



International Civil Aviation Organization

Eight Meeting of the Communications/Navigation/Surveillance and Meteorology Sub-Group (CNS/MET/SG/8) of APANPIRG

Bangkok, Thailand, 12 – 16 July 2004

Agenda Item 11: Quality assurance in the MET field

REVIEW PREPARATIONS FOR THE QMS SEMINAR

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The paper presents brief information on the current status of preparations for the QMS Seminar for ASIA/PAC.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The meeting may recall the APANPIRG Conclusion 13/32, that invited ICAO to organize, in coordination with the WMO, a seminar on the quality assurance in the provision of meteorological services to aviation in the ASIA/PAC Region in 2003. During the review of the APNAPIRG/13 report by the ICAO Council this conclusion was addressed to WMO, in accordance with the working arrangements between ICAO and WMO.

1.2. It is also recalled that in April 2003 the Secretary General of ICAO sent a letter to the Secretary General of the WMO inviting the WMO to arrange, in coordination with ICAO, the said training seminar. Consequently, WMO advised that there were serious budgetary constraints, however, at that stage it seemed possible for the WMO to support the training seminar, therefore, it was tentatively scheduled for November 2003. Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Observatory kindly offered to host the seminar.

1.3. The CNS/MET SG/7 meeting, July 2003, considered next steps in organizing the Quality Management Systems (QMS) training seminar and agreed to set up an ad-hoc team composing experts from Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, USA, and WMO to draw up a tentative programme for the seminar, subject to confirmation from WMO.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Due to some budgetary problems in WMO it was not possible to follow the original schedule and conduct the QMS seminar in November 2003. The latest information from WMO was that, due to the difficult financial situation, it was unlikely that WMO would be in a position to fund any training activities in the field of aeronautical meteorology until summer 2005. Therefore the QMS seminar had to be postponed for the period after summer 2005.

2.2. In the meantime, the work on the development of training programme had started with active participation of Hong Kong, China, Australia and New Zealand. It should be noted with appreciation that the President of the WMO Commission of Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM), Mr. Neil Gordon from New Zealand strongly supported the preparations of the seminar.

2.3. Since the organization of the seminar in 2005 is pending confirmation from WMO, it is not feasible to continue the preparations until such confirmation is received. It is hoped that when the financial situation improves, WMO will give highest priority to this event. Therefore, the preparatory work done so far would be very useful in the further developments on this matter.

2.4. Another recent development related to QMS is that as a follow-up of MET Divisional Meeting (2002) Recommendation 4/3, Guidance material on quality management systems, ICAO has arranged that the work on the *Manual on Quality Management* would start very soon and the first draft version of the Manual should be prepared by the end of 2004. The draft version would be consequently reviewed and commented by WMO.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided in this paper;
