



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG/18 and RASG-MID/8 Virtual Meetings

(15 - 22 February 2021)

Agenda Item 5.2.6: Specific Air Navigation Issues: MET

OPMET DATA EXCHANGE – STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ROC AND IWXXM

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the outcome of the Ninth Meeting of the MIDANPIRG MET Sub-Group (MET SG/9), in particular, status on implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) and ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM).

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- MET SG/9 Report
- MSG/7 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Ninth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group of the Middle East Planning and Implementation Regional Group (MET SG/9) was held virtually from 7 to 9 December 2020. The meeting was attended by a total of fifty-four (54) participants, from fourteen (14) States (Austria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and Yemen) and three (3) Organizations (ICAO, IFALPA and WMO). The meeting agreed on two (2) Draft Conclusions and one (1) Draft Decision for consideration by the MIDANPIRG/18-RASG-MID/8 meeting.

1.2 In accordance with the MIDANPIRG Procedural Handbook, the meeting unanimously agreed that the current Chairperson of MET SG, Mr. Abdulrahman Majed Alsaqabi, ANS Safety Inspector, General Authority of Civil Aviation, Saudi Arabia, remain as Chairperson through MET SG/10. The meeting also unanimously elected the Vice Chairperson of MET SG, Mr. Marc Wehaibe, Acting Director of the Lebanese Meteorological Department, with the vision that Mr. Wehaibe may take the position of MET SG Chairperson after MET SG/10.

2. DISCUSSION

Status on Implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC)

2.1 The meeting may wish to note that nine (9) States (Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates) have fully implemented the appropriate OPMET exchange scheme. Four (4) States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran and Kuwait) have partially implemented this scheme, while two (2) States (Syria and Yemen) have not started implementation in this regard. This

information was provided by Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah. States are encouraged to provide ROC Jeddah a list of OPMET data that their State needs in order to fulfil operator's requirements.

IWXXM implementation

2.2 The meeting may wish to recall that the ICAO MID Regional Office coordinated with ROC Vienna on participation and support to the MET/MIDAMC (MID ATS Messaging Management Centre) Teleconference on IWXXM implementation held on 9 June 2020. ROC Vienna responded to many implementation concerns raised in the MID Region such as necessary bandwidth to exchange IWXXM data (at least 256kb, preferably 512kb for inter-regional links); testing data exchange between COM Centres Jeddah and Vienna once Jeddah has implemented extended AMHS capabilities and inter-regional link has been upgraded in Nicosia; translation services, if available, should be conducted within the MID Region for the MID States using a similar agreement to that used in the EUR Region.

2.3 MET SG/9 raised a significant concern in that extended AMHS connections between Nicosia (gateway to MID Region from EUR) and Jeddah as well as Bahrain is expected to occur in Q4 2020 and therefore, IWXXM data could not be exchanged between EUR and MID Regions on the applicability date of Amendment 79 to Annex 3 (5 November 2020).

2.4 MET SG/9 noted the following progress on IWXXM implementation: Qatar – IWXXM version 2.1 – status implemented; Saudi Arabia – IWXXM version 3.0 – ready for exchange of IWXXM data; and United Arab Emirates – IWXXM version 2.1 – status implemented. Furthermore, Egypt was expected to have IWXXM implemented in 2021 and Iran in 2022.

2.5 ROC Jeddah elaborated on IWXXM implementation progress and challenges. The main challenge identified was coordination with the MET COM Centre and the Civil Aviation COM Centre. Exchange of OPMET data in IWXXM as per the requirements in Annex 3 was expected by the end of December 2020. Testing is expected inter-regionally with Inter-Regional OPMET Gateway Bangkok and Vienna (pending AMHS implementation at Nicosia).

2.6 MET SG/9 emphasized the need to provide OPMET data in IWXXM as well as Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) in parallel in accordance to Annex 3 since 5 November 2020.

2.7 The meeting agreed that IWXXM implementation has only been achieved by 3 of the 15 States in the MID Region by the end of 2020 and agreed that those States could assist in providing an IWXXM implementation workshop in virtual mode in early 2021 with the assistance of ICAO and WMO. Since MET SG/9, coordination with potential speakers and dates resulted in a planned virtual workshop from 26 to 27 May 2021.

2.8 To facilitate the upcoming IWXXM implementation workshop, the MET SG/9 agreed to recirculate the IWXXM implementation survey to MET focal points and that States respond to the ICAO MID Regional Office by the end of January 2021.

Future Work Programme

2.9 MET SG/9 took into consideration, the planned ICAO MID Regional events, which are of relevance to the activity of the MET Sub-Group, in particular the MIDANPIRG/18 meeting, it was agreed that the MET SG/10 meeting be held during the first quarter of 2022 in Saudi Arabia. MET SG/9 appreciated the kind offer from Saudi Arabia and also agreed that MET SG/10 should consider a hybrid type meeting since virtual meetings has resulted in greater participation.

2.9.1 MET SG/9 agreed to conduct an IWXXM Implementation Workshop and a Dissemination of Space Weather Advisory Information Workshop virtually in the first half of 2021. Since MET SG/9, the following events have been confirmed:

- 3-4 March 2021 – Dissemination of Space Weather Advisory Information Workshop (virtual)
- 26-27 May 2021 – IWXXM Implementation Workshop
- Q1 2022 – MET SG/10, Saudi Arabia (hybrid)

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) continue support related to the implementation of ROC Jeddah; and
- b) encourage States to participate in MET related events, and in particular the planned IWXXM Implementation Workshop.

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