



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
Western and Central African Office**

AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)

**SEVENTH MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY SUB GROUP
(METS/7)**

(Dakar, 11 – 13 April 2005)

Agenda Item 5 : Provision of tropical cyclone and volcanic ash advisories for the AFI Region

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information on developments related to:

- a) Implementation of the tropical cyclone advisories by Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centre (TCAC), France (La Reunion) and SIGMETs by the meteorological watch offices (MWOs) in the AFI Region;
- b) The ongoing coordination with MWO;
- c) the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) since the Sixth Meeting of the Meteorology Sub-Group and information on the outcome of the first IAVW Operations Group (IAVWOPSG/1);

1. Introduction

1.1 The Secretariat continued to monitor the implementation of tropical cyclone advisories issued by Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centre, France (La Reunion). The area of responsibility of the TCAC was extended to 40°S by the 16th Session of WMO RA1 Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean. An amendment proposal to the AFI ANP and FASID has been circulated to States concerning the extended area of responsibility.

1.2 Coordination between the Secretariat and the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre, Toulouse continued to be made since the MET/SG/6 meeting. States were urged to implement the new changes to the format of the advisories and SIGMETs.

2. Discussions

Tropical Cyclone Advisories (TCAs)

2.1 The MET Divisional Meeting (2002) had noted that some designated Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCACs) did not yet issue their TCAs in the format required by ICAO. The meeting formulated recommendation 1/21, which invited all TCAC Provider States to implement the ICAO format detailed in Annex 3 for the tropical cyclone advisories for aviation.

2.2 Communication was exchanged with TCAC, France (La Reunion) and the matter was subsequently resolved as the Authorities complied with Annex 3 format for these advisories.

2.3 Good coordination between the RA1 Tropical Cyclone Committee for the South-West Indian Ocean continued to be enjoyed with ICAO Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa. ICAO attended as an observer at the 16th session of the RA1 Tropical Cyclone Committee which was held in Mozambique from 8 to 12 September 2003.

2.4 At the meeting, the ICAO observer advised the participants that the TCACs and MWOs should adhere strictly to the internationally agreed formats of advisories and SIGMETs in order to ensure a uniform interpretation and allow for automatic reception and processing by users. In order to assist the States ICAO Regional Offices in Dakar and Nairobi issued new editions of the AFI Regional SIGMET Guides which provided detailed instructions on the formats and procedures related to SIGMET including SIGMET for tropical cyclones. A new template for tropical cyclone advisory was introduced through Amendment 73 to Annex 3, which became applicable on 25 November 2004. No discrepancies in format of the advisories issued by TCAC, France (La Reunion) have so far been reported by users.

Volcanic Ash Advisories (VACs)

2.5 With regard to volcanic ash advisories, it may also be recalled that the Meteorology (MET) Divisional Meeting under Recommendation 1/22 agreed for the establishment of the IAVW Operations Group in order to ensure that the operation and development IAVW continued to meet current and evolving operational requirements in an effective manner. The terms of reference of the group as approved by the ANC include ensuring that the regional ANPs are current. The Planning and Implementation Regional Groups (PIRGs) on the other hand should review the outcomes of the IAVWOPSG meetings and identify any follow-up actions necessary at regional level. Invariably issues related to IAVW planning raised by PIRGs should also be referred to IAVWOPSG for consideration.

2.6 The first meeting of the IAVW Operations Group was held in the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok from 15 to 19 March 2004. The executive summary of the report of the IAVWOPSG/1 meeting is given at the Attachment.

2.7 Relevant implementation issues to the AFI Region were included in Amendment No.ESAF MET/04/02 to the AFI Air Navigation Plan(ICAO DOC.7474).

3. **Action by the Meeting**

3.1 The MET/SG is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this paper ;
- b) Review the executive summary of IAVWOPSG/1 report and provide comments regarding the follow-up actions.
