



Sixth Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 19 July 2002

Agenda Item 18: Any other business

IMPLEMENTATION OF TROPICAL CYCLONE ADVISORIES AND WARNINGS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information regarding some outstanding issues in the implementation of the tropical cyclone advisories by the TCACs and tropical cyclone SIGMETs by the MWOs in the ASIA/APAC Regions. Information on the ongoing coordination with the WMO on the subject is given.

1. Introduction

1.1 The importance of the tropical cyclone (TC) advisories and warnings (TC SIGMETs) has been emphasized a number of times, but it has been recognized that there were some outstanding items still to be resolved for a successful implementation of the ICAO TC warning system in the ASIA/PAC regions.

1.2 Amendment 72 of Annex 3 provided new standard formats for the tropical cyclone advisory and SIGMET messages. It was felt that the information on these formats should be presented to the WMO tropical cyclone bodies in the region in order to foster their implementation. For this reason an ICAO observer attended two WMO meetings on tropical cyclones held in the ASIA/PAC regions earlier this year and another attendance is planned for November, 2002.

1.3 This paper provides information on the outstanding issues related to TC advisories and warnings for aviation and on the ongoing coordination with WMO on this subject.

2. Discussion

Outstanding issues

2.1 It shall be recalled that based on the proposal by CNS/MET SG/5 the APANPIRG/12 formulated conclusion 12/26 that the ASIA/PAC TCACs Honolulu, Miami, New Delhi, Darwin, Nadi and Tokyo use the “FK” data designator in the TC advisories and ensure the routing of these bulletins to London for uplink via SADIS.

2.2 As a follow-up of this conclusion ICAO addressed the issue through WMO TC meetings as described below. However, the Secretariat has been notified that only Tokyo TCAC has been using the “FK” data designator and that the other TCAC have been still using mainly the “WT” designator.

2.3 The SADISOPSG/7 meeting, held in Cairo, 9 to 13 June 2002, noted that the “FK” as well as “WT” messages have been included in the broadcast. However, the SADIS provider State

would eliminate the general TC warnings (“WT”) for which there was no stated aeronautical requirement. That is why the States hosting the ICAO TCACs are urged to implement the correct WMO headings to the TC advisories in order to ensure the required global availability. The same applies to the TC SIGMET messages for which the MWOs shall use the “WC” data designator. The ICAO Secretariat will continue to follow closely the actions taken on this outstanding item.

Coordination with WMO

2.4 The RO/MET from ICAO ASIA/PAC Office, Bangkok, attended as observer the 29th Session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, Yangon, Myanmar, 12-18 March 2002, and the 9th session of the WMO RA-V Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean, Manila, Philippines, 16 - 20 May 2002. Another mission is planned for the 35th Session of ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee to be held in November in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2.5 The purpose of ICAO attendance at the WMO Sessions on tropical cyclones was to present the current formats of the tropical cyclone advisory and SIGMET messages for aviation as a result of Amendment 72 to ICAO Annex 3. It was also stressed that the specific aviation oriented advisories and warnings (SIGMETs) should strictly adhere to the internationally agreed formats in order to ensure their availability and to allow for automatic reception and processing by the users.

2.6 The meetings were informed on the ICAO finding that one of the main deficiencies in the implementation of the TC advisories and warnings for aviation was the lack of correct WMO abbreviated telecommunication headings.

2.7 In order to overcome the observed deficiencies ICAO proposed that changes be incorporated into the 2002 edition of the Tropical Cyclone Operational Plans for the respective areas of responsibility, aimed at harmonizing these documents with ICAO Annex 3/ WMO Technical Regulations (C.3.1) and to include specifications on the message formats and headings. The proposal was adopted by the meetings and it was expected that WMO will update accordingly the *Tropical Cyclone Operational Plan for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea* (WMO/TD – No. 84) and the *Tropical Cyclone Operational Plan for the South Pacific and South-East Indian Ocean* (WMO/TD-No. 292).

Feedback from WMO TC Sessions

2.8 During the meetings some interesting issues have been raised by the experts from WMO member countries that might need further consideration by relevant ICAO bodies.

2.8.1 At the TCC meeting in Manila some experts expressed the view that in issuing SIGMETs for TC the MWOs sometimes faced difficulties in forecasting the position of the TC centre even for the first six hours. They felt it necessary to include in the TC advisories a 6-hour forecast for the position of the TC centre. It was also noted that the maximum surface wind was not included in the outlook part of the TC SIGMETs. Thus the users could obtain this information only from the advisories issued by TCACs.

2.8.2 It was pointed out that the current practice of the WMO member countries was to use degrees and tenths in reporting the latitude/longitude information in the TC advisories and SIGMETs whilst the ICAO requirement, was to use degrees and minutes. In this regard, the meetings were advised that the TCACs and MWOs should undertake measures to convert degrees and tenths into degrees and minutes in the TC advisories and SIGMETs for aviation.

2.8.3 The ICAO observer took note of the existing backup procedures/contingency plan between TCAC (RSMC) Nadi and RSMC Wellington. The necessity for backup of the TCAC has not yet been discussed by ICAO and might need further study.

3. **Action by the Meeting**

3.1 The meeting is invited to :

- a) note the information regarding implementation of the TC advisories and SIGMETs in the ASIA/PAC regions;
- b) review the outstanding issues; and
- c) consider further action to be taken to improve the implementation of the TC advisories and warnings in the ASIA/PAC Regions.