

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

*Denarau Island, Nadi, Fiji
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AGENDA ITEM 8: TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL
COOPERATION

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY IN TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

Presented by Bangladesh

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

Bangladesh is one of the 194 member states of WHO. WHO published International Health Regulations (2005) which entered into force in 15 June 2007 as a mandatory regulations for all the member states.

As per IHR, Bangladesh shall develop certain core capacities in the designated airport (Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka) for safe movement of the travellers which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. Bangladesh takes effective measures during Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) for the prevention of spread of communicable disease through air travel.

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY IN TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Bangladesh has underscored the importance of implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR- 2005) for public health security and addressing the threats caused by emerging and reemerging diseases. The international movement of people, animal and cargo provide mechanisms and opportunities for disease spread that must be considered and addressed. As per Annex 1.B.2 of IHR (2005) Bangladesh is considering to develop core capacities in the IHR designated HSIA, Dhaka, Bangladesh and ensures a safe environment to assess and care for ill travellers.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) is a global legal framework for preventing and responding to the international spread of infectious diseases while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. The revised International Health Regulations, referred to as IHR (2005), were adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2005 and entered into force in June 2007 in Bangladesh along with other member countries. IHR (2005) sets out many new obligations and provides unique new opportunities for Member States to strengthen their public health systems and capacities necessary for contributing to strengthen national, regional and international health system & security.

2.2 According to ICAO Annex 9, Chapter 8, section 8.12 “Contracting States shall comply with the pertinent provisions of the International Health Regulations (2005) of the World Health Organization” and as per Annex 1.B.2 of IHR Bangladesh has expressed its political commitment for implementation of IHR in the designated airport.

3. CORE CAPACITIES BUILDING AT POINTS OF ENTRY IN BANGLADESH

3.1 Assessment, designation, and certification of airports for implementation of IHR;-At present Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport is designated for implementation of IHR. Another two international airports of Bangladesh-Shah Amanat International airport, Chattogram and Osmani International airport, Sylhet are developing its core capacities as per WHO requirements to be designated in near future. Bangladesh formed a National Emergency Committee for handling of emergency situations at PoEs. Developed a national aviation contingency plan as per Annex 9, chapter 8, section 8.16 “A contracting State shall establish a national aviation plan in preparation for an outbreak of a communicable disease posing a public health risk or public health emergency of international concern” during public health emergency situation

3.2 As one of the signatories of IHR, Bangladesh ensured amendments/updating of CSM/OM of all the air operators under CAAB to comply USOAP-CMA PQs on public health emergency. CAAB ensures refurbishing of ATS Contingency Plan for Dhaka FIR and Aerodrome Emergency Plan (AEP) of HSIA to comply ANS/AGA related PQs on public health emergency.

4. PROMULGATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION IN CIVIL AVIATION ACT 2017:

4.1 Bangladesh government published Civil Aviation Act 2017 on July 19, 2017 which also promulgated protection of public health issues in section 21 and 22 of the Act to comply article 14 of the convention as follows:

4.1.1 **Section 21-** The government may by notification in the official gazette make rule for the prevention of danger arising to public health by the introduction or spread of any infectious or contagious disease from a aircraft arriving or being at an aerodrome or airport for the prevention of the conveyances of infection or contagion by means of any aircraft leaving an aerodrome or airport.

4.1.2 **Section 22-** Emergency Power of Government for protecting Public Health:- Despite the provision of section 21, if the government is satisfied that Bangladesh or any part thereof is infected by, or threatened with , an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, and there is a probability of introduction or spread of the disease by an aircraft, the government may take emergency measures as it deems necessary to prevent such danger.

5. AVIATION PUBLIC HEALTH DOCS PUBLISHED BY CAAB

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has published Aviation public health related docs to take measures for safe movement of the passengers through the PoE at all the times and during public health emergency e.g. (a) An Aviation Public Health Manual, (b) Inspector Hand Book, (c) Air Operator Guidance on flight and cabin crew training for management of public health Emergency on board an aircraft, (d) Air Operator Guidance for maintaining a Standard Flight Catering Centre (e) Standard Operating Procedure (sop) for Hazrat Shahjalal International airport (HSIA) when infectious disease threat is reported on arriving aircraft.

6. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

6.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note the subject matter presented in the paper; and
- b) take necessary steps for implementation in the member states of WHO, if felt necessary.

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