International Civil Aviation Organization

INFORMATION PAPER

TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP (MET SG/20) OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APANPIRG)

Bangkok, Thailand, 6 – 9 June 2016

Agenda Item 6: Research, development and implementation issues in the MET field

6.1: Observations, reports, forecasts, advisories and warnings

HARMONIZED APPROACH FOR THE REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT OF EN-ROUTE HAZARDOUS WEATHER INFORMATION

(Presented by Japan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents direction of regional coordination towards the improvement of en-route hazardous weather information in reflecting high air traffic volume, including the effective implementation of advisory framework having been discussed under the ICAO MET Panel, with introducing best efforts conducted.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In Asia/Pacific Region, there have been a remarkable growth of air traffic volume worldwide, and this trend is expected to continue in future. Under this situation, the improvement of en-route hazardous weather information at a regional level is nowadays significant challenge.

1.2 In this region, where hazardous weather condition like significant convective clouds would happen frequently, there are still tasks or difficulty in issuing SIGMET information among some States, and discontinuity of the information across FIR boundaries have been an issue. Thus, “phenomenon-based” information is long-standing requirements from user community.

1.3 Globally, under the ICAO Meteorology Panel, the WG-MIDS is now discussing the development of hazardous weather advisory system, since 2015.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 This May, Japan, the Philippines and Viet Nam conducted the SIGMET Demonstration for two weeks. During the Demonstration, based on the advisory information provided from JMA, each MWO in PAGASA and VATM issued test SIGMET in a collaborative manner, which brought the improvement of SIGMET issuance and enhanced harmonization between each MWO. Further development of this demonstration will be expected.

2.2 On the other hand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore had just started the SIGMET Coordination Pilot Project under the WMO support. This project is aiming at conducting a trial for the coordination among relevant MWOs in issuing SIGMET for the better harmonization.

2.3 At the WMO/ICAO Asia Pasific SIGMET Workshop Tokyo 2016, which will be held in Tokyo Japan, from June 27 to 30, in addition to the technical training and exercise of SIGMET preparation, the SIGMET coordination will be discussed among participants from 18 States in the Region.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 Those Regional activities as above will lead to achieve the issuance of more harmonized SIGMET information, in other words, "phenomenon-based" information, which has been required from users for the decades. Therefore, ICAO APAC Regional Office, especially the MET SG. should promote these type of regional/sub-regional efforts conducted by close coordination among relevant States.

3.2 Japan would like to collaborate with the other States to support these regional activities for the better-harmonized SIGMET information across the boundaries, through the provision of meteorological information, including SIGMET advisory information, Meteorological Satellite imagery and highly-developed NWP products, and useful tools/software to fully utilize those information to help forecasters in MWOs issue SIGMET information more efficiently.

3.3 Once international consensus is built to implement Regional Hazardous Weather Advisory System in this Region, Japan is willing to provide SIGMET advisory information as the Regional Hazardous Weather Advisory Centre (RHWAC), in assisting the States in the region to issue SIGMET, in order to secure efficiency and safety of aircraft operation in the APAC Region.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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