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

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AGENDA ITEM 5:   AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION

ACI APEX IN SECURITY PROGRAMME

Presented by Airports Council International

SUMMARY

APEX Excellence (APEX) in Security programme is one of the new security capacity building initiatives launched by Airports Council International (ACI). This paper will introduce the workings of the programme, give an update on its latest development and invite the Conference to note its benefits.

ACI APEX IN SECURITY PROGRAMME

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   APEX in Security is a new capacity building programme offered by ACI. It aims to help airports enhance security performance by improving compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and adopting industry best practices.

1.2   So far, the programme has been gaining support and recognition by stakeholders of the international aviation security community. In particular, ICAO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ACI in February 2016 to pledge support to the development and implementation of the programme. More recently in January 2017, the European Union signed an agreement with ACI to provide financial support to certain airports in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East to conduct APEX in Security review.

1.3   To further raise the awareness of APEX in Security, this paper will explain the workings of the programme, give an update on its latest developments and invite the Conference to note its benefits.

2.   WORKINGS OF APEX IN SECURITY

2.1   APEX in Security is a peer review programme designed for airports. Participation in the programme is entirely voluntary and the peer review is not a security audit.

2.2   Upon receiving a voluntary request to conduct an APEX in Security review from an airport, i.e. the "host airport", ACI will assemble a review team to conduct an on-site security assessment. The review team is typically comprised of security experts from the ACI Secretariat and other airport operators. Depending on their availability, ICAO and aviation security regulators are sometimes invited to participate in the review as well.

2.3   During the on-site review, the team will assess the current security practices, identify security gaps and make recommendations to address security vulnerabilities based on Annex 17 SARPs, Aviation Security Manual (Doc 8973) and industry best practices.

2.4   The peer review covers five aspects of airport security: security management in general, people management, security aspects of airport facilities, security processes (screening etc.), and quality control. Attachment A to this paper sets out the areas of review under each of the five aspects in a table format.

2.5   Depending on the size and complexity of the host airport, the on-site review usually takes one to two weeks. A presentation on the key findings and recommendations is made to the management of the host airport on the last day of the on-site review and a written report is provided within a few weeks after. Confidentiality of information collected during the review is respected at all stages.

2.6   If necessary, ACI also offer to assist the host airport to implement the recommended action plan by providing technical support, training and access to a global network of airport security experts.

2.7   The APEX in Security review is free-of-charge. The airport requesting the review only pays for travel and accommodation during the review period for the assessors.

3.   PROGRESS SO FAR ON APEX IN SECURITY

3.1   APEX in Security was first presented as a concept at the first Steering Committee Meeting of the ICAO AFI SECFAL Plan in Maputo, Mozambique in May 2015.

3.2   The inaugural APEX in Security review was conducted at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport (MRU) in Mauritius in March 2016. Since then fourteen more reviews have been held in airports in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and North America.

3.3   More reviews are being planned to take place at airports across different regions in the next few years.

4.   BENEFITS OF APEX IN SECURITY

4.1   Without a doubt, the host airport receives the most benefits from the review. However, the programme does not only benefit airports, but also the States. It can help with State oversight by helping airports to better comply with ICAO SARPs and industry best practices.

4.2   In addition, there is an axiom in the aviation industry that "no two airports are the same". Through the peer review process, the assessors can also learn from each other and bring valuable experience back to their own airports, while offering their expertise for the review. As of May 2018, over 83 assessors from 31 airport operators have signed up to be APEX in Security assessors. At the invitation of ACI and with the agreement of the host airport, some State regulators have also been invited to participate in reviews as observers, including the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the U.S. and The Office of Transport Security (OTS) of Australia.

5.   ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

5.1   The Conference is invited to note:

   a)   the workings and latest developments of the APEX in Security programme; and

   b)   its benefits in helping airports improve the level of compliance with ICAO SARPs and adopt industry best practices.

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Attachment A: Focus areas of APEX in Security reviews

Management	People	Facilities	Processes	Quality
Organization	Recruitment and Selection	Perimeter Protection	Passenger and Non-passenger Screening	Security Policy
Compliance	Background Checks	Terminal Design	Hold Baggage screening	Security Culture
Documentation	Training	Access Control	Crisis and Incident Management	Quality Control
Risk Management	Sub-contractor Management	Secure Storage	Guarding and Patrolling	
	Interfaces with Other Agencies	Security Cameras and Alarms	Cargo, Mail, Catering and Supplies	
		Screening Facilities and Equipment	Cyber Security	