International Civil Aviation Organization

Middle East Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group

Fifteenth Meeting (MIDANPIRG/15)
(Bahrain, 8 - 11 June 2015)

Agenda Item 5.2.2: Specific Air Navigation issues

IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL OPMET CENTRE (ROC) JEDDAH AND BACK-UP ROC BAHRAIN

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a status on the implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and Back-up ROC Bahrain.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- Inter-Regional OPMET Data Exchange Workshop SoD
- MIDANPIRG/14 Report
- MIDANPIRG MET SG/5 Report
- Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Workshop SoD
- State Letter: AN 10/11 – 15/100

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The MET SG/5 meeting recalled MIDANPIRG/14 Conclusion 14/30 that called for Saudi Arabia in coordination with ICAO to establish a MID Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) by the first half of 2015 to improve the regional and inter-regional OPMET efficiency. In addition, Bahrain in coordination with ICAO would establish a back-up Regional OPMET Centre (ROC). Lastly, MID States were encouraged to continue cooperation in the exchange of OPMET data in the MID Region.

1.2 The Fifth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group (MET SG/5) was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 4 September 2014. The meeting was attended by a total of twenty four (24) participants, from eight (8) States (Austria, Egypt, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Kingdom). The meeting agreed on four (4) Draft Conclusions for consideration by the MIDANPIRG/15 meeting, one of them is related to the exchange of OPMET information in digital form.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting was apprised of the outcome of the MID Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Implementation Workshop that was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 31 August to 1 September 2014. The Summary of Discussion of the workshop is available at www.icao.int/MID/Pages/meetings.aspx. These outcomes of the Workshop include information related to implementing a ROC that included information on communications and hardware as well as obligations by States in the exchange of OPMET information and obligations by the ROCs for collecting OPMET information and disseminating this information inter-regionally.

2.2 The workshop noted that the role of MID ROCs is to collect OPMET information from the MID States as per MID FASID Table MET 2A as well as SIGMET. In addition, the ROCs would collect OPMET data from other Regions (both routine as per FASID Table MET 2A as well as non-routine) and sending each State in the MID Region a sub-set of global OPMET data required by that State (based on users' needs). States' requirements in this regard were communicated to ROC Jeddah by a form created at the workshop. States that have not yet filled this form received a State letter to complete the form in order to continue the implementation of ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain (reference State letter AN 10/11 – 15/100 dated 31 March 2015).

2.3 The MID ROC Implementation Workshop also noted issues associated with Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS) communication requirements for the exchange of OPMET information between the two Regions for the future exchange (recommended 2016, required 2019) of OPMET data (METAR and SPECI, TAF and SIGMET) in digital form. As a result, the workshop agreed to invite the MIDANPIRG CNS Sub-Group to consider developing a plan to implement Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS) communication paths between Jeddah and Vienna as well as Bahrain and Vienna to enable the exchange of OPMET data in digital form between MID and EUR Regions (MET SG draft Conclusion 5/3 refers).

2.4 MET SG draft Conclusion 5/3 was superseded by CNS SG draft Conclusion 6/4 that tasked the MID AMC to develop a plan to implement AMHS communication paths between Jeddah and Vienna as well as Bahrain and Vienna before 31 March 2015 to enable the exchange of OPMET data in digital form between the MID and EUR Regions. This draft Conclusion was superseded by MID ATS Message Management Center Steering Group (AMC STG) draft Conclusion 2/3 that tasked the ICAO MID Regional Office to communicate the AMHS implementation plan to those concerned by 15 April 2015 and that Bahrain and Lebanon be urged to expedite the AMHS implementation plan by December 2015. The Aeronautical Fixed Services Group (AFSG) of the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG) was also informed of this plan and would be considered by the Operations Group (OG) of AFSG. Any input from EUR will be provided to the ICAO MID Regional Officer-CNS. Therefore, **MET SG draft Conclusion 5/3** has been withdrawn.

2.5 The implementation plan developed at the MID ROC Implementation Workshop was modified at the Inter-Regional OPMET Data Exchange Workshop held in Vienna, Austria from 23 to 24 October 2014. An update to this implementation plan has been given by ROC Jeddah as provided at **Appendix A**. This workshop also developed a draft back-up plan between ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain.

2.6 As indicated at Appendix A, exchange of OPMET data supporting ROC Jeddah has been implemented for Libya, Jordan, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Partial implementation in this regard was noted for Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait and Lebanon. No transition forms have yet been received by Iran, Syria, Sudan and Yemen. These States were provided with a State letter (reference AN 10/11 – 15/100 dated 31 March 2015) to remind them of their obligation to fulfill MIDANPIRG Conclusion 14/30, which is a regional agreement to establish a ROC. A contact for Syria was still needed in order to fill out the transition form. It is expected that Appendix A will be

updated at the BMG/5 Meeting (Bahrain, 9 June 2015) and provided by flimsy to the MIDANPIRG/15.

2.7 States that have completed the transition form will be sending their OPMET data to ROC Jeddah. ROC Jeddah in return will supply OPMET data (provided it is in FASID Table MET 2A) needed for those States based on operators' needs. This process requires inter-regional coordination with Vienna (established), Bangkok (recently established), Pretoria (contact provided), Dakar (contact provided), Washington (contact provided) and Brasilia (contact provided).

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) urge States that have not done so, to provide completed transition forms; ; and

b) review and update, as deemed necessary, the implementation plan at **Appendix A**.

APPENDIX A

MID ROC implementation plan

Following is a list of tasks to be fulfilled to progress on the transition

The focal point to take care of below action list and keep track of actions is **Dr. Saad Almajnooni**

No.	Task	Responsible	Prerequisite	Start Date	Estim. Time	Finish at
1	Implement Collective Addresses	ROC Jeddah	-	24.10.2014	1week	01.01.2015
2	Transition Bahrain	ROC Jeddah	-	27.10.2014	1 month	Part1 finished 15.1.2015, Part2, Pending
3	Transition Process with Kuwait	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2014	1 month	Part1, OK, 05/02/2015, Part2 Pending
4	Transition Process with Qatar	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2015	1month	Transition Patrt1 OK, 13/04/2015 Part2, OK, 20/04/2015
5	Transition Process with Oman	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2015	1 months	Part1, OK, 22/02/2015, Part2, OK, 01/05/2015
6	Transition Process with UAE	ROC Jeddah	-	06.01.2015	1 month	Part1, OK, 25.2.2015, Part2, OK, 15/05/2015
7	Send Saudi Arabian Compilations to BROC Bahrain (OBZZMMID)	Meteorological Communications Centre (MCC) Jeddah	Task No. 1 has to be finished	02.11.2014	1 day	01/03/2015
8	Continue and Finish Transition Sudan	ROC Jeddah	-	01.09.2014	1 months	No Reply
9	Prepare State Letter to MID-states to facilitate transition	ICAO Regional Officer	After finishing Tasks 2-7	01.12.2014	4 days	State letter reference AN 10/11 – 15/100 dated

						31 March 2015 to States who have not replied (Egypt, Iran, Qatar, Syria, Sudan and Yemen)
10	Contact COM Centre Nicosia to coordinate AMHS implementation	ROC Jeddah		27.10.2014	1 month	AMHS will be implemented by the end of 2015 (based on coordination between GACA and Nicosia)
11	Develop Backup Procedure	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain (inform MID-BMG)		23.10.2014	4 months	In process up to now
12	Develop Regional HB on OPMET Data Exchange	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain (inform MID-BMG)		24.03.2015	3 months	Not started yet
13	Develop first ideas for Training for operators	ROC Vienna		27.10.2014	2 weeks	Submitted to PME (still under consideration by PME)
14	Finalize Training for operators	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain & ROC Vienna	Finish Task 13	10.11.2014	April 2015	Still under consideration by PME
15	Route GULF reports to ROC Jeddah	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain		27.10.2014	1 month	01/02/2015
16	Transition Process for Iran	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain		16.02.2015	2 months	No reply,
17	Transition Process for Jordan					Jordan, transition part1 OK, 19/04/2015, transition Part2 OK, 20/05/2015

18	Transition Process for Egypt	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain				Egypt, transition part1 OK, 17/05/2015, transition part 2 Pending
19	Transition Process Iraq	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain		16.04.2015	2 months	Iraq, transition part1 OK, 15/05/2015, transition Part2 Pending
20	Transition Process Syria	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain				Syria (no contact information yet)
21	Transition Process Lebanon	ROC Jeddah & BROC Bahrain				Transition part1&2 Pending
22	Transition Process Libya	ROC Jeddah				Transition part1 OK, 25/03/2015, Transition part2 OK, 17/05/2015
23	Transition Process Yemen	ROC Jeddah				No Reply

Comments:

1- **Finish column in this attachment is based on what States provided in the transition form, however we noticed some discrepancies between some Mid- States transition forms and routing table provided by ROC Vienna.**
2- **Some Mid-States still received OPMET data from outside ROC Jeddah; however, ROC Jeddah is still working hard to contact OPMET data source to stop sending data to Mid-State directly with coordination with Mid-State.**

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