INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)
AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (AFI OPMET MTF)
THIRD MEETING (AFI OPMET MTF/3)
(Dakar, Senegal, 27 – 28 June 2011)

Agenda Item 3b: AMBEX Implementation Status Report by Pretoria RODB

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMBEX SCHEME BY RODB PRETORIA

(Presented by South Africa)

Summary

The paper provides an update on the status of implementation of the recommendations of APIRG /17**.** Its target is to emphasize the status of communication means, the strength and the weakness of the AMBEX Exchange System on the Area of Pretoria RODB responsibility.

REFERENCES

AFI AMBEX Handbook
Seventh Edition, March 2010
AFI MTF/2 Report
APIRG/17 Report

ACTION

The action by the meeting in paragraph 4

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This paper serves to inform the meeting of steps taken by South Africa to implement recommendations and decisions as stated in the AFI MTF/2 and APIRG/17 reports.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 **APIRG Conclusion 17/75: OPMET Exchange requirements and Inter regional OPMET Gateway (IROG) functions.**

(4 pages)

2.1.1 The meeting may wish to recall that APIRG conclusion 17/75 calls for the implementation of the requirements for the exchange of OPMET data between the AFI and other adjacent regions. The meeting is invited to note that Pretoria IROG has implemented these requirements and currently relays all AFI bulletins to IROG London and IROG Toulouse.

2.1.2 The relaying of OPMET data to Bangkok and Rio de Janeiro will commence as soon as the AFTN addresses has been implemented. The OPMET bulletins from MID, ASIA/PAD, EUR and SAM regions are also received and stored by IROG Pretoria.

2.2 **APIRG Conclusion 17/77: OPMET exchange monitoring and management procedures at BCCS and RODBs (Incl. AFI OPMET Rec 2/3)**

2.2.1 The meeting may recall that the main purpose for validation and monitoring of scheduled OPMET data is to enhance the quality of OPMET data to ensure the safety of air navigation in the region. With the foregoing in mind, the meeting may wish to note that the RODB Pretoria has implemented the monitoring schedule. The monitoring system is fully automated and captures the needed statistic on the first Wednesday of each month. This activity started in January 2010 as per recommendation 2/3 of the AFI MTF/2 report.

2.3 **APIRG/17 Conclusion 17/78 (a): (ICD for AFI OPMET Database Access Procedures) and AFI MTF/2: Recommendation 2/14.**

2.3.1 The Pretoria RODB has implemented the Interface Control Document (ICD) access procedures in October 2010 already. The meeting is invited to note that by this time the AFI ICD had not yet been published and Pretoria RODB used EUR ICD procedures to implement both AFTN and internet request reply facility.

2.3.2 Pretoria RODB has since implemented the recently published AFI ICD procedures and has updated the catalogues accordingly. Further to this, the catalogues have been aligned with the latest version of the FASID MET2A and 2B, updated on 04/05/2011.

2.3.4 The catalogues (OPMET and Bulletin) have also been updated to include non scheduled data types WC, WS and WV SIGMET information as per Appendix 3.5C to the APIRG/17 Report.

2.3.5 The catalogues are also accessible on the internet via the link provided in the draft conclusion below.

2.4 **AFI OPMET MTF/2: Recommendation 2/7 (Direct AFTN link between AFI RODB's) and Recommendation 2/8 (Development of a backup procedure for the AFI RODB's)**

2.4.1 All AFTN connections in South Africa are managed by the Air Traffic and Navigation (ATNS). Currently there is an AFTN connection from Johannesburg to Dakar via a 19200kps ASCENIA VSAT-link that could possibly be used to support the backup procedures which will be developed for the AFI RODBs by a Core Team of Experts consisting of members from South Africa, Kenya, Senegal and

Madagascar. More information about the development of backup procedures is covered in working paper 13 (WP 13).

2.5 **AFI MTF/2 Rec. 2/8**: **(Improvement of availability of OPMET from a number of states.)**

2.5.1 Pretoria does receive bulletins from MID, ASIA/PAC, EUR, SAM regions but mostly bulletins with a WMO header and not the headers as per Appendix C of the AMBEX Handbook – 7th Edition.

2.5.2 Pretoria IROG has updated their system according to the AMBEX Handbook Appendices (distribution of the required bulletins). Not all could be implemented since we do not have all the AFTN addresses as mentioned in 2.1 and do not receive all the required headers. We also experienced difficulty in contacting the states in our area of responsibility.

2.6 **AFI MTF/3 Dec. 2/10: Internet Access Address of the RODBs**

2.6.1 The meeting may wish to recall that the internet address for accessing the Pretoria RODB was presented to the group during the AFI OPMET MTF/2 which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, 6-7 September 2010. The website address was provided for publication on to the AFI ICD and relevant documentation. The recently published AFI ICD still does not reflect this address and we would appreciate if the address is rectified.

2.7 **AFI OPMET MTF/3 Dec. 2/18: Awareness of MWOs to issue SIGMETs**

2.7.1 The Pretoria RODB has continued to assist the MWOs particularly in the SADC region to enable them to issue SIGMET information. Part of the assistance we provide is with regard to the challenges they face with the communication network. The MWO Johannesburg has also assisting with regard to the correct formatting of the SIGMETs issued by the MWOs. The recent example is the assistance provided to MWO in Botswana where we assisted in the formatting of their SIGMETs particularly the headers as well as making sure that their SIGMETs are received at the SADIS gateway. In communication with the SADIS provider state, it was established that Botswana SIGMETs failed the validation because of format errors.

2.7.2 Recently during the SIGMET advisory trial, assistance was provided to MWOs and this included the guidance material for responding to advisories as well as the format of the response SIGMETs. The Pretoria RODB together with MWO FAJS will continue assisting, wherever possible, the MWOs in the region with both technical and operational challenges related to the issuance of SIGMET information.

3. **CONCLUSIONS**

3.1 As noted in 2.5 above, the bulletins received from other regions does not have correct WMO headers as described in Appendix C of the AMBEX Handbook, 7th Edition and the meeting is invited to note the following draft conclusion:

Decision 3/XX- Incorrect WMO headers used by other ICAO regions

That, the secretariat of the AFI OPMET MTF be invited to assist by contacting other ICAO regions regarding the incorrect use of WMO headers when disseminating the bulletins.

3.2 As discussed above, Pretoria RODB has implemented both AFTN and internet request reply service. The meeting may recall that the URL was also presented at the AFI OPMET MTF/2 meeting and as such is invited to note following draft conclusion:

Decision 3/XX- Updating of the AFI Interface Control Document

That, the URL: http://aviation.weathersa.co.za/#showopmetdatabank?action=rqm be published in the AFI Interface Control Document (AFI ICD).

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

a) Note the information presented in this paper; and

b) decide on the proposed draft conclusions.
