



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL OFFICE**

ICAO REGIONAL OPMET CENTRE (ROC) WORKSHOP

(Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 31 August – 1 September 2014)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Workshop was successfully held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 31 August – 1 September 2014. This event was organized by ICAO in partnership with Austro Control. The Workshop was hosted and sponsored by the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment (PME) of Saudi Arabia.

1.2 The Workshop was attended by a total of thirty nine (39) participants from four (4) States (Austria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Sudan) and one (1) Organization (Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf). The list of participants is at **Attachment A** to this Summary of Discussions.

1.3 International exchange of OPMET data is used extensively for flight planning and at times tactical decision making by airlines. The timely availability of OPMET data from the MID Region is essential to safety and efficiency of flight. In order to assure required OPMET data as per the Regional Air Navigation Plan is efficiently exchanged in the MID Region and with other Regions, MIDANPIRG/14 Conclusion 14/30 called for the establishment of a MID Regional OPMET Centre in Saudi Arabia (Bahrain as backup) in coordination with ICAO in the first half of 2015. The ROC implementation workshop was conducted to develop an implementation plan for the future ROC States (Saudi Arabia and Bahrain) as well as other States in the MID Region.

1.4 Mr. Christopher Keohan, Regional Officer, Meteorology (MET) was the ICAO MID focal point and facilitator of the Workshop supported by Mr. Fahad Awad Al-Malki, Consultant to President of Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, Saudi Arabia as well as Mr. Roland Hochreiter, System Manager AIM/MET of Austro Control, and Michael Pichler, MET Data and Info Management of Austro Control.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Dr. Ayman Salem Ghulam, Deputy of Meteorology Affairs, Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, Saudi Arabia, and Mr. Fahad Awad Al-Malki, Consultant to President of Presidency of Meteorology and Environment, Saudi Arabia, opened the Workshop. Mr. Michael Pichler, MET Data and Info Management of Austro Control, Austria as well as Mr. Christopher Keohan, ICAO Regional Officer, Meteorology also addressed the Workshop during the opening session.

2.2 The Workshop included two days of presentations (31 August – 1 September 2014) covering ROC topics (e.g. hardware, communications requirements, requirements on the exchange of data) and providing feedback on implementation issues.

2.3 The Workshop agreed to the following Conclusions related to an implementation plan of establishing a ROC in the MID Region:

- 1) current lines of **communication** between Vienna and Jeddah/Bahrain are sufficient for the exchange of OPMET data between the two Regions, however, AMHS would be needed between Vienna and Jeddah/Bahrain for the future exchange of OPMET data in digital form (reference MET SG/5 draft Conclusion 5/3 to be considered by MIDANPIRG CNS Sub-Group);
- 2) **hardware** requirements provided by ROC Vienna would be more than sufficient to support the establishment of a ROC (details provided in Appendix 4.3A to the MET SG/5 Report);
- 3) **MID data collection** – each MID State should route OPMET data as required by MID FASID Table MET 2A as well as SIGMET and special air-reports to OEZZMMIV – AFTN for ROC Jeddah (AFTN for Bahrain will be provided at a later date). ROC Jeddah to monitor the completeness of received OPMET data;
- 4) **MID data distribution** – each MID State should receive a subset of global OPMET data required by each State (typically determined by airlines' routes) by ROC Jeddah/Bahrain. To support this, each MID State will provide a list of OPMET information they need that is listed in the global FASID Table MET 2A. ROC Jeddah will coordinate with the respective data bank outside the MID Region with the assistance of ICAO;
- 5) **MID data distribution to EUR** - ROC Jeddah/Bahrain should forward MID OPMET data required as per MID FASID Table MET 2A as well as SIGMET and special air-reports to Inter-Regional OPMET Gateway (IROG) Vienna at the trial AFTN address of LOZZXMID (to avoid duplication of bulletins during the transition phase). IROG Vienna to monitor the completeness of received MID OPMET data and when successful, other MID States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria) should stop submitting their OPMET data to the EUR Region and IROG Jeddah will submit all MID data to LOZZMMID;
- 6) **EUR data distribution to MID** - ROC Vienna should forward EUR OPMET data required as per EUR FASID Table MET 2A as well as SIGMET, AIRMET, special air-reports, and volcanic ash advisories to Inter-Regional OPMET Gateway (IROG) Jeddah at the AFTN address OEZZMEUR (AFTN for Bahrain to be provided at a later date). IROG Jeddah to monitor the completeness of received EUR OPMET data and when successful, IROG Vienna will stop sending EUR OPMET data to other MID States (Iran, Kuwait and Yemen) and ROC Jeddah will provide required EUR OPMET data (subset requested) as well as non-routine data mentioned (subset requested) to all MID States;
- 7) **OPMET deficiencies** – each State in the MID Region should follow instructions provided by ICAO (as per Appendices to presentation 2), where applicable, in

order to a) eliminate duplicate bulletins, b) eliminate multiple occurrence of OPMET data in multiple bulletins, and c) provide OPMET data as required in MID FASID Table MET 2A;

- 8) **Implementation goals and timelines** include the following:
- Sep 2014**-trial implementation form to be used by Sudan in coordination with ICAO and ROC Vienna by 30 September 2014, make corrections if necessary before distributing to other States in first phase
 - Oct 2014**- meeting at ROC Vienna with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and ICAO where backup procedures should be drafted which may entail a lag in implementation by the backup ROC
 - Dec 2014**-implementaiton form completed and executed by Bahrain, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Sudan (first phase of implementation)
 - Mar 2015**-implementation form completed and executed by Iran, Jordan, Qatar and United Arab Emirates (second phase of implementation)
 - Apr 2015**-implementation form completed and executed by Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Yemen (third phase of implementation)
 - 2016**-consider the need of implementing a possible translator from Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) to ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) at ROC and backup ROC; and
- 9) **Progress of implementation** will be provided to MSG/4 (November 2014) as well as MIDANPIRG/15 (June 2015).

2.4 The Workshop was provided with closing remarks by Mr. Fahad Awad Al-Malki who thanked ICAO, Austro Control and States for making the Workshop successful.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The participants thanked ICAO and Austro Control for organising the Workshop and Saudi Arabia for the hosting and excellent hospitality.

3.2 All the materials presented during the Workshop are available on the ICAO MID website: <http://www.icao.int/mid/>.



International Civil Aviation Organization

ROC WORKSHOP

(Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, 31 August - 1 September 2014)

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1 September 2014

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