



International Civil Aviation Organization

**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)
EIGHTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP
(METSG/8)**

(Nairobi, Kenya, 25-27 June 2007)

Agenda Item 4: AFI Meteorological Bulletins Exchange (AMBEX) Scheme

Implementation and Exchange Management of the AMBEX Scheme

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the status of implementation of the AMBEX Scheme and the need to introduce monitoring procedures and Performance Indicators (PIs) and the establishment of an AFI OPMET Management Task Force (OPMET/M TF (AFI))

1. Introduction

1.1 The AMBEX was introduced several years ago and has been operational ever since. The scheme is operating sufficiently well in certain areas but telecommunications circuit performance and adherence by States to procedures is still a challenge in some areas. Initially, there were monitoring periods of data availability and quality. For several years now, there has been no regular monitoring. Other regions like EUR, ASIA/PAC and now MIDANPIRG have established OPMET exchange management Groups. There is a need to establish such a Group for the AFI Region to ensure a sustained availability of high quality OPMET information to users.

2. Discussions

2.1 At the first meeting of ICAO Regional Officers/Meteorology Coordination Group (RO/MET/1-SoD), Paris, 29-30 September 2006, the Group reviewed the current status of international OPMET data banks which form an important segment of the intra and interregional exchange. It is recalled that APIRG through Decision 12/66 and Conclusion 15/89, called for the establishment of OPMET databanks at Dakar, Senegal and Pretoria, South Africa. The databanks are under development and should be operational anytime now.

2.2 Special attention should be put on implementing systematic monitoring of availability and regularity of OPMET data. The monitoring should be best conducted by the OPMET databanks. The AFI Region could benefit from monitoring procedures for the regular OPMET exchange (METAR and TAF) which have been developed in the EUR and ASIA/PAC Regions. These procedures include performance indicators (PIs) for compliance, availability and regularity of the scheduled, routine OPMET information (METAR (SA) and TAF (FT)).

2.3 Monitoring of non-regular OPMET information SIGMET and advisories, appropriate performance indicators will also have to be developed. Regular SIGMETs tests will also have to be conducted. It is the intention of the Secretariat to harmonize regional tests and related procedures in order to ensure inter-regional comparability.

2.4 With the aim of improving data availability and quality and to put in place objective monitoring procedures, the Sub-Group may wish to establish an AFI OPMET Management Task Force (AFI OPMET/M TF) with proposed specific terms of reference and work programme at the Attachment.

Draft Decision 8/..... AFI OPMET Management Task Force (AFI OPMET/M TF)

That, an AFI OPMET Management Task Force with the terms of reference at the Attachment be established.

3. Action by the Meeting

1.2 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper and;
- b) Establish the AFI OPMET Management Task Force with the terms of reference and work programme at the Attachment.
