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Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Civil Aviation Authority
آمریت دفتر

..... شماره
..... تاریخ
..... ضمیمه

25 Novemeber , 2014

Mr. Raymond Benjamin
Secretary General
International Civil Aviation Organization
Montréal, Canada

Subject: 51st Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific Regions
Hong Kong, China 24 – 27 November 2014 and the High-Level Meeting on Afghanistan
Airspace Contingency Meeting to be held in Hong Kong SAR, China on November 28, 2014.

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

Reference is made to the letters from the Director General of Civil Aviation Hong Kong, China for the invitation of the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority (ACAA) delegation at the 51st conference of DGCA, Asia and Pacific Regions holding in Hong Kong, China from 24 to 27 November 2014 and also to the letter regarding the High-Level Meeting on Afghanistan Airspace Contingency Meeting to be held in Hong Kong SAR, China on November 28, 2014.

I would like to inform you that my team and I were going to participate in both of these important meetings. We prepared all required documents for the Hong Kong visa and submitted to the embassy of China in Kabul, Afghanistan because we don't have Hong Kong Embassy in Kabul. The embassy of China in Afghanistan refused issuing the Hong Kong visa stating that Hong Kong is an independent state adding that ICAO has to send the Exchange of Note to the Hong Kong Civil Aviation notifying to issue the Hong Kong visa to above participants upon arrival. We are trying to figure it out that how to get to Hong Kong before November 28, 2014.

At the meantime, I would also like to inform you that the ACAA representative participated in ICAO's meeting regarding Afghanistan's Airspace Contingency Plan in Istanbul. The airspace contract extension has been approved by the US Government, which is going to be between 6 to 9 months. The Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority has also budgeted US 25 million dollars for the Airspace Contract for the year 2015 and is approved by Afghanistan Ministry of Finance and the Cabinet of Ministers. We would like to assure you that there will not be any disruption in the services over the airspace of Afghanistan beyond the bridge contract, which is approved by the US Government.

The Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority has made a plan for the training of Afghans in order to take over the operation and control of the Airspace and Airfield operations in future. We can share this plan anytime with the international community and will be open to their contribution if they want to support us in training. This plan will not be possible if the NATO will not provide On the Job training to our personnel. Although that the airports operations of the four international airports has been extended by the NATO for one more year but unfortunately it is still lacking training the Afghans, which means we will not be able to train the Afghans for one more year. We are strongly asking for the On the Job Training to be provided by NATO contractors as soon as possible otherwise we will not have a smooth transition, which was the responsibility of ISAF/NATO to smoothly transition the Airspace and Airfields operations to Afghans by training Afghans but they have failed to do so.

We would like to kindly inform you that we are trying our best to get the entry visas for Hong Kong but if due to the lack of time we don't get it then the Afghanistan delegation will not be able to participate in these meetings. We would like to request if the above message would be delivered to the meeting participants on our behalf.

Please, Mr. Benjamin, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above a horizontal line.

Capt. Hamid Zahir
Director General
Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority

Copy to: -

Hong Kong Civil Aviation Authority
ISAF HQ, Kabul