



ICAO

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**Thirty-First Meeting of the Regional Airspace Safety
Monitoring Advisory Group (RASMAG/31)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 29 June – 03 July 2026

Agenda Item 3: Reports from Asia/Pacific RMAs and EMAs

UPDATE ON AKARA LHD EVENTS AND PROGRESS ON SHARING MECHANISM

(Presented by China RMA)

SUMMARY

This paper provides a comprehensive summary of Large Height Deviation (LHD) events in the AKARA Corridor from January 2025 to May 2026, highlights the operational performance of the new LHD event sharing mechanism, and presents the progressive outcomes following the implementation. The analysis demonstrates the positive effect of the enhanced data exchange process on the timeliness and accuracy of LHD event reporting and confirmation between relevant stakeholders.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The AKARA Corridor, a critical air traffic channel connecting China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, has historically been identified as an LHD hot spot area. Continuous monitoring and collaboration among China, Republic of Korea, China RMA, and PARMO are essential for enhancing airspace safety in this area. Following the general consensus established during meetings and subsequent bilateral coordination, a new LHD event sharing mechanism was established between China and Republic of Korea, which commenced operation in early 2025.

1.2 China RMA was invited to participate in the 10th China-Republic of Korea ATM/CNS coordination meeting held in Shanghai in September 2024. At the meeting, China RMA introduced the definition of LHD, the importance of LHD reporting, the LHD events sharing mechanism, reporting reviews, and the current monitoring status of LHD events in the airspace of AKARA Corridor. China RMA also emphasized that timely and accurate sharing and confirmation of LHD events are crucial for operational safety, and called on relevant regions to continuously improve LHD events reporting and confirmation procedures.

2. DISCUSSION

2025 and 2026 LHD Events Review and Statistical Analysis

2.1 In 2025, China RMA recorded a total of 36 LHD events reported by Shanghai ACC, all of which occurred within RVSM airspace. 50 LHD events were reported by Incheon ACC, of which 37 occurred within RVSM airspace and 13 occurred outside RVSM airspace. Through collaborative verification efforts under the new sharing mechanism, 24 events from Shanghai ACC reports were confirmed by Incheon ACC, and 29 events from Incheon ACC reports within RVSM airspace were confirmed by Shanghai ACC.

2.2 From January 2026 to May 2026, China RMA recorded a total of 7 LHD occurrences reported by Shanghai ACC, of which 6 occurred within RVSM airspace and 1 occurred outside RVSM airspace. 12 occurrences were reported by Incheon ACC, of which 10 occurred within RVSM airspace and 2 occurred outside RVSM airspace. Through collaborative verification efforts under the new sharing mechanism, 5 occurrences from Shanghai ACC reports were confirmed by Incheon ACC, and 9 occurrences from Incheon ACC reports within RVSM airspace were confirmed by Shanghai ACC. Compared with last year, LHDs along the AKARA Corridor from January 2026 to May 2026 have significantly decreased.

2.3 The majority of LHD reports fell under Category E events, primarily involving issues such as no transfer, late transfer, or no flight level revision.

Year-Month	Sharing ACC	Events Occured in all Airspace	Events Occurred in RVSM Airspace		Events Occurred in Non-RVSM Airspace	
			Events Occurred	Events Confirmed	Events Occurred	Events Confirmed
25-Jan	Shanghai	2	2	2	0	
	Incheon	2	2	2	0	
25-Feb	Shanghai	1	1	1	0	
	Incheon	2	2	0	0	
25-Mar	Shanghai	4	4	2	0	
	Incheon	5	2	2	3	3
25-Apr	Shanghai	4	4	1	0	
	Incheon	8	6	5	2	0
25-May	Shanghai	6	6	4	0	
	Incheon	6	6	2	0	
25-Jun	Shanghai	5	5	3	0	
	Incheon	9	8	8	1	1
25-Jul	Shanghai	2	2	2	0	
	Incheon	2	2	2	0	
25-Aug	Shanghai	3	3	3	0	
	Incheon	4	3	3	1	0
25-Sep	Shanghai	0	0	0	0	
	Incheon	1	0	0	1	0
25-Oct	Shanghai	2	2	Unverifiable	0	
	Incheon	3	1	1	2	0
25-Nov	Shanghai	4	4	3	0	
	Incheon	4	3	2	1	0
25-Dec	Shanghai	3	3	3	0	
	Incheon	4	2	2	2	1
Total	Shanghai	36	36	24	0	0
	Incheon	50	37	29	13	5

Figure 1. LHD Events between Incheon ACC and Shanghai ACC in 2025

Year-Month	Sharing ACC	Events Occurred in all Airspace	Events Occurred in RVSM Airspace		Events Occurred in Non-RVSM Airspace	
			Events Occurred	Events Confirmed	Events Occurred	Events Confirmed
26-Jan	Shanghai	2	1	Unverifiable	1	1
	Incheon	7	6	5	1	1
26-Feb	Shanghai	1	1	1	0	
	Incheon	1	1	1	0	
26-Mar	Shanghai	1	1	1	0	
	Incheon	1	1	1	0	
26-Apr	Shanghai	1	1	1	0	
	Incheon	1	1	1	0	
26-May	Shanghai	2	2	2	0	
	Incheon	2	1	1	1	1
Total	Shanghai	7	6	5	1	1
	Incheon	12	10	9	2	2

Figure 2. LHD Events between Incheon ACC and Shanghai ACC from January 2026 to May 2026

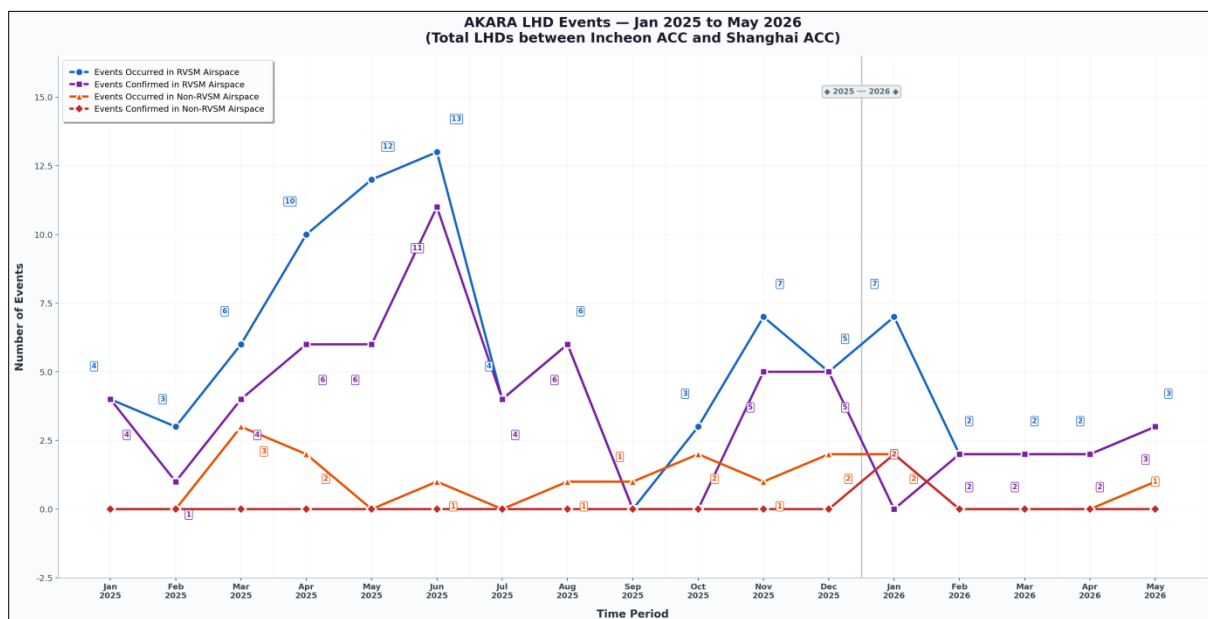


Figure3. AKARA LHD Events from January 2025 to May 2026

Timeline of Mechanism Establishment and Key Milestones

2.4 The enhanced LHD event sharing mechanism was established through a structured timeline of coordination and implementation:

- September 2024: the 10th China-Republic of Korea ATM/CNS Coordination Meeting held in Shanghai, where China RMA presented the LHD event sharing mechanism framework and secured bilateral agreement on the operational concept.
- Early 2025: the new sharing mechanism commenced operation following the bilateral coordination, featuring a two-week/15-day reporting interval.
- July 2025: RASMAG/30 meeting held in Bangkok, where the mechanism's preliminary outcomes were noted and the continued listing of Hot Spot B1 was discussed based on 2024 data.
- August 2025: ATM/SG/13 meeting held in Singapore, where China and Republic of Korea respectively submitted working papers addressing Corridor enhancement measures (WP/43 and WP/44).

- e) February 2026: MAWG/13 meeting, presenting the one-year operational data and performance analysis of the sharing mechanism.
- f) June 2026: RASMAG/31 meeting, presenting the one-year and five months operational data and performance analysis of the sharing mechanism.

Performance after the New Sharing Mechanism Implementation

2.5 Since the new sharing mechanism, there has been a noticeable improvement in the timeliness and efficiency of LHD event reporting and confirmation:

- a) the shortened reporting interval has facilitated more rapid data exchange, reducing the lag time that previously hindered event confirmation within the data retention period.
- b) the designation of specific Points of Contact (POCs) for each State has enhanced accountability and streamlined communication channels, ensuring consistent and reliable data submission.
- c) the validation process conducted by China RMA has improved data quality, ensuring that only relevant and verified LHD events are shared and analyzed.
- d) the number of LHD events reported by Incheon ACC and Shanghai ACC significantly decreased in 2026.

Discussions at ATM/SG/13 on AKARA Corridor Enhancement

2.6 At the ATM/SG/13 meeting held in Singapore in August 2025, both China and the Republic of Korea submitted working papers addressing safety and efficiency enhancement in the AKARA Corridor. The meeting noted the respective positions and proposals from both States regarding the future development of the Corridor.

2.7 During meeting discussion, the two States were tasked to discuss the matter and present a joint paper.

Conclusion

2.8 The implementation of the new LHD event sharing mechanism between China and Republic of Korea sees improvements in airspace safety monitoring in the AKARA Corridor. The improved timeliness and accuracy of data exchange have contributed to more effective identification and analysis of LHD events, thereby supporting risk mitigation efforts in this airspace.

2.9 The statistical data from 2025 demonstrates that while LHD events continue to occur, the confirmation rate and data quality have improved under the new mechanism. The statistical data from January to May 2026 demonstrates that the number of LHD events occurred significantly decreased.

2.10 Starting from 2026, China RMA specifically focuses on those that could potentially pose an operational risk to airspace or significantly impact the controller's operations.

2.11 Looking ahead, China RMA will continue to strengthen cooperation with Shanghai ACC, Incheon ACC, and PARMO. It was noted during RASMAG/30 that ICAO Headquarters will no longer be involved in this matter. Accordingly, ongoing efforts will focus on further refining the sharing mechanism and maintaining close coordination through bilateral meetings.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) review the information provided in the paper; and
 - b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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