

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
**FIRST MEETING OF THE APANPIRG CONTRIBUTORY BODIES
REVIEW TASK FORCE**

(Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 24 May 2011)

Agenda Item 4: Review existing structure of APANPIRG and its contributory bodies
Current MET WG of CNS/MET SG structure

(Presented by MET)

SUMMARY

The MET working group (WG) of the CNS/MET sub-group (SG) continues to grow and remains one of the most active MET groups in ICAO. After a re-examination of task force structure in 2010 and resurrecting meetings such as MET/ATM, the MET WG is poised to accomplish many APANPIRG prerogatives in the future.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The current structure of the MET WG was reviewed at the CNS/MET SG/14 meeting in 2010, which provided adjustments to the task force arrangements to better serve the MET WG of CNS/MET SG of APANPIRG.

2. DISCUSSION

Make up of MET WG (task forces)

2.1 The Agenda of the MET WG of the CNS/MET SG generally mirrors Annex 3, provisions of metrological services for international aviation. To assist in accomplishing the implementation of these provisions, four task forces provide the MET WG with progress and issues related to implementation of Annex 3 requirements.

2.2 The task force that has had the most number of meetings is the OPMET Management Task Force (**OPMET/M TF**) which sets out to improve the efficiency of OPMET (METAR, TAF, SIGMET) exchange in the Region and address future issues such as the implementation of extensible markup language (XML). This task force just completed its ninth meeting where the Regional OPMET Data Bank (RODB) Singapore (and thus SADIS) reported a 94% reception of OPMET for AOP aerodromes (1% shy of the goal 95% set by APANPIRG). Improvements are still necessary with non-AOP aerodromes where OPMET availability is approximately 10% shy of the 90% reception goal set by APANPIRG.

2.3 Overlap issues with reference to SIGMET resulted in one day overlap of meetings with the new Meteorological Advisories and Warnings Implementation Task Force (**METWARN/ITF**). The task force addresses SIGMET issues that include radioactive cloud, volcanic ash and tropical cyclone, aerodrome warnings on Tsunami, wind shear and the development of a framework on regional contingency plans on these phenomena (which will feed into the proposed task force of the ATM/AIS/SAR/SG expected to develop regional contingency plans). Surveys on the capabilities of States in providing aerodrome warnings on Tsunami and SIGMET on radioactive cloud will be distributed to the APAC States and feedback used in the appropriate global groups that are developing guidance on these matters.

2.4 The Meteorology/Air Traffic Management Task Force (**MET/ATM TF**) has been in existence for 10 years. This group has met in December 2009 for the first time in the capacity of a task force meeting. At this meeting, Japan offered to host a MET/ATM Seminar in late 2010 (postponed to Jan 2011). The 2011 ICAO/WMO MET/ATM Seminar was very useful for States in learning about the development of MET services for ATM. Emerging States were beneficiaries in that their medium and long term ATM plans can consider services not yet provided, such as providing ATM with a forecast of capacity (as a consequence of weather). Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) was discussed further in the MET/ATM TF/2 meeting (held after the Seminar) where ATM and MET arrangements between Singapore and Indonesia were discussed. The CDM concept expanded since this Seminar that includes teleconferences for volcanic ash events (or other phenomenon when warranted) with the following participants: Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines. This sub-regional arrangement will likely be considered in regional contingency plans.

2.5 The World Area Forecast System (WAFS) Implementation Task Force (**WAFS/ITF**) has provided progress in determining training needs of States through a recent survey. In addition, guidance has been provided on service of both the ISCS/WIFS and SADIS 2G/SADIS FTP. Many useful links are provided recalling that the APAC Region is under both the ISCS and SADIS footprints. Furthermore, monitoring implementation of WAFS Internet File Service (WIFS) before the cessation of ISCS-G2 on 1 July 2012 is performed by this group. This task force meets at a convenient time during the CNS/MET SG meeting to discuss issues and update the work programme.

2.6 Attributes of each task force have been standardized and include membership, terms of reference, performance framework forms, milestones and activities. Each can be found at the following web site: http://www.bangkok.icao.int/apanpirg_sg.html by simply clicking on the task force box.

Where does MET belong?

2.7 The MET WG of the CNS/MET SG/14 meeting agreed that overlap issues in ATM and AIM are increasing; however, the expressions were not strong. A former chair suggested that the MET WG may want to remain independent and possibly group with one discipline for a year when many overlap issues are expected and possibly group with another SG for the same reason some other time. This concept plays well with logistics in that the MET WG submitted approximately 60 papers for the CNS/MET SG/14 meeting. This forum has continued to grow and the number of papers and issues will likely grow too. Many other regions have a MET SG without combining with another section.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper, and
- b) Consider the demands of the MET WG in formulating the APANPIRG structure