

**55th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji
22 — 26 October 2018*

- AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS
 c) ANY OTHER MATTERS

**REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS (RCM)
TASK FORCE – INTERIM REPORT**

Presented by RCM Task Force

SUMMARY

The Paper seeks to update the meeting on the progress of the work of RCM Task Force in addressing the top two regional priorities of capability and/or capacity building and technical assistance.

REGIONAL COOPERATION MECHANISMS TASK FORCE (RCM TF) INTERIM REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the 54th Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Conference held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in August 2017, the Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (APCAC) Task Force determined that there was insufficient basis to establish an APCAC.

1.2 The Conference agreed to conclude the APCAC feasibility study and establish a new Taskforce to focus exclusively on strengthening and evolving existing regional mechanism for regional cooperation, towards capability and capacity building and technical assistance.

2. FORMATION OF THE RCM TASK FORCE (TF)

2.1 The RCM TF¹ was formed in May 2018 and comprises 11 States/Administrations, namely Australia, People's Republic of China, Hong Kong China, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and United States of America, with ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Office providing secretarial support.

2.2 The RCM TF has since developed and agreed on a set of Terms of Reference (TOR) as well as a work programme to address the top two regional priorities of capability and/or capacity building and technical assistance.

2.3 The TOR of the TF is as follows (refer to [Appendix A](#) for full TOR):

The TF will:

- a) Identify common and/or evolving needs of States/Administrations or a Group of States/Administrations in the APAC region for capability and/or capacity development;
- b) Identify and enhance common mechanisms for regional co-operation to prevent overlaps and duplication;
- c) Identify and enhance mechanisms for funding of technical assistance;
- d) Propose recommendations for the approach and roadmap to strengthen existing regional mechanism for regional cooperation towards capability and capacity building, and technical assistance; and
- e) Identify opportunities to improve and stream line the communication of work and outcomes of various ICAO regional working groups and taskforce.

The TF will report on its work to the DGCA Conference.

3. UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE RCM TF

3.1 The TF has held three meetings to-date including a physical meeting held on 1-2 August 2018 in Bangkok at the ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Office. The report of the RCM TF meetings are attached for reference.

¹ Originally known as the Task Force for strengthening and evolving existing regional mechanism for regional cooperation, towards capability and capacity building and technical assistance.

3.2 Two main work items undertaken thus far are highlighted below.

Survey on Common and/or Evolving Needs of the Asia Pacific region

3.3 The TF has developed a survey to determine the common and/or evolving needs of the Asia Pacific region, and will be conducted with States/Administrations in the region. The outcome of the survey aims to enable a better understanding of the needs of the region, and provide direction and guidance for the ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Office in exploring areas of enhancement and support required to deliver the regional priorities.

3.4 The survey has been designed with reference to the Commitments set out in the Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration for Civil Aviation, in the areas of Aviation Safety, Air Navigation Services and Human Resource Development. For completeness, Aviation Security has been included in the scope of the survey. States/Administrations are strongly encouraged to complete the survey.

Governance within Regional Groups

3.5 Agreeing that there should be good governance within such regional groups to enhance their effectiveness, the TF will develop proposals for better governance of the regional groups including enhancing Secretariat support, reporting on Beijing Declaration commitments and developing a governance framework for regional groups and their subsidiary bodies to prevent overlaps and duplication. This stems from a clear identification of problem statements, clarity of TORs, decision making matrix and accountability of WGs/TFs, resourcing and scheduling of meetings and communications.

Next Steps

3.6 The TF will meet over a few meetings next year to undertake the following:

- a) Review and develop a list of existing and potential funding including opportunities from sustainable developing funding and the approach for greater industry participation in funding; and
- b) Identify improvements to streamline the communication of work and outcomes, and access to information.

The deliverables from paragraphs 3.3 to 3.6 will all be taken into consideration in the development of the final recommendations.

4. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

4.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Note the progress of the work done by the RCM TF; and
- b) Strongly encourage States/Administrations to complete the survey on common and evolving needs.

Appendix A

Taskforce to Strengthen and evolve existing regional mechanism for regional cooperation, towards capability and capacity building and technical assistance

Terms of Reference:

The 54th DGCA Conference has agreed to establish a new Taskforce to focus exclusively on strengthening and evolving existing regional mechanisms for regional cooperation, towards capability and capacity building and technical assistance.

Noting that:

- There is a continuing need to find improved means of coordination and support for many States/Administrations in the Asia and Pacific regions to build their capabilities to improve safety, security and air navigation;
- There are already a variety of regional activities under the leadership of the ICAO APAC Regional Office (RO) for co-ordination and co-operation of regional capability to meet the goals and targets of the GASP, GANP, GASeP and Regional Air Navigation Plans;
- Co-operative arrangements already exist for the regional development of capability and capacity building, the resource and funding efforts initiated and coordinated by the ICAO APAC RO, and that there exist bilateral and multi-lateral arrangements between States/Administrations for co-operation;
- There is scope to enhance and strengthen these mechanisms, to provide more effective support for the region, optimize regional resources and avoid duplication of effort, to achieve the region's priorities in an expeditious manner; and
- The Asia Pacific Civil Aviation Commission (APCAC) Taskforce has determined that there was insufficient basis to establish an APCAC;

The Taskforce will:

- a) Identify common and/or evolving needs of States/Administrations or a Group of States/Administrations in the APAC region for capability and/or capacity development;
- b) Identify and enhance common mechanisms for regional co-operation to prevent overlaps and duplication;
- c) Identify and enhance mechanisms for funding of technical assistance;
- d) Propose recommendations for the approach and roadmap to strengthen existing regional mechanism for regional cooperation towards capability and capacity building, and technical assistance;
- e) Identify opportunities to improve and stream line the communication of work and outcomes of various ICAO regional working groups and taskforce.

The Task Force will report on its work to the DGCA Conference.