



Seventh Regional Aviation Safety Group – Pan America Annual Plenary Meeting (RASG-PA/7)
Willemstad, Curaçao, 11-12 September 2014

Agenda Item 4: RASG-PA Project Reports
4.2 Central American Accident and Incident Investigation Commission project status

CREATION OF AN INVESTIGATIVE BODY FOR THE CONDUCT OF INVESTIGATION OF ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

(Presented by COCESNA/ACSA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>This information paper contains information that describes the achievements and support needed concerning the establishment of regional investigative group, which at its January 2015 launch, becomes a useful tool for the Central American States.</p>	
<i>Strategic Objective:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) • Safety Road Map • Annex 13 • Doc. 9946

1. Introduction

1.1 The Central American Agency for Aviation Safety (ACSA), establishes the regional accident investigative group based on resolution 97/5 “meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation in the Region and Panama”, which sets forth for "COCESNA to support and coordinate along with the Central American States, the development of a project for the establishment of a regional accident and incident investigative group in order to assist contracting states to meet part or all of its obligations relating to the investigation of accidents and incidents in this region.

1.2 During the departmental meeting on accident investigation and prevention (AIG/08) held in Montreal from 13 to 18 October 2008, recommendations 6/1, 6/2, 6/3 and 6/4 were adopted based on regional cooperation in the area of “accidents and incidents investigation” as part of this collaboration.

1.3 As a result of this initiative which was born in 2007, the regional group will be having there very first meeting, scheduled in the city of Guatemala (October 6 to 10, 2014). This reunion will be an historic and important one, since it's the group's first official meeting. In 2007, a meeting was convened by the "Group of experts in investigation of accidents and incidents of Central America" (CEFOF), held in Alajuela Costa Rica and later in 2008 materialized as a proposal presented by El Salvador (in representation of this group) to ICAO, making great and important strides promoting global cooperation. This in turns urged ICAO in developing document 9946 (Manual on regional accidents and investigation organization). Ever since the birth of this regional group, the road to success has been a long and tedious journey, but we have pushed forward keeping RASG-PA abreast and updated on a regular basis.

1.4 Thanks in part to the support that the regional group is receiving from the Central American States, this proposed meeting in Guatemala serves as a training event (OJT), among other things, to its participants relying on the experience and qualifications of the IIC and coordinator of the group. This training will fine tune the technics of accident investigation and collect valuable data concerning accident trends, based on root cause analyses occurring in the region. This training is in accordance with paragraph 3.10.2.10 (doc. 9946) which mentions training-related responsibilities that includes the planning, development and maintenance of training courses and seminar/workshop material, as well as the training of technical experts of Member States.

1.5 In addition, the reunion in Guatemala will allow for the distribution of basic accident and incident investigation "GO KITS", as well as the revision of their procedure manual, elaborated by ACSA and based on ICAO Doc. 9946, which includes policies and procedures to follow during and after an investigation based on ICAO requirements.

1.6 The team at the end of the week will have established goals based on case studies cited in 1.2 of this information paper, arising in part from the declaration of Port Spain, concerning the reduction of accident fatalities resulting as a source of information for the elaboration of well-defined performance indicators.

2. Conclusions

2.1 The establishment of this regional investigative group, aside from achieving goals set forth by the Global Aviation Safety Plan specific for this region, will also allow for much needed information based on operational safety, the focus of resources in those areas needing most attention. This is made possible through system monitoring of those critical areas which includes seminars/workshops, training of civil aviation personnel in specific areas and emission of bulletins, among other things.

2.2 One of the benefits in the creation of this regional investigative group is the achievement of great economic scale leading to a more cost-effective and efficient allocation of resources, while achieving mutual goals. In addition, by working and training together, the Contracting States can exert its influence effectively in a global manner, contributing towards the achievement of a much safer international air transportation system.

2.3 Without a doubt we can conclude that within this phase of implementation, all efforts are been concentrated in the training of personnel. COCESNA/ACSA pledges its commitment in the success of this project and recognizes and is very grateful for the sponsorship offered by Embraer (Brazil), FAA and ICAO who have in the past offered support, aiding in the success of this project.

3. What is required

3.1 The support of various agencies in the success of this project, especially at this present stage.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this information paper; and
- b) continue supporting the GSI-04 RASG-PA Project by participating in the project activities and meetings and providing contributions that include experts, training, documentation, host events, and safety information sharing, experiences, and tools.