



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Third Meeting of the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group
(APAC – AIG/3)**

(Colombo, Sri Lanka, 23 - 24 June 2015)

Agenda Item 8: Other business

INVESTIGATION EXPENSES

(Presented by Singapore)

SUMMARY

This paper highlights a few ways investigation expenses incurred by an accident investigation agency could be met.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The expenses incurred by an accident investigation agency in the course of a complex accident investigation may be very substantial. If the investigation agency is not able to meet the expenses, the depth and quality of the investigation may suffer and the aim of identifying critical safety issues through the investigation and learning from the accident to prevent future occurrences may not be achieved.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 One way for an accident investigation agency to ensure adequate funding for its investigation is to have an insurance policy to cover the costs of its investigation. However, such insurance policy would usually involve very high insurance premium and may not be practical for States or Administrations with a low volume of civil aviation activities or investigation activities. Also, the premium expense might be better used instead to enhance the capability (e.g. through training) and equipment of the investigation agency.

2.2 Another way is for the accident investigation agency to recover investigation expenses from the parties concerned. This is the practice in Singapore. Singapore's Air Navigation (Investigation of Accidents and incidents) Order has a provision which says that any expenses incurred by reason of anything done by the investigator-in-charge in exercise of his rights or powers for the purposes of the investigation are to be borne by the owner or operator of the aircraft and be recoverable from either or both of them.

2.3 To ensure air operators operating in Singapore are aware of the provision, the Air Accident Investigation Bureau of Singapore (AAIB) visits the operators periodically to ensure that their senior staff, especially those newly posted to Singapore, are aware of the provision on the recovery of expenses. The operators are encouraged to consider arranging for insurance policy to cover the costs of investigation.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to note the few ways investigation expenses incurred by an accident investigation agency could be met, as highlighted in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2.

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