Free Route Airspace Implementation Workshop

Beijing, China, 17-18 November 2026

Time	Program	Speaker
Day 1 (17 November 2026) **Session 1 - Introduction to Free Route Airspace (FRA)**		
08:30 – 09:00	**Registration**	
09:00 – 09:30	**Opening Remarks** **House-keeping Announcements** **Introduction of Participants**	**Raphael Guillet** Chief of ICAO APAC Regional Sub-Office **Peng DOU** Regional Director, Operations, Safety and Security, IATA **Bin (Kevin) HU** Regional Manager, Operations, Safety and Security, IATA **All**
09:30 – 09:50	**Group Photo and Coffee Break**	
09:50 – 10:10	**Introduction of Free Route Airspace (FRA) and Global Practice**	**Yonggang LIU** Regional Officer, ICAO APAC Regional Sub-Office
10:10 – 10:40	**Regional Guidance Material for Free Route Operations**	**John Moore** Head of ATM-CNS ASPAC OSS-Flight and Technical Operations, IATA *(online)*
Session 2- Progressive Steps towards FRA		
10:40 – 11:10	**Introduction and Implementation of Direct Routing**	**Clim van der Weijden** ATM Regional Manager Asia, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines **Mélanie Grandmaire** Flight Support Manager Asia / Middle East, Air France
11:10 – 11:30	**Turning Route Inefficiency into Measurable Operational and Environmental Value**	**Jacob Kangogo** ATM Regional Manager, Asia/Pacific & Africa, Qatar Airways
11:30 – 11:50	**Airline Operations under FRA/UPR (User Preferred Routes)**	**Sitong Gong** Navigation Data Officer, Operations Control Center, Air China
11:50 – 12:10	**Challenges for UPR and FRA Implementation and Mitigation Measures**	**Riku Kohvakka** Manager, Flight Planning, Finnair
12:10 – 12:30	**Q&A Session**	
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**	
13:30 – 14:10	**Direct Routing as the First Step towards UPR: How frontline tactical decisions expose airspace availability, prove efficiency, and provide empirical groundwork for UPRs**	**Marnie Pomeroy** Asia Pacific Regional Safety Chair, IFATCA *(online)* **Umi Muthiah Syahirah** Regional Secretariat, Southeast and West Asia, IFATCA *(online)*

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14:10 – 14:30	**Implementation Status and Future Prospects of FRA/UPR**	**Zhengyu CHEN** AIS Officer, Xiamen Airlines
14:30 – 14:50	**FRA/UPR Operational Insights and Recommendations**	**Kengo Aoyama** Manager, Flight Operations Route Planning Group, Japan Airlines
14:50– 15:10	**Coffee Break**	
15:10 – 15:30	**Case Study on UPR/FRA Operations**	**George Chan** Operations Manager Regulatory & Industry Affairs, Cathay Pacific Airways
15:30 – 16:00	**Flexible Use of Airspace and Free Route Airspace**	**Ying ZHANG** Deputy Chief of ICAO APAC Regional Sub-Office
16:00 – 16:40	**FRA Implementation in African and Indian Ocean (AFI) Region**	**Gaoussou Konate** Consulting Director, Technical Operations, African Airlines Association (AFRAA)
		Billi Diabasenga Head of Air Navigation Department of Régie des Voies Aériennes ((RVA), Democratic Republic of Congo *(online)*
16:40 – 17:00	**Q&A Session**	
Day 2 (18 November 2026) **Session 3 - Preparing FRA Implementation**		
09:00 – 09:30	**FRA in Europe: Giving users the freedom to plan a route in specified airspace**	**Tihomir Todorov** Head of Section Airspace Design, Operations Planning Unit, Airspace and Capacity Division, EUROCONTROL
09:30 – 09:50	**Insights on Cross-border FRA and Route Optimizations**	**Xueliang Gao** Manager, SOC/OCC, China Southern Airlines
09:50 – 10:10	**Benefits for Pacific Routes Evaluating UPR-Maximizing Fuel Efficiency and Dynamic Weather Avoidance**	**Cheng Lan Wan** Manager, EVA Airways
10:10 – 10:30	**Operators' Readiness and Experience for FRA Implementation and Recommendations**	**Yongseok (Kate) Lim** Senior Manager,Korean Air
10:30 – 10:50	**Coffee Break**	
10:50 – 11:10	**FRA & DCT Resilience and Efficiency for Central Asia – East Asia flights**	**Elnur Sundetbayev** Airspace and Navigation Specialist, Air Astana
11:10 – 11:30	**Airspace Modernization Developments in Kazakhstan and DCT Implementation Project in Astana FIR**	**Alpamyssov Akarys** OJTI, Central Kazakhstan Regional ATM Centre, RSE "Kazaeronavigatsia"
		Nursultan Tompiyev Deputy Head of the Airspace Management Division, RSE "Kazaeronavigatsia" *(online)*

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11:30 – 12:00	**Safety and Risk Management of FRA Operations**	**Frédéric Deleau** Subject Matter Expert, IFATCA, Europe
12:00 – 12:30	**Q&A session**	
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch Break**	
Session 4 - The Implementation of FRA		
13:30 – 14:00	**FRA in Europe: Further Clarifications in FRA Implementation**	**Todorov Tihomir** Head of Airspace and Capacity Division, EUROCONTROL
14:00 – 14:20	**Large-scale Flight Planning Analysis for FRA Projects-From Design to Data-driven Decision**	**Sergey Tiourine** Product Manager, Jeppesen ForeFlight *(online)*
14:20– 14:40	**Post-operation Assessment of FRA with Airspace Users**	**Valentin Reinhardt** Group ATM Development, FRA GX/OA-A First Officer A350 MUC L/OF-CI, Lufthansa Group
14:40– 15:00	**Performance-based Approach and Recommended Framework for FRA Implementation**	**Bin (Kevin) HU** Regional Manager, Operations, Safety and Security, IATA
15:00 – 15:20	**Coffee Break**	
15:20 – 15:50	**Progressing Free Route Operations (FRTO) within Indonesia's Archipelagic**	**Suryadi Joko Wiratmo** Executive Vice President, Air Navigation Service Planning, AirNav Indonesia
15:50 – 16:10	**FRA Implementation in France**	**Okunowski Marion** Aeronautics Civil Aviation and Space Counsellor, France Embassy to China & Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA)
16:10 – 16:30	**ANSP - AU Interaction for FRA Operation and Performance Monitoring- An IATA Perspective**	**Robert Stallard** Global Head, Air Traffic Management, IATA *(online)*
16:30 – 16:50	**Q&A session**	
16:50 – 17:00	**Summary of the Workshop** **Close of the Workshop**	**Yonggang LIU** Regional Officer, ICAO APAC Regional Sub-Office **Raphael Guillet** Chief of ICAO APAC Regional Sub-Office

Q&A Session	
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Workshop materials	
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