



WORKING PAPER

**ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION (AIG)
DIVISIONAL MEETING (2008)**

Montréal, 13 to 18 October 2008

Agenda Item 3: Cooperation among States in investigations

**COOPERATION AMONG STATES AND ICAO IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND
PREVENTION (AIG) WORKSHOPS**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper reviews the cooperation among States during accident or incident investigations to have investigators from other States attend the investigation as observers. The paper also considers the need for States to cooperate with ICAO to conduct AIG workshops in States.

Action by the meeting is in paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Following a recommendation which stems from Assembly Resolution A35-14: *Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and associated practices related specifically to air navigation*, some States afford opportunity to States seeking investigation experience to attend investigations of large transport category aircraft accidents, in the interest of developing and furthering investigation expertise. In parallel, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has in the past conducted some training seminars in States covering the exchange of information and experience on accident prevention and investigation matters. ICAO was forced to discontinue the conduct of such seminars in States due to budget constraints.

1.2 In Assembly Resolution A36-10, Contracting States were urged to cooperate with ICAO and other States in a position to do so, in the development and implementation of accident prevention measures designed to integrate skills and resources to achieve a consistently high level of safety throughout civil aviation.

1.3 In response to State letter SD 37/1-07/1, which sought comments from States for agenda items for the Accident Investigation and Prevention (AIG) Divisional Meeting (2008), several States commented positively on the subject of cooperation among States to improve the skills of their investigators by having observer status during accident or incident investigations in other States.

Furthermore, it was mentioned that especially developing States would benefit from training seminars or AIG workshops and that procedures and mechanisms should be established for attendance of such seminars.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The need for different levels of training of accident and incident investigators is contained in the ICAO Circular *Training Guidelines for Aircraft Accident Investigators* (Circ 298). The initial phases of training consists of periods of familiarization with investigation procedures, on-the-job training and a course in basic aircraft accident investigation techniques, after which a period of advanced training is recommended. In practice, it is found that after several years of investigating accidents and incidents, the investigators benefit more from seminars and workshops where the exchange of information is on a different level than those in the training sessions during formal investigation courses.

2.2 As stated in paragraph 3.5.4 of Circular 298, other additional training can be obtained by attending conferences and seminars, reading related material and by exposure to major investigations as observers in other States. This type of training could be considered as recurrent training.

2.3 The Secretariat is aware of States that host observers from other States during accident and incident investigations for training purposes and this practice is encouraged.

2.4 During discussions at the AIG Divisional Meeting held in 1999, the meeting noted that safety seminars and accident investigation workshops are important means to train investigators. The meeting also noted that the number of such seminars organized by ICAO had reduced and recommended that ICAO increase the frequency of the regional safety seminars and accident investigation workshops.

2.5 Since the 1999 meeting, some accident investigation and prevention workshops were held, but ICAO has ceased to organize these meetings from Headquarters due to the lack of available funds. However, some workshops are still being organized by the ICAO regional offices and hosted by the States in the region concerned. An example of such a workshop was in October 2007 when the workshop was hosted by Hong Kong, China in the Asia and Pacific Region. The costs for the participation of an AIG technical officer from Headquarters were covered by the host.

2.6 It is worth noting that an observer organization (the International Society of Air Safety Investigators – ISASI) has organized and presented several reachout workshops in close cooperation with States since 2001. These seminars have been well attended and well accepted by the participants.

2.7 The AIG workshops will facilitate that States' investigators share experience and expertise relating to new technologies, techniques and procedures with other States. A secondary outcome to such workshops would be the strengthening of communications and cooperation channels between States.

2.8 The Secretariat is planning to conduct, in cooperation with the regional offices, at least three AIG workshops in the 2008-2010 triennium.

3. **ACTION PROPOSED**

3.1 The meeting is invited to support the need to resurrect AIG related workshops to be conducted by ICAO with the help from States, and endorse the recommendation in the Appendix.

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APPENDIX

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEETING

The 1999 Divisional Meeting (AIG/99) noted that safety seminars and accident investigation workshops are an important means to train investigators. The Secretariat held some workshops, but these workshops ceased due to a lack of funds.

The 2008 Divisional Meeting (AIG/08) endorses the need to resurrect AIG related workshops conducted by ICAO with the assistance of Contracting States. To this end, States are encouraged to support ICAO in this initiative.

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