



International Civil Aviation Organization

**ICAO Regional Seminar on Language Proficiency
(Egypt, Cairo, 03 – 05 September 2007)**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

The ICAO Regional Seminar on Language Proficiency was conducted at ICAO Regional Office in Cairo from 03 to 05 September 2007. 16 Delegates from 8 States attended. The Seminar was facilitated by Ms. Elizabeth Mathews and Mr. Philip Shawcross.

The Regional Director, Mr. M.R. Khonji opened and closed the seminar with an address.

2. ATTENDANCE

Eight States (Bahrain, Egypt, Islamic Republic of Iran, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates) were represented (**See Attachment A**).

3. AGENDA

The agenda was completed as planned and the following topics addressed:

- ICAO Language Proficiency Requirements (LPR)
- Recent developments and implementation
- Testing issues
- Training issues
- Presentation of the States` implementation
- Exploration of means of regional cooperation

4. SUMMARY

1. Extremely keen interest was shown by all the participants throughout the seminar; the level of interaction and the number of questions was very high. It was possible to play speech samples from the ICAO speech sample training aid and conduct several brainstorming, workshop and discussion sessions. The delegates were unanimous in finding the seminar extremely useful and stimulating.
2. Generally speaking, the degree of preparedness and implementation among the States present was high. Especially in the Gulf Region, the number of Air Traffic Controllers requiring training to reach Level 4 appears to be even significantly less than, 20%. Most States present estimated that they would be able to comply by March 2008.
3. Several States have already modified their national legislation to be in compliance with ICAO requirements. In nearly all cases agreements had been signed with recognized providers and testing was underway.

4. It should be noted that several States declared their intention to target ICAO Levels 5 or 6 for all their controllers in the years to come.
5. The quality and clarity of the States` presentations of the status of their implementation plans was excellent, and in one case outstanding.
6. Areas of regional cooperation were discussed in the course of the last two days and the following potential fields identified:
 - Combining of resources and economies of scale by collective negotiating with a shared testing and training provider;
 - Use of methodology and resources of larger States by smaller ones; and
 - The creation of a bank of regional speech samples by Arabic and Persian speakers of English at levels 2 through 5 to provide the region`s teachers and training administrators with a relevant and reliable reference in the rating process.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The seminar was characterized by frank and friendly exchange. There was general agreement about its usefulness and conviviality, the relevance of the presentations and the convenience of the documents provided.

Attachment:

Attachment A - List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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