



Sixth Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 19 July 2002

Agenda Item 12: Implementation of International Airway Volcano Watch

THE VULCAN – AUS GROUP

(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper provides information about the Vulcan-Aus Group, who they are and what they do.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Vulcan-Aus Group was formally established in the mid 1980's, primarily in response to the volcanic ash encounter by a British Airways 747 over Indonesia in 1982. The Group currently comprises representatives from:

- The Bureau of Meteorology (incorporating the Darwin VAAC)
- Qantas Airways Limited
- Airservices Australia
- Geoscience Australia
- CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research

1.2 The Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) is considered a defacto member being kept informed about the Group's activities through the Qantas representation. The Group also has strong connections with the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI).

2. The Vulcan-Aus Group Objective

2.1 The objective of the Vulcan-Aus Group is to continually seek ways to increase operational safety and reduce flying costs in areas where volcanic ash may be present, by improving the effectiveness of the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW), especially in the Asia/Pacific area.

3. Modus Operandi

3.1 The Group operates through a chairman provided by the Bureau of Meteorology. The chair is supported by a secretary provided by the Bureau of Meteorology's Aviation Weather Services Program Office. The Group communicates by e-mail and meets two to three times a year.

4. Activities

4.1 Because of its multi-disciplined composition, the Vulcan-Aus Group provides a very important and effective forum for the identification and development of new techniques, procedures and products that will reduce the risk of aircraft encountering volcanic ash clouds. For example, the

Group is currently developing a pre-eruption reporting template that can be used by airlines for risk assessment at flight planning and during flight watch operations.

5. Future Membership

5.1 The Vulcan-Aus Group is seeking expand membership to include further representation from the Asia/Pacific Regions, including airlines and volcanological observatories. At the time of writing this information paper membership communications were taking place with the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory, Japan Airlines and Garuda.

5.2 For further information feel free to contact the Secretary of the Vulcan-Aus Group (Mr Grant Sabin) by e-mail at vulcan_au@bom.gov.au, by telephone at 61 3 9669 4715, by facsimile at 61 3 9669 4695, or by mail at GPO Box 1289K, Melbourne 3001, Australia. A copy of the membership contact details, as at 18 June 2002, is at attachment 1.

Vulcan-Aus Group (18 June 2002) - Contact Details

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