existing and emerging threats. Participants focused on identifying potential threats, evaluating the effectiveness of existing security measures, and recognizing vulnerabilities.

3.3 Reflecting on Thailand's experience, changes to security policies and requirements, together with the implementation of oversight and quality control practices over several years, have enabled improvements in security standards for air traffic service providers and other concerned entities. However, in some circumstances, security culture and awareness among all stakeholders are not sufficiently robust, and achieving sustainable security improvements may therefore remain challenging.

3.4 Thailand recognizes that the deployment of security technologies to mitigate cyber threats is not a short-term solution and that further technical information and guidance from ICAO are required before such decisions are made. Moreover, Thailand recognizes that policy, quality control, guidance and training alone are insufficient to sustain a strong security culture. Enhanced cooperation and support between regulators and operators, including through focused workshops, are therefore essential to ensuring a coordinated and effective response to both existing and emerging threats to aviation safety and security and to strengthening the sector's ability to respond to an evolving threat environment.

3.5 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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