



International Civil Aviation Organization

**MIDANPIRG Meteorology Sub-Group
Sixth Meeting (MET SG/6)**

(Cairo, Egypt, 1-3 March 2016)

Agenda Item 4.3: Review of Requirements for OPMET Data and Status of OPMET Data Exchange as well as the Status of Implementation of a Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain

OPMET DATA EXCHANGE – STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ROC

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper will provide a status on the implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and Back-up ROC Bahrain.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting will recall MIDANPIRG/14 Conclusion 14/30 that called for Saudi Arabia in coordination with ICAO to establish a MID Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) by the first half of 2015 to improve the regional and inter-regional OPMET efficiency. In addition, Bahrain in coordination with ICAO would establish a back-up Regional OPMET Centre (ROC). The MID States were encouraged to continue cooperation in exchange of OPMET data in the MID Region.

1.2 Furthermore, the meeting will recall MIDANPIRG Conclusion 15/33, OPMET Exchange Scheme, that urged relevant States to update their OPMET exchange scheme in coordination with ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain in order to complete MID ROC implementation by 30 September 2015 (State letter AN 10/11 – 15/206 dated 8 July 2015). This scheme evolved from two workshops held in the third and fourth quarters of 2014 (reference the MID Regional OPMET Centre Implementation Workshop held in Jeddah from 31 August 2014 to 1 September 2014 and the Inter-Regional OPMET Data Exchange Workshop held in Vienna from 23 to 24 October 2014).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 ROC Jeddah has provided a status on implementation regarding the OPMET exchange scheme necessary for States in supporting the MID Regional OPMET exchange hub as provided at **Appendix A**. As of 14 January 2016, eight States (Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates) have fully implemented the appropriate OPMET exchange scheme. Five States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait) have partially implemented this scheme, while two States (Syria and Yemen) have not started implementation in this regard. Those States that have not fully implemented the appropriate OPMET exchange scheme present at the meeting are requested to provide an implementation plan.

2.2 Progress related to back-up ROC Bahrain is provided at **Appendix B**, which shows routing tables for Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates were completed. In addition, OPMET data is routed from Bahrain to Vienna for Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Any further updates in this regard can be provided to the meeting.

2.3 The meeting may wish to recall the MIDANPIRG/15 report relating to the MIDAMC STG plan to implement AMHS communication paths between Jeddah and Vienna as well as Bahrain and Vienna (reference Appendix 5.2.2F of the MIDANPIRG/15 Report). This plan was developed to enable the exchange of OPMET data in digital format between the MID and EUR Regions. It was noted that Athens and Nicosia, which are the entry/exit points between the MID and EUR Regions, had not yet implemented AMHS.

2.4 MIDANPIRG/15 also noted that, both Bahrain and Jeddah have CIDIN traffic and the transition from CIDIN to AMHS would require a significant amendment in AFTN, CIDIN and AMHS routing tables not only in the State itself but also in adjacent COM Centres and others in the Network. Therefore, the MIDANPIRG/15 agreed that concerned COM Centres and the MIDAMC should identify all dependencies when the CIDIN relay traffic is taken off a dedicated CIDIN connection in normal routing situations and in all alternate routing cases as well.

2.5 The MIDANPIRG noted that Tunis have already implemented the AMHS system and will be migrating the link with Rome to AMHS by December 2015. Tunis will also implement direct link Tunis to Vienna by December 2016. Furthermore, Egypt and Tunis will migrate to AMHS by September 2015. As a result, the MIDANPIRG/15 supported the proposal to consider Tunis as a back-up plan for the connection of MID ROC Centres. Tunis would present a working paper to the next EUR AFS Group on this subject.

2.6 With reference to the implementation of the ICAO Meteorological Exchange Model (IWXXM), the meeting noted that inter-regional coordination was necessary as to harmonize implementation to the extent possible. The meeting may note that EANPG Conclusion 57/23 and Action 14 of the Fourth Inter-Regional Coordination Meeting (IRCM/4) called for ICAO to conduct a *workshop on implementing the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data* in a form of a Special Implementation Project at the EUR/NAT ICAO Regional Office in 2016 that would involve regional OPMET data exchange hubs in all Regions, World Meteorological Organisation, Eurocontrol, other appropriate organisations and any other experts deemed necessary. The Special Implementation Project was not approved; however, the workshop will still take place from 31 May 2016 to 2 June 2016 at the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office in Paris since the experts will be available to assist this workshop.

2.7 The meeting is invited to review and comment on the Terms of Reference of the Bulletin Management Group (BMG) of the MET Sub-group to the MIDANPIRG in **Appendix C**, and if updates required, formulate a draft Decision. Suggested changes include: 1) replace *MARIE-PT* with the *Information Management Panel and MET Panel Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE)* in paragraph 2f; 2) replace *FASID Table MET 1A* with *Table MET II-2, Aerodrome Meteorological Offices, of the MID electronic Air Navigation Plan* in paragraph 2g; and 3) replace *B0-MET* with *B0-AMET* in paragraph 2g.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents in this paper;
- b) note the progress of implementation of ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain;

- c) provide an implementation plan, for those relevant States that have not implemented the appropriate OPMET exchange scheme;
- d) note the progress of implementation of AMHS between Jeddah-Vienna and Bahrain-Vienna;
- e) note the plans to conduct a *workshop on the implementing IWXXM for exchange of OPMET data* for OPMET communication hubs around the globe; and
- f) review and propose updates, if necessary, to the ToRs of the BMG.

APPENDIX A
MID ROC implementation plan

Following is a list of tasks to be fulfilled to progress on the transition, last update Jan-14-2016

No.	Task	Responsible	Prerequisite	Start Date	Estim. Time	Finish at
1	Implement Collective Addresses	ROC Jeddah	-	24.10.2014	1week	01.01.2015
2	Transition Bahrain	ROC Jeddah	-	27.10.2014	1 month	Part1 finished 15.1.2015, Part2, Pending
3	Transition Process with Kuwait	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2014	1 month	Part1, OK, 05/02/2015, Part2 Pending
4	Transition Process with Qatar	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2015	1month	Transition Patr1 OK, 13/04/2015 Part2, OK, 20/04/2015
5	Transition Process with Oman	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2015	1 months	Part1, OK, 22/02/2015, Part2, OK, 01/05/2015
6	Transition Process with UAE	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2015	1 month	Part1, OK, 25.2.2015, Part2, OK, 15/05/2015
7	Send Saudi Arabian Compilations to BROCC Bahrain (OBZZMMID)	Meteorological Communications Centre (MCC) Jeddah	Task No. 1 has to be finished	02.11.2014	1 day	01/03/2015
8	Continue and Finish Transition Sudan	ROC Jeddah	-	01.09.2014	11 months	Part1 and Part2, OK,01/08/2015
9	Develop Backup Procedure	ROC Jeddah & BROCC Bahrain (inform MID-BMG)		23.10.2014	4 months	In progress
10	Develop Regional HB on OPMET Data Exchange	ROC Jeddah & BROCC Bahrain (inform MID-BMG)		24.03.2015	3 months	Will be started soon
11	Develop first ideas for Training for operators	ROC Vienna		27.10.2014	2 weeks	Submitted to PME

12	Finalize Training for operators	ROC Jeddah & BROCC Bahrain & ROC Vienna		10.11.2014	April 2016	An arrangement is in progress
13	Route GULF reports to ROC Jeddah	ROC Jeddah		27.10.2014	1 month	01/02/2015
14	Transition Process for Iran	ROC Jeddah		16.02.2015	2 months	Part1,OK, 25/11/2015 Part2, pending
15	Transition Process for Jordan	ROC Jeddah				Jordan, transition part1 OK, 19/04/2015, transition Part2 OK, 20/05/2015
16	Transition Process for Egypt	ROC Jeddah				Egypt, transition part1 OK, 17/05/2015, transition part2 Pending
17	Transition Process Iraq	ROC Jeddah		16.04.2015	2 months	Iraq, transition part1 OK (last update 28/8/2015), transition Part2 Pending
18	Transition Process Syria	ROC Jeddah				Syria (no contact information yet)
19	Transition Process Lebanon	ROC Jeddah				Transition part1&2 ,OK, 13/12/2015 **
20	Transition Process Libya	ROC Jeddah				Transition part1 OK, 25/03/2015, Transition part2 OK, 17/05/2015
21	Transition Process Yemen	ROC Jeddah				No Reply

Comments:

- 1- Finish column in this attachment is filled based on what filled by states in the transition form, however we noticed some discrepancies between some Mid- States transition forms and routing table provided by ROC Vienna .
- 2- Some Mid-States still received OPMET data from outside ROC Jeddah, however, ROC Jeddah still working hard to contact OPMET data source to stop sending data to Mid-state directly with coordination with Mid-state.

**** METRS sent to Jeddah as ROBEX through GTS, TAF sent through AFTN.**

APPENDIX B
Bahrain MID BROC implementation

Following is a list of tasks of the Routing table and OPMET Routing to LOZZ ID, had been implemented;
last update Jan-13-2016

No.	Task	Responsible	Prerequisite	Start Date	Estim. Time	Finish at
1	Routing Table OJAM	Bahrain		15.11.2015	2Day	16.11.2015
2	Routing Table OLBA	Bahrain		25.11.2015	2Day	26.11.2015
3	Routing Table OKBK	Bahrain		27.11.2015	2Day	27.11.2015
4	Routing Table OTBD	Bahrain		01.12.2015	2Day	02.12.2015
5	Routing Table OOMS	Bahrain		06.12.2015	2Day	07.12.2015
6	Routing Table UAE	Bahrain		16.12.2015	2Day	16.12.2015
7	OPMET of OEJD Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		02.11.2014	1 day	01/03/2015
8	OPMET of OIII Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		02.11.2014	1 day	01/03/2015
9	OPMET of OIZZ Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		11.01.2016	1Day	11.01.2016
10	OPMET of OKBK Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		11.01.2016	1Day	11.01.2016
11	OPMET of OLBA Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		11.01.2016	1Day	11.01.2016
12	OPMET of OOMS Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		11.01.2016	1Day	11.01.2016

13	OPMET of OYSN Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		11.01.2016	1Day	11.01.2016
14	OPMET of OTBD Routed to LOZZMMID	Bahrain		11.01.2016	1Day	11.01.2016

APPENDIX C

Terms of Reference of the MID OPMET Bulletin Management Group (OPMET BMG)

1. Terms of Reference

- a. Review the OPMET exchange schemes to the MID Region and develop proposals for their optimization taking into account the current trends in the global OPMET exchange;
- b. Develop monitoring and management procedures related to the ROBEX exchange and other exchanges of OPMET information;
- c. Keep up-to-date the regional guidance material related to OPMET exchange;
- d. Develop capabilities to support the ICAO Meteorological Exchange Model (IWXXM);
- e. Develop key performance indicators for OPMET and keep under review;
- f. Liaise with similar groups in the adjacent ICAO Regions in order to ensure harmonized and seamless OPMET exchange; and
- g. The group will report to the MET Sub-Group of MIDANPIRG.

2. Work Programme

The work to be addressed by the MID OPMET BMG includes:

- a. Examine the existing requirements and any new requirements for the OPMET exchange in MID region and to assess the feasibility of satisfying these requirements, taking into account the availability of the data;
- b. Review the ROBEX scheme and other OPMET exchange schemes and prepare proposal for updating and optimizing of the schemes;
- c. Review and update the procedures for interregional exchange and for transmission of the regional OPMET data to SADIS;
- d. Review and amend the regional guidance materials on the OPMET exchange and include procedures for the exchange of all required OPMET message types: SA, SP, FC, FT WS, WC, WV, FK, FV, UA;
- e. Develop procedures for monitoring and management of the OPMET information, based on similar procedures used in the EUR and APAC Regions; and
- f. Support ~~MARIE-PT or any subsequent governance group appointed by ICAO~~ the Information Management Panel and MET Panel Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE) in Regional implementation of IWXXM within

MID. The initial implementation emphasis will be placed on States hosting ROCs/RODBs. Progress report to be provided to MID MET SG;

- g. Use results from monitoring to measure OPMET (METAR and TAF) availability in MID Region against the required data listed in ~~FASID Table MET 1A~~ Table MET II-2, Aerodrome Meteorological Offices, of the MID electronic Air Navigation Plan to support key performance index for OPMET component of ~~BO-MET~~ B0-AMET of the new implementation methodology called Aviation System Block Upgrade (ASBU) and keep under review; and
- h. Provide regular progress reports to MET SG meetings.

3. Composition

- a. The OPMET/BMG is composed of Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait (co-rapporteur), Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (co-rapporteur) and United Arab Emirates; and
- b. Experts from the EUR BMG, the VAAC Toulouse, APAC OPMET/M Task force and IATA are invited to participate in the work of the MID OPMET BMG.

4. Working Arrangements

It is expected that most of the work of the group will be conducted via correspondence by fax, e-mail or telephone. The group should establish a network of OPMET focal points at all MID COM/MET Centres dealing with OPMET data. When necessary, the Rapporteur, in coordination with the Regional Office, Cairo, will call teleconferences or meetings to discuss important issues.