



Sixth Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 19 July 2002

Agenda Item 12: Implementation of International Airway Volcano Watch (IAVW)

THE WORKING GROUP ON VOLCANIC ASH

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper provides information about the present status of the working group on volcanic ash.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Working Group on Volcanic Ash, which comprises representatives of the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) in the ASIA/PAC regions (Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Japan), was established in 1994 after the second meeting of the COM/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG in order to exchange information about operations of the VAACs.

1.2 The CNS/MET Sub-Group decided in the fifth meeting held in 2001 to nominate Mr. Keiji Doi, Japan Meteorological Agency, as Chairperson of the Working Group on Volcanic Ash to replace Mr. Keith Mackersy from Met Services of New Zealand who had chaired since the beginning of the establishment of the group.

2. Implementation of IAVW

2.1 Each of VAACs in the ASIA/PAC regions operates properly to issue volcanic ash advisories to MWOs concerned in the respective area of responsibility. It is necessary that technical issues such as height estimation of volcanic clouds using remote sensing technology and operational issues such as communication between a VAAC and a volcano observatory would be further examined.

2.2 In respect to remote sensing technology, the group would like to highlight open and enthusiastic discussions in internet mailing list of a volcanic clouds group which established to follow up the Interdisciplinary International Workshop on Remote Sensing of Volcanic Clouds held at Michigan Technological University in August 2001. The Working Group on Volcanic Ash hopes discussions under the mailing list will contribute to an improvement of operations of the VAACs.

3. SIGMET Special Implementation Project

3.1 The Working Group on Volcanic Ash will assist with development of the ASIA/PAC SIGMET Special Implementation Project (SIP) and its implementation so that MWOs can implement the SIGMET procedure with regard to volcanic ash properly. The Group would like to make a close communication with the Secretariat to make a concrete plan of SIP and its implementation.

4. Action by the meeting

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the information in this document.