

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

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
7 – 11 September 2026*

**AGENDA ITEM 8: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**CONTINUOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICAO ASIA AND
PACIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This discussion paper highlights ICAO Secretariat's proposal for continuous contribution to the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative. The initiative has been established to advance regional aviation capabilities by strengthening civil aviation competencies through essential training and capacity-building programmes, supporting the implementation of ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP) and promoting sustainable aviation development in alignment with global standards. Member States are invited to contribute to the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative to build capacity for a safe, secure

CONTINUOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICAO ASIA AND PACIFIC CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia and Pacific region accounts for approximately 33% of global air traffic volume with a rapid growth in air traffic and connectivity. The forecast indicates that the traffic will reach 50% in next few decades with the current growth rate. However, this growth has also highlighted varying levels of readiness among States/Administrations in meeting ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and faces critical challenges in harmonizing its expansion with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and *Global Aviation Security Plan* (GASeP) objectives.

1.2 Several Member States/Administrations, especially developing and island States face persistent challenges to implement SARPs, ICAO strategic objectives and long-term strategic goals due to resource constraints. These gaps create operational safety and security risks and impede progress toward ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative.

1.3 The idea of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative traces back to the 59th DGCA Conference in Cebu, Philippines in 2024, where regional leaders identified an urgent need for sustainable capacity building solutions. During the pivotal 'Capacity Development and Implementation' agenda item, discussions reaffirmed that some Member States continue to face challenges in implementing SARPs due to resource constraints.

1.4 In response to these needs, Malaysia, with the support of ICAO Asia and Pacific Office (APC RO), launched the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative in 2025 to support Member States/Administrations in addressing aviation capacity challenges. The Initiative focuses on human capital development, including the training of aviation safety, security and air navigation personnel, support for the implementation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), enhancement of regulatory oversight and operational compliance, and advancement of aviation sustainability objectives.

1.5 The effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative depend on the collective support and participation of Member States/Administrations and regional partners. While Malaysia provided an initial contribution of USD 500,000 in 2025 to support capacity-building and technical assistance activities through the APAC RO, the Initiative is intended as a regional mechanism supported through voluntary contributions of Member States/Administrations, industry partners, international organizations and other stakeholders. Such collective investment will enhance access to capacity development opportunities, support the implementation of ICAO Strategic Objectives and global plans, and contribute to a safe, secure, efficient and sustainable aviation system across the APAC region.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The 60th DGCA Conference endorsed the establishment of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative and recognized it as an important mechanism to support capacity development and implementation activities across the region. The Conference further encouraged States/Administrations, international organizations, and industry partners to provide voluntary financial contributions to sustain and expand the initiative.

2.2 The Conference acknowledged the increasing activities of the APAC RO to support the member States. The Conference further recognized the exemplary financial contribution of USD 500,000.00 by Malaysia and urged States/Administrations and international organizations to pledge contributions to the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative.

2.3 Contributions to the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative will be administered through ICAO's existing Capacity Building and Implementation Fund (CBIF)

framework. The fund will be managed by a Management Committee chaired by the Regional Director of APAC RO. The Committee will oversee project selection, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Activities will be reviewed quarterly, annual reports on fund utilization will be provided to contributors, and progress updates will be presented to DGCA Conference to ensure transparency, accountability and effective use of resources.

2.4 In order to support the effective implementation of ICAO SARPs, strategic objectives and goals, the fund will be used to support specific projects for APAC capacity building and technical assistance activities. APAC RO has already utilized the fund to support regional capacity building initiatives, including air traffic management (ATM) and communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) workshops, as well as Government Safety Inspector (GSI) training activities. The fund has also facilitated technical assistance and professional development opportunities. Going forward, priority will continue to be given to activities supporting developing States, including landlocked developing countries (LLDCs).

2.5 The Initiative will provide shared benefits for all States/Administrations in the APAC region by strengthening aviation safety, security, efficiency and sustainability. Enhanced implementation of ICAO SARPs and the development of technical and institutional capabilities across the region will contribute to more resilient aviation systems, improved connectivity and sustainable growth of international air transport.

2.6 The Initiative also promotes equitable access to capacity development opportunities. Through voluntary contributions from Member States/Administrations, international organizations and industry partners, the fund will support training, technical assistance and professional development activities, particularly for States with limited resources. This collaborative and sustainable approach will help strengthen regional aviation capabilities and support the consistent implementation of ICAO SARPs across the APAC region.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note the content of the discussion paper on the ICAO Asia and Pacific Capacity Development Initiative; and
- b) encourage Member States/Administrations, financial institutions, industry partners, and international organizations to pledge financial contributions to the fund for the continuity of activities under the initiative.

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