

**57th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Incheon, Republic of Korea
4 – 8 July 2022*

AGENDA ITEM 9: UPDATES

**ASIA/PACIFIC COVID-19 CONTINGENCY AND RECOVERY
PLANNING GROUP (ACCRPG)**

Presented by Co-Chairs of the ACCRPG

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of the ACCRPG, which is due to complete its term on 30 June 2022. It highlights the ACCRPG achievements, including supporting the regional implementation of the ICAO CART Recommendations and guidance and facilitating the engagement between aviation and public health communities. Finally, it invites the Conference to endorse the completion of the ACCRPG's work and urge States, Organisations and the aviation industry to continue collaborating on the recovery of civil aviation from COVID-19 and using the lessons learnt to respond to future pandemics.

ASIA/PACIFIC COVID-19 CONTINGENCY AND RECOVERY PLANNING GROUP (ACCRPG)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Office convened a web conference for the Director-Generals of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to share information on the COVID-19 pandemic crisis on 31 March 2020. As a result, the DGCA decided to establish a group – the APAC COVID-19 Contingency and Recovery Planning Group (ACCRPG) – to support the DGCA’s management of civil aviation in the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.2 The DGCA’s tasked the ACCRPG as an information-sharing forum to assist with coordinating the States’ implementation of the recommendations of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Report, including the guidance document, *Take-off: Guidance for Air Travel through the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis*.

1.3 At its inaugural meeting on 5 June 2020, the ACCRPG elected two co-Chairs; one from the States, Mr Jim Wolfe, *Assistant Secretary, International Aviation, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications* (Australia), and one from the aviation industry, Mr Conrad Clifford, *Regional Vice President, Asia Pacific, International Air Transport Association* (IATA). At its eleventh meeting on 4 March 2022, the ACCRPG elected Mr Philip GOH, *Regional Vice President, Asia Pacific* (IATA), as the new industry representative co-Chair.

1.4 Membership of the ACCRPG included nearly one-hundred-and-fifty (150) experts from twenty-four (24) ICAO Member States and Special Administrative Regions and thirteen (13) International Organizations and aviation industry bodies.

1.5 In its first annual report to the APAC DGCA in July 2021, the ACCRPG presented its revised terms of reference with a specific end date of 30 June 2022.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The ICAO APAC Office convened twelve (12) online plenary meetings of the ACCRPG between 5 June 2020 and 27 May 2022. At its first meeting, the ACCRPG established three sub-groups covering three specific areas of the ICAO CART recommendations – aviation safety, public health, security and facilitation. The three sub-groups subsequently convened additional online, inter-plenary sub-group meetings to coordinate the ACCRPG’s work focussed on the CART Recommendations and guidance.

2.2 ACCRPG also considered outcomes of the Air Traffic Management (ATM) Coordination Video Teleconferences, which the ICAO APAC Office convened on COVID-19-related ATM issues.

2.3 The ACCRPG also supported online events in the Region to facilitate the implementation by APAC States of the CART Recommendations and guidance and strengthen collaboration between civil aviation and public health authorities on issues concerning the safe resumption of international air travel.

2.4 To further address COVID-19-related issues to the APAC DGCA forum and report on the progress of the ACCRPG, the ICAO APAC Office convened additional APAC DGCA Information Sharing web conferences on 12 May, 19 June and 8 December 2020, and 6 July 2021.

2.5 The reports, presentations, and other documentation from the ACCRPG plenary and sub-group meetings and relevant ATM coordination meetings, including the ACCRPG progress reports to the DGCA, are available on the ICAO APAC Office – [ACCRPG website](https://www.icao.int/APAC/ACCRPG/Pages/default.aspx)¹.

¹<https://www.icao.int/APAC/ACCRPG/Pages/default.aspx>

2.6 The primary outcomes of the ACCRPG included informing participants on phases I – III of the ICAO CART Report, including the twenty (20) CART Recommendations. In addition, the ACCRPG informed participants on the Take-Off Guidance Document, Manual on Testing and Cross-border Risk Management, and ICAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Platform, including ICAO Implementation Packages (I-Packs) and COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC).

2.7 The ACCRPG made several recommendations for the APAC DGCA's to support States' implementation of the CART Recommendations and guidance. The ACCRPG recommendations were presented to the APAC DGCA's in the ACCRPG initial and second progress reports and the first annual report, delivered by the ACCRPG co-Chairs at the APAC DGCA Information Sharing web conferences.

2.8 The ACCRPG supported ICAO's development of I-Packs and complimentary provision (of I-Packs) to Bhutan, Fiji, Lao PDR, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands.

2.9 The ACCRPG contributed to the development of the ICAO CART (revised) Recommendation #12 on cross-border access to flight simulation training devices and supported two APAC States (Bangladesh and Bhutan) with cross-border access to flight simulation training devices.

2.10 The ACCRPG also contributed to CART Recommendation #18 on access for aircrew to vaccination and the third edition of the Take-Off Guidance on the use of Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) on board.

2.11 The ACCRPG enabled States, international organisations and industry bodies to share their experience in the ACCRPG forum on issues related to restarting air connectivity and aligning procedures with the ICAO CART Report and guidance.

2.12 The ACCRPG and ICAO APAC Office have also facilitated valuable, and what needs to be ongoing, engagement between the aviation and public health communities on removing impediments to aviation recovery and strengthening public confidence in air travel. The ACCRPG supported several information-sharing initiatives and events in conjunction with the *Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation – Asia Pacific* (CAPSCA-AP) forum and the World Health Organization (WHO).

2.13 The ACCRPG initially set the term of the Group for one year but, given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, extended the term to 30 June 2022. The Group has now completed its work.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) Note the information in this paper and the associated ACCRPG documentation available on the ICAO APAC Office – ACCRPG website, and recognise the achievements of the ACCRPG summarised in the discussion (Section 2) above;
- b) Acknowledge the completion of the ACCRPG work for the term up to 30 June 2022;
- c) Urge States/organisations to continue sharing their views and best practices on how the APAC Region will meet the challenges of the current and future pandemics at the various regional forums (i.e., APANPIRG, RASG AP, RASCF); and
- d) Urge States, organisations and industry to continue collaborating and sharing best practices on helping the Region's recovery from COVID through removing the COVID-19 impediments to, and facilitating, passenger and freight movements while maintaining safe and secure air travel throughout the Asia Pacific region.