

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

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AGENDA ITEM 3: AVIATION SAFETY

**INDIA'S COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS
ENHANCING AVIATION SAFETY: FORMATION OF AIRPORT
OPERATOR'S SAFETY GROUP**

Presented by India

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

DGCA formed the Airport Operators' Safety Group as a first step for a Collaborative Approach towards enhancing Aviation Safety in a uniform manner in all Indian Airports. The purpose was also to share the best practices and evolve processes to improve the mechanism for maintaining safety standards as given in the GASP.

The Airport Operators' Safety Group has successfully conducted its first two Meetings and worked out on various aspects like formation of a Hazard Library, Conduct of Third Party Audit, Wild Life Hazard Management, introduction of SMS e-learning, etc. The meetings would be held once in every three months to continuously enhance the safety standards.

INDIA'S COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TOWARDS ENHANCING AVIATION SAFETY: FORMATION OF AIRPORT OPERATOR'S SAFETY GROUP

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 DGCA organized the first Airport Operators Safety Group Workshop which was attended by all major airports operators of Indian airports and representatives from Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and IATA.

1.2 With more than 125 airports that are operated by different airport operators and with the new upcoming of regional connectivity airports, many of them run by the respective state governments, DGCA felt it is appropriate to form the Airport Operators' Safety Group to uniformly maintain the safety levels and also share the best practices.

1.3 The Workshop title "Safety Enhancement Initiatives at Indian Airports", conducted on 10th of October, 2017, was aimed at sharing best practices adopted by Airport operators for enhancing safety of airport operations as given in the GASP.

1.4 A total of 30 working papers were submitted at the workshop followed by a panelled discussion for evolving the "Airport Operators' Safety Group (AOSG)" as a working group with appropriate terms of reference and with an intent that the group would function under the umbrella of National Aviation Safety Team (NAST) under Air Safety Directorate of DGCA.

1.5 The workshop was inaugurated by DGCA, India. After presentation of papers by team of DGCA, all the Airport Operators, IATA, IAF and the panel discussion, it was decided the Airport Operators' Safety Group would be formed which would be chaired by Representative of DGCA, India and Airports Authority of India would be the convener for the first year and take it forward in coordination with all airport operators.

1.6 AOSG can also take part in the Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG) meetings and subsequently formation of a Global Aviation Safety Group can be envisaged.

1.7 As part of collaborative enhancement to Aviation Safety, DGCA, India has ensured establishment of Runway Safety Teams at all Licensed Airports in India, and formed Station Safety Committee at all airports for continuous monitoring of safety levels at each airport.

1.8 DGCA has also urged to form the Wild life and Bird Control Teams at all airports and in line with that Airports Authority of India(AAI), which is already in the process of hiring experts to study bird activity and suggest the mitigation measures for its airports. As advised by NBCC, it is also ensured that all airports conduct the Airport Environmental Committee meetings regularly with involvement of the local govt. agencies, to take appropriate action for keeping the airport environment sanitized to prevent attraction of birds in the vicinity of airports.

2. DISCUSSION

Consequent to the deliberations by DGCA with all the airport operators in the first two AOSG meetings that were conducted in 26th June, 2018 and 18th September, 2018, the following decisions were taken.

2.1 AOSG should be managed by a Steering Committee with five to seven members with DGCA and AAI as permanent members and others being nominated for a specific period.

2.2 The convener should be on rotational basis for a period of one year and rotated among airport operators.

2.3 AOSG should meet periodically at least once in quarter. The meetings could also be conducted by Video Conferencing with an appropriate agenda.

2.4 The airport operator leading the AOSG for the year should conduct the annual event.

2.5 Terms of reference to be clearly defined for optimum use of time. It was also decided that the terms of reference shall be drafted in coordination with DGCA and submitted to DGCA for ratification.

2.6 AOSG will be responsible for coordination of safety data sharing while appropriate protection of safety data will be ensured as per requirements of Annex 19.

2.7 Use of hazard libraries by airport operators.

2.8 AOSG may initiate the process for 3rd party safety audits.

2.9 AOSG may jointly consider Joint Safety Promotion activities.

2.10 Create platform for exchange of technology solutions among airport operators.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) take note of this initiative, by India.
- b) States may consider similar action, especially where there are more number of airport operators, for promoting safety culture.

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