

**Task Force to Strengthen and Evolve Existing Regional Mechanisms for
Regional Cooperation, towards Capability and Capacity Building
and Technical Assistance (RCM TF)**

**Record of Discussion of 19th Meeting
Video Teleconference meeting, 26 January 2026**

1. The 19th RCM TF meeting was held on 26 January 2026 virtually. The list of meeting participants is in **Appendix 1**.
2. ICAO APAC Regional Director, Mr. Tao Ma, welcomed the participants and delivered the opening remarks. The meeting was informed that DGCA/61 would be held in September this year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
3. Mr. John Kay, Chair of the Task Force, welcomed the TF members and chaired the meeting.

1. Adoption of Record of Discussion RCM TF/18

4. The meeting adopted the record of discussion of the RCM TF/18 meeting. [*Note: Record of Discussion RCM TF/18 has been posted on the ICAO APAC RO Website under Meetings.*]

2. Discussion on Current and Future Work of RCM TF

5. The Chair introduced the purpose of this meeting is to advance the three streams of work of the TF and to ensure timely submission of deliverables to the upcoming DGCA Conference.
6. New Zealand presented the updated proposals on the principles of DGCA and Dedicated Forum to the meeting, incorporating feedback received from members following the previous meeting.
7. Mr. Ng Tee Chiou, Co-Chair of RCM TF, emphasized the importance of clearly articulating the scope, value and practicality of both the DGCA and the possible forum. It was noted that:
 - a. DGCA discussions' scope is wide align with all ICAO priorities, with ICAO serving as the Secretariat;
 - b. Challenges could arise in organizing and advancing the work if ICAO were not to serve as the secretariat for the forum; and
 - c. Concerns exist regarding potential duplication and lack of clarity between DGCA and the possible forum.
8. Bangladesh expressed similar concerns regarding duplication, noting that DGCA already covers ICAO priorities and cautioning against creating additional workload for States through a separate forum.
9. Japan indicated that limiting the scope of DGCA by domain may not be the most effective approach and provided comments as follows:
 - a. The possible forum might need to focus on specific issues where a common regional position or perspective is required;
 - b. DGCA should continue to cover the full range of ICAO-related issues; and
 - c. A possible forum without support from ICAO might encounter challenges in planning and coordination for both the Chair and the Host State.

10. China noted that limiting DGCA's scope without considering its historical and current practices may not be practical, and suggested that any new mechanism should start small.
11. The Chair summarized the discussion that DGCA should remain broad in scope and continue its current role, and the possible forum could start small with a limited number of issues where regional consensus is needed for representation within ICAO framework.
12. The Chair further elaborated that the concept of the forum should be inclusive rather than exclusive, allowing States to opt in to discussions based on interest. This principle should be clearly reflected and structured in the ToR for the forum.
13. China highlighted the need to consider potential inconsistencies in conclusions if the same issue were discussed in parallel mechanisms, and sought further clarification on State policy agencies.
14. Singapore suggested that enhancement or improvements to the DGCA itself should be considered as a priority. If gaps in the DGCA Conference were identified, the focus should be to see if these gaps could be addressed as part of the enhancements to the existing DGCA Conference framework.
15. Regional Director Ma Tao noted that the DGCA Conference should remain the main mechanism for regional cooperation and emphasised the importance of "enhancing" the DGCA Conference. This view was supported by Malaysia.
16. The Chair indicated that the TF's role is to provide the DGCA with well-considered advice on available options with draft ToRs, descriptions of operational practices and possible approaches for improving DGCA and establishing a forum. The DGCA would decide on the enhanced DGCA, purpose, functions and operation of the forum, and the future of the TF. In response to enquiry on State policy agencies, the Chair noted that, for certain topics such as environment, policy-making entities may extend beyond civil aviation authorities.
17. Bangladesh further elaborated on the earlier suggestion, noting that regional positions at the ICAO Assembly level should be reflected through DGCA rather than through the forum.
18. China proposed revising the last principle presented of the forum to "Non-state organizations inclusion by invitation to observe".
19. The Chair summarized the discussions and further elaborated on the workplan for the three working groups:
 - a. **For Working Group 1:** to continue developing the ToR for DGCA, ensuring that the DGCA scope covers the full spectrum of relevant areas.
 - b. **For Working Group 2:** to focus on a specific issue-based approach, where States may opt in to discussions on selected topics to achieve as much consensus as possible. Such consensus could be brought back to DGCA and, where appropriate, represented in ICAO fora or other mechanisms. Participation should remain open to all States in the region, with no exclusion, and ICAO's role with respect to the forum should be clearly defined.
 - c. **For Working Group 3:** to move forward based on the outcomes of Working Group 1 and 2.

3. Date for Next Meeting – RCM TF/20

20. The meeting noted that the next RCM TF meeting would be held in person, with the exact date and venue to be confirmed.

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RCM TF /19 List of Participants

Seq.	Participant Name	State/ Administration
1.	Mr. Jim Wolfe	Australia
2.	Engr. Md Anwar Hossain	Bangladesh
3.	Mr. WANG Ruoyuan	China
4.	Mr. JIANG Hang	
5.	Ms. HUANG Xinyue	
6.	Mr. PU Yuntao	
7.	Mr. Satoshi OSHIMA	Japan
8.	Mr. Thirunaukaraser A/L Suppan	Malaysia
9.	Mr. Azman Bin Hitam	
10.	D_karna	Nepal
11.	Mr. John Kay (RCM TF Chair)	New Zealand
12.	Ms. Kate Smith	
13.	Ms. Mahrukh Mumtaz Hussain	Pakistan
14.	Ms. Lia Sunok LEE	Republic of Korea
15.	Mr. Ng Tee Chiou (RCM TF Vice Chair)	Singapore
16.	Ms. Charmaine Liu	
17.	Ms. Disha Gurnani	
18.	Ms. Chittinand Sukhakij	Thailand
19.	Ms. Natalie Randolph	United States
20.	Mr. Paul Devoti	
21.	Mr. Tao Ma (ICAO APAC Regional Director)	ICAO APAC
22.	Mr. Raju Shresha	
23.	Mr. Farid Imam Wahyudin	
24.	Ms. Shan Wang	
25.	Ms. Chananphorn Sakdanuphap	