

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

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AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS
B): HOSTING THE DGCA CONFERENCE

**PROPOSAL ON THE THEME TOPIC FOR THE 62nd
CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL
AVIATION ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

(Presented by the Department of Civil Aviation, Lao PDR)

SUMMARY

This Discussion Paper introduces the host country offer and proposes the central theme topic for the 62nd Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/62) Asia and Pacific Region, to be hosted by the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR).

The proposed theme topic, **“Preparing APAC Sky in a Dynamic World”** reflects the region's evolving civil aviation landscape—characterized by rapid technological advancements, growing traffic demands, shifting geopolitical and economic realities, climate targets, and emerging operational risks. The paper outlines the rationale, key sub-themes, and expected outcomes to guide strategic discussions

PROPOSAL ON THE THEME TOPIC FOR THE 62nd DGCA CONFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The 62nd Conference of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia and Pacific Region (DGCA/62) is scheduled to be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR in October 2027.

1.2 The Asia-Pacific (APAC) civil aviation sector stands as one of the fastest-growing and most complex aviation markets globally. As the region continues to expand, it operates within an increasingly dynamic global environment shaped by rapid technological shifts, climate imperatives, geopolitical realignments, and shifting market dynamics. Reinforcing this mandate, the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi Declaration, 2024) emphasizes the urgent need for States and Administrations to proactively address these emerging regional and global challenges while fostering safe, resilient, and sustainable aviation growth.

1.3 To ensure that the forthcoming conference delivers strategic value, fosters actionable outcomes, and aligns with ICAO's Strategic Objectives, Lao PDR proposes the theme topic: **“Preparing APAC Sky in a Dynamic World”**. This theme supports implementation of priorities contained in the Delhi Declaration, including safety, innovation, sustainability, and regional cooperation.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The term **“Dynamic World”** captures the multi-faceted disruptions and opportunities transforming aviation today:

Technological Disruption: The integration of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM), Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Air Traffic Management (ATM), and digitalized safety oversight tools.

Environmental Transition: Accelerating toward net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, scaling Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production and distribution across developing and developed APAC economies, adapting infrastructure to climate resilience, and reducing aviation emissions and other environmental impacts.

Operational & Environmental Volatility: Navigating airspace constraints, severe weather phenomena linked to climate change, cyber risks, and workforce demographics.

Economic & Infrastructure Disparities: Ensuring seamless connectivity while bridging the capacity and implementation gaps between various APAC States/Administrations.

2.2 “Preparing APAC Sky” reflects a forward-looking, proactive commitment. Rather than reacting to change, APAC civil aviation authorities must collaborate to build resilient regulatory frameworks, modernize air navigation infrastructure, enhance safety culture, and equip the aviation workforce for tomorrow's challenges.

3. Core Pillars of the Proposed Theme

3.1 To structure discussions at DGCA/62 effectively, the main theme will be built around four interconnected pillars:

Pillar 1: Building Resilience and Operational Agility

- Enhancing State Safety Programmes (SSP) and Safety Management Systems (SMS) to address emerging operational risks.
- Strengthening airspace contingency management, civil-military cooperation and ATM Contingency Planning, and cyber-resilience across regional CNS/ATM architecture.

Pillar 2: Harnessing Technology and Digital Transformation

- Preparing the Asia and Pacific Regional regulatory frameworks for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), and autonomous platforms in accordance with applicable international Standards and ICAO Annex 6, Part IV (Operation of Aircraft — International Operations — Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) and relevant national civil aviation authority (CAA) directives.
- Strengthening the implementation of the Asia/Pacific Seamless Air Navigation Services (ANS) Plan, including enabling concepts such as digital ATM, data-sharing, system-wide information management (SWIM) and FF-ICE.

Pillar 3: Driving Sustainable Aviation in a Rapidly Growing Market

- Aligning regional strategies with ICAO's Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG) for net-zero carbon emissions.
- Addressing regional challenges in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) accessibility, green airport infrastructure, and environmental capacity building.

Pillar 4: Capacity Development, Inclusivity, and Regional Cooperation

- Ensuring "No Country Left Behind" (NCLB) by supporting developing States through targeted technical assistance and training programs.
- Developing the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) and advancing gender equality and leadership diversity across the region.

3.2 The proposed theme supports the implementation of the commitments contained in the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi Declaration, 2024), particularly those related to aviation safety, State Safety Programmes, seamless air navigation services, innovation and emerging technologies, environmental protection, human resource development, and regional cooperation. The theme provides an opportunity for DGCA/62 to translate these strategic commitments into practical actions and regional collaboration initiatives.

4. Objectives for DGCA/62

4.1 Under this theme, DGCA/62 aims to produce clear, actionable outcomes for the region, including:

- Developing strategic conclusions and recommendations that support the implementation of regional and global aviation priorities, including the commitments reflected in the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi Declaration).
- Encouraging bilateral and multilateral partnerships that reduce infrastructure and capability gaps among APAC States.
- Establishing practical roadmaps for adopting emerging aviation technologies while maintaining high safety oversight standards.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Achieving a fully integrated, resilient, and sustainable aviation network in the Asia-Pacific requires a collective commitment to bridging the gaps in our skies.

5.2 Many states remain committed to serving as proactive partners in the region's aviation network. By aligning the outcomes of DGCA/62 with the concrete implementation of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi Declaration) commitments, and embracing the principles of seamless integration, infrastructure resilience, and equal partnership, the APAC region can ensure that the economic and social benefits of aviation are shared by all, truly leaving no country behind.

6. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

6.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) discuss and adopt the proposed Theme Topic for the 62nd DGCA Conference of the Asia and Pacific Region;
- b) encourage States/Administrations and relevant stakeholders to take into consideration the proposed theme and its associated pillars when developing discussion and information papers for the 62nd DGCA Conference; and
- c) note that the proposed theme supports the implementation of the commitments and priorities reflected in the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi Declaration, 2024).

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