



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Middle East Air Navigation Planning and
Implementation Regional Group**

**Sixteenth Meeting (MIDANPIRG/16)
(Kuwait, 13 – 16 February 2017)**

Agenda Item 5.2.2: Specific Air Navigation Issues

MET ISSUES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents MET issues through the review of the outcome of MET SG/6 meeting, in particular, those related to the cessation of SADIS 2G, implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain, future test on disseminating of special air-reports, and status of other MET SG/6 draft Decision and Conclusions.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- ANSIG/2 Report
- BMG/6 Report
- ICAO Annex 3 – *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*
- MET SG/6 Report
- MID eANP Volume II, Part V (MET)
- MIDANPIRG/15 Report
- MSG/5 Report
- State Letter Ref.: AN 10/2-15/12

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Sixth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group of the Middle East Planning and Implementation Regional Group (MET SG/6) was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 1 to 3 March 2016. The meeting was attended by a total of fourteen (14) participants, from five (5) States (Egypt, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates). The meeting agreed on four (4) Draft Conclusions and one (1) Draft Decision.

1.2 The meeting reviewed global regional developments related to MET; implementation of meteorological provisions for international civil aviation that includes: World Area Forecast System (WAFS) and SADIS; International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW); Tropical Cyclone Warning System; SIGMET and requirements for OPMET data as per Table MET II-2 of Volume II of the MID Air Navigation Plan. In addition, the meeting reviewed the status of implementation of Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain. Lastly, the meeting reviewed the MET part of the MID Air Navigation Strategy, quality management system, and MET deficiencies.

2. DISCUSSION

World Area Forecast System

2.1 The meeting agreed to prepare for the cessation of SADIS 2G by a) making arrangements at the earliest opportunity to migrate to Secure SADIS FTP for those SADIS 2G users who do not yet have access to Secure SADIS FTP; and b) ensure that SADIS workstations are configured to use data from Secure SADIS FTP operationally for those SADIS 2G users who already have access to Secure SADIS FTP (MET SG Draft Conclusion 6/1 refers). A State letter describing the cessation date of 31 July 2016 and consequential change to the SADIS acronym was issued on 21 April 2016 (ref. SL AN 10/2 – 15/12).

2.2 The meeting may wish to recall that World Area Forecast System (WAFS) forecasts are required for briefing and flight documentation in accordance with Annex 3 - *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* (reference paragraphs 9.1.4, 9.3.1, 9.4.1 and Appendix 2, 2.1.1). The meeting may also wish to recall that on behalf of ICAO, the WAFS comprises two Provider States that each operates a World Area Forecast Centre (WAFS). The designated centre that serves the MID Region is WAFS London whose service is SADIS (reference MID Air Navigation Plan, Volume I, Part V – MET, paragraph 2.1). The Status of implementation of SADIS reveals 3 MID States do not access SADIS FTP which is addressed in Agenda Item 6.

Status of implementation of MID Regional OPMET Centres (ROC)

2.3 The meeting may wish to recall that the MIDANPIRG/14, through Conclusion 14/30, agreed that Saudi Arabia in coordination with ICAO establish a MID Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) by the first half of 2015 to improve the regional and inter-regional OPMET efficiency and also agreed Bahrain in coordination with ICAO establish a back-up Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) and that MID States be encouraged to continue cooperation in the exchange of OPMET data in the MID Region.

2.4 The meeting may also wish to recall that the MIDANPIRG/15, through Conclusion 15/33, urged States to update their OPMET exchange scheme in coordination with ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain in order to complete MID ROC implementation by 30 September 2015. Progress on implementation was provided by ROC Jeddah as provided at **Appendix A** which revealed that nine States (Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and United Arab Emirates) have fully implemented the appropriate OPMET exchange scheme. Four States (Bahrain, Egypt, Iran and Kuwait) have partially implemented this scheme, while two States (Syria and Yemen) have not yet started implementation in this regard. An update to the partially implemented OPMET exchange schemes is expected at the BMG/6 meeting and any updates will be reported to MIDANPIRG/16.

2.5 Progress related to back-up ROC Bahrain included developing routing tables for Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. In addition, OPMET data was routed from Bahrain to Vienna for Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Implementation reporting/monitoring

2.6 MIDANPIRG MET Sub-Group is the main Regional monitoring body to report progress on the implementation of ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain.

2.7 At the national level, MET Focal Points are responsible for following-up actions supporting the implementation of ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain.

Data collection mechanism

2.8 ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain provide an update on States progress to support the implementation of these ROCs. Furthermore, ROC Vienna has assisted in monitoring required OPMET data in the MID Region exchanged with the EUR Region and has identified issues such as duplicate bulletins and OPMET information in multiple bulletins. ROC Jeddah in return contacted States, when necessary, to remedy these issues.

Implementation challenges

2.9 Implementation challenges in most cases include human resources and coordination needed in determining what OPMET data is needed from ROC Jeddah to meet the users' needs. This requires knowledge of international flight destinations as well as alternate aerodromes along the routes for those operators operating within the States.

2.10 Implementation challenges in some States include the need for supporting the implementation of ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain by the responsible institution.

2.11 Basic ROC functions are a prerequisite for the implementation of ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM). ROC Jeddah could serve as a future translation centre for States not in a position to provide OPMET data in IWXXM. Using basic principles in translating Traditional Alphanumeric Code (TAC) to IWXXM developed by the Meteorology Panel (METP) Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (METP WG-MIE) would be one component to enable the use of System Wide Information Management (SWIM).

2.12 To support the future implementation of IWXXM at ROC Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain, ROC Jeddah has participated in the *Workshop on Implementing the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the exchange of OPMET data* (Paris, 31 May to 02 June 2016) and expected to participate in future workshops such as the *Interregional APAC/EUR/MID Seminar on "service improvement through integration of AIM, MET and ATM information"* from 2 to 5 October 2017 in Brussels.

2.13 Development of an IWXXM implementation plan for the MID Region is expected in 2017 and it would be necessary to coordinate with those responsible for communications in the implementation of extended AMHS.

Special air-report test

2.14 The MET SG/6 meeting formulated Draft Conclusion 6/2 related to special air-report tests. The ANSIG/2 meeting noted that the implementation of distributing special air-reports to ROC Jeddah will be assisted by a special air-report test expected for other phenomenon on 6 September 2017 and for volcanic ash on 7 September 2017. These tests will assist the Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO) to practice sending these reports to ROC Jeddah using ICAO and WMO provisions. Details will be provided in the invitation letter which will be issued at least one month prior to the test. It was highlighted that guidance on the format and dissemination of special air-reports will be adapted for the MID Region and provided as an attachment to the invitation. The draft version of the

invitation letter that includes MID examples will be reviewed by the BMG/6 Meeting. The end goal of the test is to have these special air-reports available to operators who could use this information in their safety risk assessments.

2.15 Based on the above, the following Draft Conclusion, emanating from ANSIG/2 Draft Conclusion 2/5, is proposed:

Why	To improve the implementation and distribution of special air-reports used by operators in safety risk assessments
What	Special air-report test
Who	States; ICAO MID Office; MID Meteorological Watch Offices; Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Jeddah and back-up ROC Bahrain
When	September 2017

DRAFT CONCLUSION 16/XX: SPECIAL AIR-REPORT TEST

That States be encouraged to participate in the EUR Special Air-Report Test in order to identify deficiencies and associated solutions in the reporting and dissemination of these reports.

Status of other MET SG/6 Draft Decision and Conclusions

2.16 With reference to other MET SG/6 Draft Conclusions, the meeting may wish to note that MET SG/6 Draft Decision 6/3 to revise the BMG Terms of Reference, the BMG/6 meeting is expected to provide updates for consideration by MIDANPIRG/16.

2.17 With reference to MET SG Draft Conclusion 6/4 which was adapted to MSG Conclusion 5/12, the associated revision to the eANP, Volume II, Part V (MET) will be reviewed by the BMG/6 meeting and results reported to MIDANPIRG/16. This revision provides clarity on the criteria to consider for issuing half-hourly METAR. Other proposed revisions to the MID ANP related to SADIS and functions of the Regional OPMET Centres will also be reviewed by the BMG/6 Meeting and results reported to MIDANPIRG/16.

2.18 With reference to MET SG Draft Conclusion 6/5, the MET Part of the MID eANP Volumes II and III have been approved and published.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to endorse, as appropriate, the proposed Draft Conclusion at para. 2.15.

APPENDIX A

MID ROC Implementation Plan

Following is a list of tasks to be fulfilled to progress on the transition, last update November 10, 2016:

No.	Task	Responsible	Prerequisite	Start Date	Estim. Time (According to plan)	Finish at
1	Implement Collective Addresses	ROC Jeddah	-	24.10.2014	1 week	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	1 month	Transition Part1 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 BROCC 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	11 months	Part1 and Part2, OK, 01/08/2015
9	Develop Backup Procedure	ROC Jeddah & BROCC Bahrain (inform MID-BMG)		23.10.2014	4 months	Draft procedure has been discussed during ROC Jeddah Training (October 16-27, 2016) and to be agreed with B-ROC Bahrain
10	Develop Regional HB on OPMET Data Exchange	ROC Jeddah & BROCC Bahrain (inform MID-BMG)		24.03.2015	2 months	started (October 30, 2016) see note 3 below
11	Develop first ideas for Training for operators	ROC Vienna		27.10.2014	2 weeks	Submitted to PME

12	Finalize Training for operators	ROC Jeddah & BROCC Bahrain & ROC Vienna		10.11.2014	April 2016	Training done (October 16-27, 2016)
13	Route GULF reports to ROC Jeddah	ROC Jeddah		27.10.2014	1 month	01/02/2015
14	Transition Process for Iran	ROC Jeddah		16.02.2015	2 months	Part1,OK, 25/11/2015 Part2, pending
15	Transition Process for Jordan	ROC Jeddah				Transition part1 OK, 19/04/2015, transition Part2 OK, 20/05/2015
16	Transition Process for Egypt	ROC Jeddah				Egypt, transition part1 OK, 17/05/2015, transition part2 Pending
17	Transition Process Iraq	ROC Jeddah		16.04.2015	2 months	Iraq, transition part1 OK (last update 28/8/2015), transition Part2 OK 2/10/2016
18	Transition Process Syria	ROC Jeddah				Syria (no contact information yet)
19	Transition Process Lebanon	ROC Jeddah				Transition part1&2 ,OK, 13/12/2015
20	Transition Process Libya	ROC Jeddah				Transition part1 OK, 25/03/2015, Transition part2 OK, 17/05/2015
21	Transition Process Yemen	ROC Jeddah				No Reply

Comments:

- 1- Finish column in this attachment is filled based on what information 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 that Mid-state.
- 3- Regional Handbook on OPMET Data Exchange expected to be finished within 2-3 months.