International Civil Aviation Organization

FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMUNICATIONS/NAVIGATION/SURVEILLANCE AND METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP OF APANPIRG (CNS/MET SG/14)

Jakarta, Indonesia, 19 – 22 July 2010

Agenda Item 11: Implementation of SIGMET and warnings

1) review SIGMET tests

PROGRESS WITH SIGMET TESTS - WC and WV

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the results of the ASIA/PAC SIGMET tests conducted in November 2009 for TC and VA.

This paper relates to

Strategic Objectives:
A: Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety
D: Efficiency – Enhance the efficiency of aviation operations

Global Plan Initiatives:
GPI-19 Meteorological Systems

1. Introduction

1.1 The MET Divisional Meeting (2002) formulated Recommendation 1/12 b), *Implementation of SIGMET requirements*, which called, *inter alia*, for the relevant planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs) to conduct periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages, especially those for volcanic ash.

1.2 The OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF) 7th meeting reviewed the results of SIGMET tests in the Asia/Pac Region held in January 2009. The meeting decided that the WC, WV and WS SIGMET tests would be conducted on 10, 17, and 24 November 2009, respectively.

1.3 The Regional SIGMET tests were conducted as follows:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2009
SIGMET for volcanic ash	1/18	1/19	1/22	1/22	2/17	11/17
SIGMET for tropical cyclones	2/18	1/26	1/15	1/15	2/10	11/10

2. Preparation for the Test

2.1 ICAO APAC Office sent a state letter, *Follow-up of the APANPIRG Conclusion 15/42 --- Conducting SIGMET tests in the Asia/Pacific region*, dated 30 September 2009, notifying the schedule and the procedure of the sixth Regional SIGMET tests as follows:

- Test for SIGMET for tropical cyclones (WC SIGMET) – 10 November 2009, start time (time of issuance of the triggering tropical cyclone advisory by the TCACs concerned) 0200 UTC;

- Test for SIGMET for volcanic ash (WV SIGMET) – 17 November 2009, start time (time of issuance of the triggering volcanic ash advisory by the VAACs concerned) 0200UTC;

- Test for SIGMET for other weather phenomena (WS SIGMET) – 24 November 2009, start time 0200 UTC.

2.2 RODB Tokyo forwarded 10 Russian VA SIGMETs messages received via GTS to the other RODBs via AFTN, as the follow-up of discussion on SIGMET Tests at the OPMET/M TF/5.

3. Test Results and Analysis

3.1 Four RODBs in the Region sent the summary of the reception of the TC and VA tests to Japan, Rapporteur of the VA/TC/I TF. The combined information of the reception of the bulletins during the test on TC and VA is shown in Appendix A and B, respectively.

3.2 Summary of WC SIGMET test

3.2.1 63 test WC SIGMETs including duplicate bulletins were received. There were some incorrect format and wrong usage of WMO headings. 28 SIGMETs were received, while 37 were expected. Test advisories were issued by six TCACs out of seven – Darwin, Fiji, Honolulu, Miami, Réunion and Tokyo. Three MWOs (Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan) should not be included in the statistics since TCAC New Delhi did not issue test advisories to these MWOs likely due to a tropical disturbance in the Indian Ocean Basin. Thus the overall availability of the test WC SIGMETs from ASIA/PAC States was about 82%.

- 28 out of 34 responsible MWOs listed in Appendix H of the Asia/Pac Regional SIGMET Guide reported WC SIGMETs

- VLVT, although not listed in Appendix H, participated in the WC SIGMET test

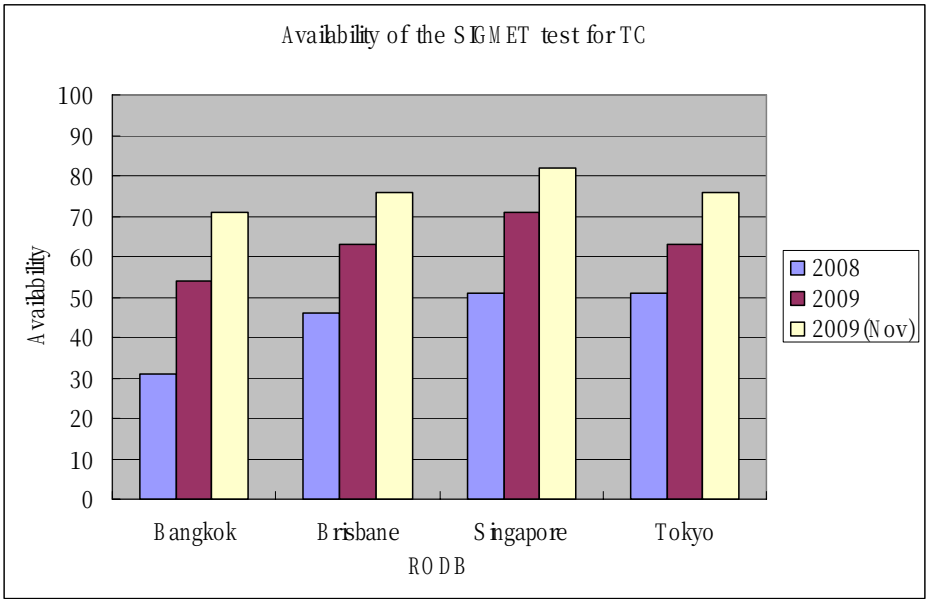
- The number of availability was better than the previous test in February 2009

- Not all the SIGMET issued by TCACs reached all RODBs

- There were still wrong usages of WMO Headings. Marked yellow lines are incorrect format

- There were wrong settings of priority in use of SIGMET test (GG, DD)

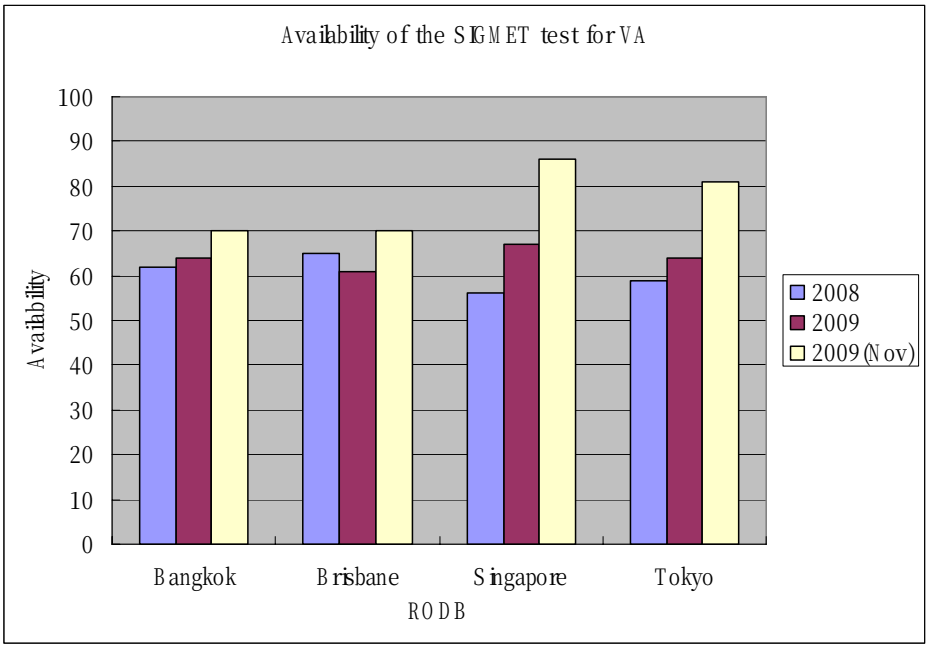
- An overall significant increase in reception of the test messages are as follows



3.3 Summary of WV SIGMET test

3.3.1 80 test WV SIGMETs including duplicate bulletins were issued. 14 SIGMETs were issued by MWOs in the Russian Federation. There were some incorrect formats and wrong usages of WMO headings. 32 SIGMETs were received, while 37 were expected. Thus the overall availability of test WV SIGMETs was approximately 86%.

- 32 out of 37 MWOs listed in Appendix H of the Asia/Pac Regional SIGMET Guide reported VA SIGMETs
- VECC, VRMM and VYYY, although not listed in Appendix H, participated in the WV SIGMET test
- The number of availability was better than the previous test in February 2009
- The participation of the following 12 Russian MWOs: UHBB, UIAA, UHHH, UHMM, UHNN, UHPP, UHWW, UHSS, UELL, UESO, UEST and UWOO were satisfactory. RODB Tokyo relayed the Russian VA from GTS to the RODBs
- Not all the test VAA reached all RODBs
- There were still wrong usages of WMO Headings, e.g. WSxx instead of WVxx
- There were wrong settings of priority in use of SIGMET test (GG, DD)
- An overall significant increase in reception of the test messages are as follows



4. Action required by the Meeting

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the results of the SIGMET tests presented above and discuss on the future improvement of the SIGMET exchange in the region.

4.2 The meeting is also invited to discuss, if necessary, revision of the test procedure.

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