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AGENDA ITEM 4: AIR NAVIGATION

CHINA'S SIGMET COORDINATION WORK IN ASIA

(Presented by China)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This paper presents the work carried out by China in the field of Significant Meteorological information (SIGMET) coordination to improve the SIGMET issuance in the Asia, including developing and operating the Asian SIGMET advisory coordination platform, issuing SIGMET advisories, conducting SIGMET coordination and organizing technical training/seminars.

CHINA'S SIGMET COORDINATION WORK IN THE ASIA

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Amendment 79 to ICAO Annex 3 that has been implemented since November 2020 recommends that neighbouring MWOs should carry out regional coordination in Significant Meteorological information (SIGMET) (Recommendation 3.4.4).

1.2 China has been making efforts to improve the aeronautical meteorological services in the Asia, helping improving the capabilities of SIGMET issuance. For example, CAAC, in conjunction with China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and Hong Kong Observatory (HKO), has built the Asian SIGMET advisory coordination platform (<http://www.aamets.com>), which begins to issue SIGMET advisories since 2018 and organize coordination among the Meteorological Watch Offices (MWOs) in China on hazardous weather conditions. In addition, China has also signed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with neighbouring countries to conduct regional SIGMET coordination, and technical exchanges and user training.

1.3 This paper presents the progress and the plans regarding SIGMET coordination organized by China.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 China has been issuing SIGMET advisories on daily operation at 00, 03, 06, 09 and 12 UTCs with forecast validity period of 6 hours on the Asian SIGMET advisory coordination platform, organizing weather consultation and SIGMET advisory coordination with MWOs in the region before issuing SIGMET advisories, in a bid to provide guidance for SIGMET issuance.

2.2 Since 2019, China has successively signed LoA or MoU on SIGMET coordination with Russia, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Laos and Kyrgyzstan, using the above-mentioned SIGMET advisory coordination platform to conduct SIGMET coordination to reach a consensus on SIGMET content, in order to provide aviation community with consistent information along the borders of adjacent FIRs and to improve the quality of SIGMETs. Moreover, in order to achieve better coordination goals, regular or irregular online operational collaboration meetings were organized with neighbouring countries, aiming to exchange experience and to discuss solutions to the problems in coordination operation, as well as to improve the SIGMET coordination efficiency and effectiveness. For example, it is currently agreed that China and Republic of Korea hold an operational coordination videoconference every six months, while holding videoconferences with other countries irregularly.

2.3 To improve the capabilities of forecasting hazardous weather and enhance exchanges and coordination among Asian countries, technical exchanges, international training or seminars were organized by China irregularly. Two international training seminars on hazardous weather forecasts and services in Asia were held in Beijing in July 2018 and July 2019 respectively. In December 2019, an on-the-job training opportunity at the Asian SIGMET advisory coordination platform was offered and an exchange and discussion activity was held in Beijing for forecasters from some countries. In June 2021, an online international SIGMET coordination and user requirement seminar was held in Hong Kong SAR, China, and user requirements were collected by means of online survey questionnaires. An international seminar on SIGMET coordination and user training was held online in June 2022 in Hong Kong SAR, China and an international seminar on hazardous weather forecasts was held online in July 2023 in Hong Kong SAR, China.

2.4 In addition, in order to enhance the service capabilities of the Asian SIGMET advisory coordination platform, the work to improve and upgrade the function of the platform has been conducted. Currently the upgraded platform is a more open one than before, which exempts users from registration before viewing the products, and no longer limits the participation in the consultation and coordination of hazardous weather conditions only to forecasters from MWOs, but also opens to forecasters from airlines, aerodrome meteorological offices, and other organizations.

2.5 In the future, the work to improve and upgrade the SIGMET advisory coordination platform and to enhance its service capabilities will be continuously conducted. China will also continue to closely cooperate with MWOs which have already carried out SIGMET coordination cooperation, to improve coordination efficiency and effectiveness through various means, and to actively communicate with countries that have not yet engaged in coordination cooperation to seek collaboration in conducting regional SIGMET coordination as soon as possible.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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