



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL (PMC-7)

AGENDA ITEM 9

PIAWS Panel Activities

Paula Acethorp, CAA NZ, Vice Chair PIAWS Panel

"AT THE FRONTLINE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER, AND OCEAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC"



Purpose of the Paper

- Provide the Meeting with an overview of PIAWS Panel activities
- Emphasise the need for continued support for Pacific Island meteorological services in the development and improvement of their QMS and, where required, Part 174 certification activities and safety management systems.



Activities

- The Panel has met twice since PMC/6, in May and August 2024, with no changes proposed to its ToR.
- Key updates:
 - Chair 'Ofa Fa'anunu has moved onto new role within WRP – the Panel thanks him for his leadership over the period of his Chairmanship & wishes him well.
 - Task Team on ICAO compliance has now disbanded, with Panel now working with relevant groups under the ICAO APANPIRG MET SG to progress further improvement in deficiency resolution and IWXXM compliance.
 - PIAWS Panel members have contributed to development of ICAO guidance material for organising and running meteorological exercises and improving the guidance on identification and resolution of deficiencies in the MET field.



PMC/6 (aviation) request progress (1/7)

Regarding PMC/6 request for technical assistance for Pacific Island States in futureproofing their observation systems and forecasting tools to ensure the ability to comply with ICAO provision of meteorological service and to meet current and future requirements for international aviation:

- Australian BoM is carrying out a program of assistance in repairing or replacing AWOS and upper air observing systems in Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, Nauru, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Papua New Guinea.
- MetService New Zealand is undertaking a review of the state of international aerodrome AWOS and upper air observing systems across the Pacific (for those countries with NZ aviation relationships), to provide a baseline MFAT NZ to consider when funding future projects or improving the impact of current ones.



PMC/6 (aviation) request progress (2/7)

Regarding PMC/6 request for technical assistance for Pacific Island States in capacity development and competency assessment activities:

- ICAO MET SG ad hoc group on deficiencies working with PNG NWS on SIGMET exercise series, to support the resolution of the PNG and Nauru SIGMET deficiencies. Planned that these exercises will then lead into a PNG volcanic ash exercise in early 2025.
- The AeroMetSci Webinar series addressing turbulence and airframe icing related issues was delivered to RA II / RA V on 5 December 2023.
- Further WMO training opportunities (non-aviation) held, as outlined in working paper.



PMC/6 (aviation) request progress (3/7)

Regarding PMC/6 request for technical assistance for Pacific Island States who are providing TAF and need help to set up suitable automated verification systems:

- The BoM Australia provided an overview and demonstration of their TAF Verification Service to show what's involved in establishing and operating a forecast verification service for TAFs including the key inputs required to perform the verification (e.g. TAFs and METARS – preferably both manual and automated).



PMC/6 (aviation) request progress (4-6/7)

Regarding the three PMC/6 requests for assistance in training of QMS/auditors (including SMS), establishment of a mentoring/twinning approach to QMS development, and assistance to carry out QMS gap analyses:

- Solomon Islands QMS TA Expert has assisted KMS on the QMS/SMS/Part 174 under the mentoring/twinning approach, funding support from BoM through the International development support for Pacific Aviation.
- Australia BoM has carried out a (DFAT funded) program “Developing and Implementing a Quality Management System (QMS) for NMHSs. This included in-country workshops, including an ISO 9001 gap analysis, for meteorological services of Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. Guidance was also provided to Samoa Meteorological Division and PNG NWS on Part 174 certification. In addition, internal auditor training, followed up by lead auditor training was conducted for participants from these three States.



PMC/6 (aviation) request progress (7/7)

Regarding the PMC/6 request for New Zealand to progress concept for a 'VONA Portal' that will allow Pacific Island States' SVOs to create and issue VONA:

- The VONA Portal concept has now been approved for funding by NZ's Ministry of Transport and is now being developed by MetService NZ. It is anticipated that it will be available in 2025, when Pacific States with active or potentially active volcanoes will be invited to have their State volcano observatories participate in training to use the Portal.
- Note – currently the only Pacific Island State with a State volcano observatory designated in the ICAO APAC air navigation plan to provide VONA is Papua New Guinea, with an update underway to include Hawai'i Volcano Observatory (for Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa).



Importance of QMS and SMS

- There remains a strong need for assistance in both QMS and SMS development and ongoing improvement. The excellent work undertaken by the BoM in coordination with Kiribati, Samoa and Papua New Guinea has been very much appreciated by the PIAWS Panel, with a strong desire to see the activities extended to other Pacific States.
- QMS is an ICAO Annex 3 requirement, therefore it is required by all Pacific States providing a service to international aviation. Further, it is a necessary building block in the journey to an effective SMS – a requirement for Pacific States that have adopted the New Zealand Part 174 civil aviation rule.
- Further, the PIAWS Panel proposes that any new project undertaken in the Pacific should have a requirement for a QMS approach for its undertaking.



Recommendations

The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the activities of the PIAWS Panel and express appreciation to the outgoing Chair, 'Ofa Fa'anunu for his leadership of the Panel.
- **Endorse** the continued activities of the PIAWS Panel and the current ToR as presented in Attachment A of the working paper.
- **Encourage** States to ensure QMS principles are embedded within projects to improve the provision of aviation meteorology.
- **Request** continued assistance for Pacific States in the further development and improvement of QMS and, where required, in SMS and Part 174 certification assistance.