



International Civil Aviation Organization

**FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC
METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE WORKING GROUP
(MET/IE WG/14)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 – 9 March 2016

Agenda Item 1: Review and optimization of VAAC Backup Tests; and

**Agenda Item 2: SIGMET and (volcanic ash and tropical cyclone) advisory information
(including SIGMET tests)**

REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of follow-up action to the conjoint session of the thirteenth meeting of the Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange Working Group (ROBEX WG/13) and the fifth meeting of the Meteorological Hazards Task Force (MET/H TF/5), held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from on 18 March 2015.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Available, reliable and compliant meteorological warnings and advisory information on tropical cyclone, volcanic ash and other phenomena that may be hazardous to flight, are key enablers for air traffic efficiency (pre-flight planning) and safety (in-flight re-planning).

1.2 The Meteorological Information Exchange Working Group (MET/IE WG), formerly known as the Regional OPMET Bulletin Exchange Working Group (ROBEX WG), and the Meteorological Services Working Group (MET/S WG), formerly known as the Meteorological Hazards Task Force (MET/H TF), join together to support the Meteorology Sub-group (MET SG) of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) through the completion of tasks aimed at improving the availability, reliability and compliance of meteorological warnings and advisory information (including, specifically, SIGMET) in the Asia/Pacific Region in support of increased efficiency and safety of the global air traffic system.

1.3 This paper reviews the status of follow-up on task list adopted by previous conjoint sessions of the MET/IE WG (ROBEX WG) and MET/S WG (MET/H TF).

2 DISCUSSION

Follow-up from conjoint session ROBEX WG/13 and MET/H TF/5

2.1 The conjoint session of the thirteenth meeting of the ROBEX WG (ROBEX WG/13) and fifth meeting of the Meteorological Hazards Task Force (MET/H TF/5), held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 18 March 2015, developed a task list of 8 action items contributing towards the overall work plan and objectives of the two groups (Appendix C to the Report of the Conjoint Session of ROBEX WG/13 and MET/H TF/5 refers). An updated copy of the conjoint ROBEX WG/13 and MET/H TF/5 task list, indicating the current status of follow-up to the 8 action items, and suggested revisions to the time frames of some of the actions, is provided at **the Attachment** to this paper.

Action item 1: Distribution of VAAC back-up test invitations by ICAO State letter

2.2 In November 2015 and January 2016, the VAACs (Tokyo and Darwin) promulgated information directly by email concerning the schedule and conduct of the annual VAAC back-up test (for Tokyo and Darwin). Further discussion on the VAAC back-up test (Tokyo and Darwin) is provided in WP/C01 (to conjoint session of MET/IE WG/14 and MET/S WG/6).

2.3 As there was no requirement for an ICAO State letter inviting participation in the annual VAAC back-up test (for Tokyo and Darwin), the status of this action item may be considered as being on hold, pending further advice from the VAACs concerned.

Action item 2: AFTN addresses for MWOs/ACCs in VAAC back-up tests

2.4 As discussed in WP/C01 (to conjoint session of MET/IE WG/14 and MET/S WG/6), the list of AFTN addresses used for MWOs and ACCs in annual VAAC back-up tests (Tokyo and Darwin) was updated before/after the VAAC back-up tests conducted in November 2015 and January 2016.

2.5 However, the status of the list/s of AFTN addresses to be used in VAAC back-up tests involving VAAC Wellington's area of responsibility is yet to be confirmed. Therefore, the status of this action item may be considered as being in progress and the target and time frame revised pending further advice from the VAACs concerned.

Action item 3: Highlighting problems in test SIGMET issuance to the States/MWOs concerned

2.6 Results from the 2014 SIGMET tests were promulgated to States concerned in order to facilitate improved participation-rates in Regional SIGMET tests and to resolve formatting errors in test-SIGMET messages issued by some States (ICAO letter Ref.: T 4/7.5:AP-MET0032/15, dated 03 November 2015).

2.7 The status of this action item may be considered as completed.

Action item 4: SIGMET workshop proposal

2.8 Collaboration between ICAO, Japan and WMO on a proposed SIGMET workshop (to be hosted by Japan in 2016) to facilitate improved issuance of SIGMET in the Asia/Pacific Region was included by MET SG/19 in the formulation of Draft Conclusion 19/3 — *SIGMET Training*, which was subsequently adopted by APANPIRG/26 (Conclusion 26/51 refers).

2.9 As the proposed SIGMET workshop has now been endorsed, and planning is currently underway, the status of this action item may be considered as completed.

Action item 5: Draft Regional SIGMET Guide

2.10 The draft Regional SIGMET Guide was presented to MET SG/19 for further review; a number of additional updates were adopted and then presented for final review at APANPIRG/26. The draft Regional SIGMET Guide was endorsed by APANPIRG/26 (APANPIRG/26 Conclusion 26/60 refers) and the new [5th Edition] Asia/Pacific Regional SIGMET Guide was published by ICAO (State letter Ref.: T 4/8.3.2 & T 4/10.2: AP155/15 (MET) dated 06 October 2015).

2.11 The status of this action item may be considered as completed.

Action item 6: VONA information accessibility via social media

2.12 Details of a coordinated investigation into the feasibility of the use of social media sites to make the VONA information accessible to users are yet to be established and, therefore, the status of this action item may be considered as being yet to commence.

Action item 7: Improved guidance for clarity/consistency of tropical cyclone advisory and SIGMET information

2.13 WP/21 (to MET SG/19) presented proposals for the improvement of guidance material supporting clarity and consistency of information within tropical cyclone advisory and SIGMET messages in the Region.

2.14 MET SG/19 formulated Draft Conclusion 19/7 — *Tropical Cyclone Advisory (TCA) and SIGMET messages*, proposing that ICAO considers updating the templates for advisory messages for tropical cyclones [Annex 3, Table A2-2] and SIGMET [and AIRMET] messages [Annex 3, Table A6-1A.]. This was subsequently adopted by APANPIRG/26 in its Conclusion 26/53. It is envisaged that the Air Navigation Commission will refer the matter to the Meteorology Panel for further consideration and action as necessary.

2.15 The status of this action item may be considered as completed.

Action item 8: Issuance of special air-reports

2.16 Details of a coordinated promotion regarding the importance of the issuance of special air-reports to support information sharing, especially with respect to hazardous phenomena, in a consistent manner as required throughout the Region are yet to be established and, therefore, the status of this action item may be considered as being yet to commence.

3. ACTION REQUIRED BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper and discuss any relevant matters as appropriate;
- b) Consider the action item 1 as on hold pending further advice from the VAACs concerned;

- c) Consider the action items 3, 4, 5 and 7 as completed;
- d) Consider the action items 2 as in progress; and
- e) Review and set new time frames as necessary for the action items 1, 2, 6 and 8.

CONJOINT SESSION OF ROBEX WG/13 AND MET/H TF/5
Task List

Adapted from Appendix C to the Report of the Conjoint Session of ROBEX WG/13 and MET/H TF/5

(Highlighted text indicates updated information)

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
1	Review and update, as necessary, the distribution list for the VAAC back-up test State letter invitations and supporting documentation.	June 2015	Secretariat in consultation with VAACs and States	ON HOLD	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/1
2	Review and update the lists of AFTN addresses used for MWOs and ACCs in VAAC back-up tests, including in VAAC Wellington's area of responsibility.	June 2016	Secretariat in consultation with VAACs and States	IN PROGRESS	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/2
3	Promulgate the detailed data in Appendices 1 and 2 to WP/C2, Tables 1 and 2 in WP/C3 and Tables 1 and 2 in WP/C4 to highlight problems in test SIGMET issuance to the States/MWOs concerned.	November 2015	Secretariat	COMPLETED	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/3
4	Investigate and report (to MET SG/19) on the feasibility of collaboration between ICAO, Japan and WMO with respect to a proposed SIGMET workshop (hosted by Japan in 2016) to facilitate improved issuance of SIGMET in the Asia/Pacific.	July 2015	Secretariat in consultation with Japan	COMPLETED	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/4
5	Review the draft Regional SIGMET Guide provided in the revised Attachments 1 and 2 in WP/C5 then submit for final approval process and dissemination to States for use as Regional guidance.	October 2015	Secretariat and ad hoc group comprising Australia (Rapporteur), Hong Kong-China, Japan and New Zealand	COMPLETED	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/5
6	Further investigate the feasibility of the use of social media sites to make the VONA information accessible to users.	June 2016	Secretariat in consultation with VAACs	To commence	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/6

ACTION ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	STATUS	REMARKS
7	Develop a working paper for MET SG/19 (highlighting the issues raised in WP/C8 and IP/C5) with proposal(s) for the improvement of guidance supporting clarity and consistency of information within tropical cyclone advisory and SIGMET messages in the Region.	July 2015	Ad hoc group, comprising Australia (rapporteur), Hong Kong-China and Japan (note: Secretariat to invite India), in consultation with IATA and/or IFALPA	COMPLETED	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/7
8	Consider the promotion of the issuance of special air-reports to support information sharing, especially with respect to hazardous phenomena, in a consistent manner as required throughout the Region.	June 2016	Secretariat in consultation with IFALPA	To commence	Related to Decision (ROBEX WG/13-MET/H TF/5)/8