



COSCAP – SOUTH ASIA

18TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE
17-19 FEBRUARY 2009
BANGKOK, THAILAND

REPORT ON CLOSED DOOR SESSION OF THE CHAIRMAN/DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION OF MEMBER STATES HELD ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Air Cdre (R) M. Junaid Ameen, Chairman, COSCAP-SA (DGCA,CAA-Pakistan)
2. Air Cdre Mahmud Hussain, Chairman,CAA,Bangladesh
3. Mr. Phala Dorji, DGCA, DCA-Bhutan
4. Dr. Nasim Zaidi, DGCA, Dte.GCA,-India
5. Mr. Mr. K R Khanal,DGCA,CAA-Nepal
6. Mr.D.M.P.Dissanayake,Actg.DGCA,CAA-Sri Lanka

ATTENDANCE AT INVITATION

1. Mr. Syed Mohammad Zobaer, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Bangladesh
2. Mr.Chandrasena Nimalsiri, Regional Programme Coordinator, COSCAP-South Asia

	Matters discussed	Members' Decision
1.	Post of Regional Coordinator <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red;">Completed</div>	After reviewing the options available to the Programme, the SC Members decided that the Programme requires the services of a Programme Coordinator for its effective operation and sustenance of its achievements. <u>It was decided that the Programme should continue with Regional Programme Coordinator and necessary funding should accordingly be arranged</u>
2	Salaries paid to the Regional Experts <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red;">TCB has revised the salaries of Regional Experts and vacancies for the posts have been advertised as per the new salaries</div>	In their efforts of finding avenues of continuing the Programme without reduction of the approved cadre of Regional Experts (RE) as in the Programme Document (Phase III) or any curtailment of work/activities, the SC Members, expressed concerns of Regional Experts salaries being on the high side. Accordingly the SC Members requested <u>TCB-ICAO to review the salaries being paid to the Regional Experts and adjust them to suit the region.</u> It was the opinion of the SC members that all Regional Experts should be paid the same salaries regardless of their speciality and if there is a difficulty in finding suitable personnel, then additional payment may be considered as an allowance.

3	<p>Reduction of Mission costs of Regional Experts</p> <p>TCB has revised the method of payment of DSA. States were advised about it. States comments on the new proposal is awaited.</p>	<p>SC members observed that the present practice of payment of DSA to RE based on UN rates when on mission, has become a severe drain on the Programme funds.</p> <p>With the States' more use of RE for on-site technical assistance, this cost component is likely to increase further.</p> <p>It was also pointed out that although the States are not in a position to increase their financial contributions to the Programme, they can provide more assistance in kind such as providing local accommodation and travel costs for RE s when on missions.</p> <p>Accordingly <u>SC members agreed to undertake the responsibility of providing reasonable lodging and travel facilities when RE are on missions in their States and requested the Programme Management to make necessary adjustments in the RE's DSA accordingly, saving Programme Funds.</u></p>
4	<p>Accomplishment of Work</p> <p>AWP-2009 was revised accordingly. All RE work well beyond 221 days.</p>	<p>SC Members observed that outputs/deliveries of some of the Regional Experts were not satisfactory during the period of 2008. Consequently, SC Members directed the RPC to ensure that each RE comes up with <u>a programme of action with clear identification of outputs/deliveries and also the time to be spent on each action item.</u> SC Members directed that it is mandatory RE s annual work programme shall cover a minimum of 221 days as spelt out in the IF&APM.</p>
5	<p>Delegation of Authority to RPC</p> <p>Presented to the 19th SCM for consideration</p>	<p>SC Members observed that sufficient delegation of authority in regard to financial and administrative matters is yet to take place between the TCB and the COSCAP-SA Programme Management. It was pointed out that after the Annual Work Programme / Training Calendar is approved by the SCM, the Programme Management should have the sufficient freedom to manage the programme within those broad guidelines, without seeking approval from ICAO for all administrative/financial matters, in particular routine matters. SC members directed the RPC to <u>draft a chart indicating the possible areas for Delegation of Authority that should take place between TCB and the RPC and forward same for the observation of the SC members and for final adoption after receiving consensus from all concerned.</u></p>
6	<p>Meeting of Civil Aviation Ministers/Secretaries</p> <p>DGCA india advised for the Programme to be stood-by for dates for the meeting.</p>	<p>It was pointed out that COSCAP-SA cannot elevate from its present status to a higher position both in scope and authority, without the support of the Government. Hence it is necessary and timely to organized a meeting of Ministers of Civil Aviation / Secretaries of the region to discuss matters relating to institutionalization of the Programme toward establishment of RSOO and other pressing issues faced by Civil Aviation Administrations which cannot be solved without their support. SC Members accordingly decided to convene a meeting of Civil Aviation Ministers/Secretaries in the region and <u>requested the Programme Management/ICAO to take necessary steps in close consultation with the Member States and others concerned.</u> DGCA-India agreed to host such a meeting in India.</p>

7	<p>Shifting of the Programme Office from Colombo to Dhaka</p> <p>NC-CAAB stated that CAAB is not interested in pursuing the decision. However Ch/CAAB later informed that he needs to review the position. CAAB's official position is awaited.</p>	<p>SC members considered the proposal of the CAA-Bangladesh for shifting the Programme Office from Colombo to Dhaka. CAA-Bangladesh agreed to absorb the cost of re-location. Actg. DGCA Sri Lanka stated that relocation of the Programme Office at this stage would seriously disrupt the Programme' activities as five out of seven States are to face the ICAO audits under IUSOAP in 2009 and 2010. He also mentioned on the need of States' fulfilling their financial obligations in full so that the States which have settled their dues in full will not face difficulties in the eyes of their respective Governments (treasury departments) when seeking approval for payment of annual contributions.</p> <p>After consideration of the matter in detail, the SC members agreed to shift the Programme Office from Colombo to Dhaka in September 2010 at cost to the CAA-Bangladesh. It was also decided that the Programme office should be in a Member State for a minimum period of five years before shifting to another State. It was mentioned that during any relocation of the Programme office, those States who have settled their contributions in full as per the MoU signed by them, should be given preference .</p>
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There being no other issues/ matters which the SC members wished to discuss, the Chairman, thanked all SC members for their excellent cooperation and mutual understanding and the SC members dispersed.