



International Civil Aviation Organization

The Third Meeting of ICAO Asia/Pacific Air Traffic Flow Management Steering Group (ATFM/SG/3)

Singapore, 10 – 14 March 2014

Agenda Item 6: Any Other Business

North Regional ATFM Harmonization Group (NRAHG)

(Presented by the ICAO)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an initiative by ICAO APAC Regional Sub-Office to assist States in forming an ATFM harmonization group within North East Asia. With support and active participation from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, the harmonization group aims to nurture a harmonized ATFM/CDM implementation based on the ICAO Regional ATFM Framework with a target to ultimately yield concrete operational improvements.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ATFM/CDM is one of ICAO's highest priorities according to Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) and ICAO Annex 11, Air Traffic Services recommended that "ATFM should be implemented on the basis of regional air navigation agreements or, if appropriate, through multilateral agreements."

1.2 Air Traffic Flow Management and Collaborative Decision Making (ATFM/CDM) contributes to enhancing safety, efficiency, cost effectiveness and environmental sustainability of Air Traffic Management (ATM). Current air traffic situation signals the needs to introduce a harmonized ATFM/CDM operation within North East Asia. These conditions include the fact that traffic volume has been increasing rapidly in the APAC region as shown in the chart below.



1.3 ATFM/CDM harmonization in North East Asia will include participation from China, Japan and Republic of Korea. This harmonization effort is targeted to support China, Japan and the Republic of Korea as one of the largest aviation sector in the APAC region which will benefit greatly with the introduction of a harmonized ATFM/CDM operation. Additionally, the harmonization effort aims to support important up-coming international events such as 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, ROK and 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, Japan. These important international events, along with a foreseeable continuing growth in air traffic activities in North East Asia, will result in a drastic demand on effective air traffic management planning, procedures and practices - thus strengthening requirements for harmonized ATFM/CDM operations and early preparations.

1.4 Therefore, it is important that procedures applied during the ATFM/CDM implementation process be developed in a harmonized manner among States in the North East Asia region to avoid risks on operational safety and efficiency. This is also taking into consideration that China and the Republic of Korea already have plans to establish their ATFM Centres in the near future and noting that Japan has significant experience in the operations of ATFM.

2. DISCUSSION

Harmonization Group

2.1 In this harmonization group, ICAO through the APAC RSO will serve as a facilitator, coordinating progress meetings with a focus on harmonization of ATFM/CDM implementation in according to ICAO Collaborative ATFM Manual (Doc 9971) and ICAO APAC Regional ATFM Framework as developed by ATFM Steering Group. China Air Traffic Management Bureau (ATMB), Japan and Republic of Korea have agreed to the establishment of this harmonization group and has requested for ICAO APAC RSO to support the work program. States will be responsible to hosting these meetings as coordinated and providing reports on the progress of the harmonization status and plans. A harmonized set of ATFM/CDM technical and operational communications protocol and procedures describing ATFM operations among the three States will be the targeted early deliverable.

2.2 The immediate task required from this harmonization group is to finalize the Terms of Reference (TOR) as well as mode of cooperation. It is intended that the harmonization group will subsequently meet regularly, every three or four months on a rotating basis. States will update the ATFM Steering Group progressively on the status and development of work accomplished this harmonization group.

2.3 With the assistance of the ICAO APAC RSO, the Harmonization Group aims to achieve harmonization of ATFM/CDM in North East Asia through introducing a cost effective means of operations, and timely and effective coordination. With the development of this harmonized technical and operational communications protocol and procedure, States can aim to achieve a concrete operational improvement. Upon satisfactory progress of the harmonization group, this will serve as a very good demonstration for other sub-regions in APAC who have similar interest in implementing a harmonized ATFM/CDM.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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