INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
Western and Central African Office

AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB GROUP (METSG/7)

(Dakar, 11 – 13 April 2005)

Agenda Item 5 : Provision of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories for the Region

(Presented by France)

1) Introduction

Major volcanic eruptions can affect large airspace areas, sometimes far away from the source volcano. The International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) has been developed to respond to this hazard. Nine VAACs in the world are in charge of issuing Volcanic Ash Advisories (VAA) in describing the current and forecast extent of the volcanic ash clouds in their respective area of responsibility. These VAA are mainly send to Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO), in order to help them to issue relevant Volcanic Ash (VA)SIGMET, to Area Control Centres (ACC) and Flight Information Centres (FIC). The ICAO air navigation AFI region is within the VAAC Toulouse area of responsibility.

Fortunately, eruptions seldom occurs, but, therefore, it is not easy to maintain procedures that are rarely used. It should be beneficial that ICAO propose a test in the AFI region, as already organized in some other regions, in order to improve the accuracy of the procedures relative to the IAVW.

Following that goal, it should be useful to ensure that the Toulouse VAA bulletins are correctly disseminated and received within the whole AFI region.

2) Actions to be taken

Two different actions could be proposed at first in order to progress:

It should be noted that one task to be done could be the definition on a VA SIGMET headers list, that could be based from the existing SIGMET headers where the ‘WS’ is replaced by the WV in the WMO header. This list should then be examined by each State to validate them.

A first test could be organised to check the good reception in the “meteorological watch offices, area control centres and flight information centres serving flight information regions”, as these are the recipients where the VAA are to be sent, as stated in the Annex 3 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation.
A procedure to test the good reception of the VAA is proposed and described in the appendixes.

3) Conclusion

The meeting is invited to discuss the content of this WP and take into consideration the procedure proposed in the appendixes.

Appendix A

1. 1. The test would be run during the 23rd week (June 6-10). The exact date and the hour of the test have to remain secret in order to ensure that the MWO and ACC issuing acknowledgement receipt from the test VAA are really reacting to the reception of this advisory.

2. The test will be initiated by the issuance of a Volcanic Ash Advisory (VAA) from the Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre. The VAA bulletin will be clearly marked as TEST bulletin. The format of the VAA test message is provided in the Appendix B.

3. For the purpose of this test, it is proposed that the each meteorological watch offices (MWO), area control centres (ACC) and flight information centres (FIC) serving flight information regions that will receive the VAA issue an administrative message to acknowledge the reception of the VAA. The format of feedback message expected from ACC, FIC and MWO is described in Appendix C.

4. If you require further information, please contact by email: Mr Philippe HUSSON (VAAC Toulouse) philippe.husson@meteo.fr or Mr Patrick SIMON (EUR IROG for the AFI region) patrick.simon@meteo.fr

Appendix B

AFI Volcanic ash test procedure, June 2005

Format of the test VAA

1. The format for the TEST VAA that will be provided by the Toulouse VAAC can be seen below. ***DD*** is the day of the month, ***HH*** the hour of issuance.

FVAF01 LFPW ***DDHH***00

VOLCANIC ASH ADVISORY

ISSUED: 200506***DD***/HH00Z

VAAC: TOULOUSE

VOLCANO: FICTITIOUS

LOCATION: NIL

AREA: NIL

SUMMIT ELEVATION: NIL

ADVISORY NUMBER: 2005/01

INFORMATION SOURCE: NIL

AVIATION COLOUR CODE: NIL

ERUPTION DETAILS: NIL

OBS ASH DATE/TIME: NIL

OBS ASH CLOUD: NIL

FCST ASH CLOUD+6H: NIL

FCST ASH CLOUD+12H: NIL

FCST ASH CLOUD+18H: NIL

NEXT ADVISORY: NO FURTHER ADVISORIES

REMARKS:

THIS IS A VAA TEST MESSAGE APPLICABLE TO THE WHOLE ICAO AFI REGION. EACH METEOROLOGICAL WATCH OFFICE, AREA CONTROL CENTRE AND FLIGHT INFORMATION CENTRE SERVING FLIGHT INFORMATION REGIONS WITHIN THE AFI REGION RECEIVING THIS MESSAGE SHOULD ISSUE AN ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE USING THE WMO HEADER NOAF33 LFPW AND SEND IT TO THE AFTN ADDRESS LFZZMAFI TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEPTION OF THIS VAA MESSAGE=

Appendix C

AFI Volcanic ash test procedure, June 2005

Format of the administrative message to acknowledge the reception

1. The meteorological watch offices, area control centres and flight information centres serving flight information regions that will receive the VAA will issue an administrative message to acknowledge the reception of the VAA. The format of this message is provided below. ***DD*** is the day of the month.
2. The message described below has to be sent by AFTN to the IROG Toulouse Address by using its AFTN address LFZZMAFI.
3. ***aftn_address***, in the first line after the WMO heading, should be replaced by the AFTN address of the recipient,
4. ***decription***, in the first line after the WMO heading, should be replaced by the name of the organism who has received the VAA,
5. ***HHMMmm*** is the reception hour of the VAA bulletin, if the VAA has been received.

NOAF33 LFPW ***DD***1300
FROM : ***aftn_address*** , ***description***
TO: LFZZMAFI
ACK RECEPTION TEST VAA FROM VAAC TOULOUSE AT ***HHMMmm***=