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Organization of MET Services in Hong Kong, China

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**MET/ATM CO-ORDINATION SEMINAR FOR
ASIA/PACIFIC REGION**

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Discussion Topic 1: Organization of Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Meteorological (MET) Services by the States

ORGANIZATION OF MET SERVICES IN HONG KONG, CHINA

(Presented by Hong Kong, China)

SUMMARY

This paper will provide a brief overview of the organization for the provision of MET services for international air navigation in Hong Kong, China. Institutional arrangements, high-level consultative mechanisms, quality management and how the services are provided will be presented.

1. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1.1 The Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) is the meteorological authority in Hong Kong, China designated by China, to provide the meteorological facilities and services for international air navigation. These meteorological facilities and services are provided by HKO in accordance with the relevant standards contained in the Annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, and WMO Technical Regulations and Manuals on meteorological service for international air navigation. In other words, HKO is both the meteorological authority and service provider in Hong Kong, China.

1.2 To support the provision of aeronautical meteorological service, HKO establishes and operates the Airport Meteorological Office (AMO) which serves as the Aeronautical Meteorological Station and Aerodrome Meteorological Office for the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), and serves as the Meteorological Watch Office for the Hong Kong Flight Information Region (FIR). HKO installs, operates and maintains the necessary meteorological equipment and facilities, and ensures that there are sufficient qualified personnel for the provision of the service. The organization chart of the HKO Aviation Weather Services Branch overseeing the operation of the AMO and the provision of the facilities and services is given in the Appendix.

1.3 The Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (CAD) is the civil aviation authority in Hong Kong, China. It is also the service provider for ATS, AIS and SAR service. Both HKO and CAD are departments of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. To facilitate the provision of aeronautical meteorological service, coordination arrangements are agreed between HKO and CAD, and listed in a high-level document entitled "*Agreed Coordination Arrangements between the Hong Kong Observatory (HKO) and Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (CAD) in Respect of the Provision of Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*" (ACA). In particular, to ensure close coordination between HKO and CAD in the aspect of aeronautical meteorological service, coordination meetings between representatives of the two

departments are held regularly to review the coordination arrangements. Changes in coordination arrangements resulting from these meetings are documented and the necessary updates are made to the ACA. In respect of the windshear and turbulence alerting service for HKIA, a special user group involving representatives from HKO, CAD, airlines, pilots, and air traffic controllers meets regularly to consider changes to the relevant operational procedures and enhancement of the alerting facilities and services. More information on the coordination arrangements will be presented in a separate paper for the seminar.

1.4 Following the recommendation introduced in Amendment 72 to Annex 3, HKO obtained ISO 9001:2000 certification for the AMO in respect of the provision of aviation weather services for international air navigation in 2002.

1.5 User satisfaction survey is conducted annually among users of aeronautical meteorological service including airlines and ATC users. User feedback from such surveys is integrated into HKO's regular improvement process. In addition, liaison group meetings are held twice a year for face-to-face discussions. Apart from these formal processes, there are also regular meetings with air traffic control personnel, visits to airlines and to the meteorological office in order to foster better mutual understanding.

2. PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS

2.1 The aeronautical meteorological service provided by HKO is documented in the Hong Kong Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP). An Observer and an Aviation Forecaster are on duty round-the-clock at the AMO located at the Aerodrome Control Tower to make weather observations and prepare reports; and to prepare weather forecasts, issue warnings and provide briefings respectively.

2.2 The latest meteorological information for the aerodrome, en-route and destinations is made available to flight crew members, airline operators and ATC via the web-based Aviation Meteorological Information Dissemination System (AMIDS).

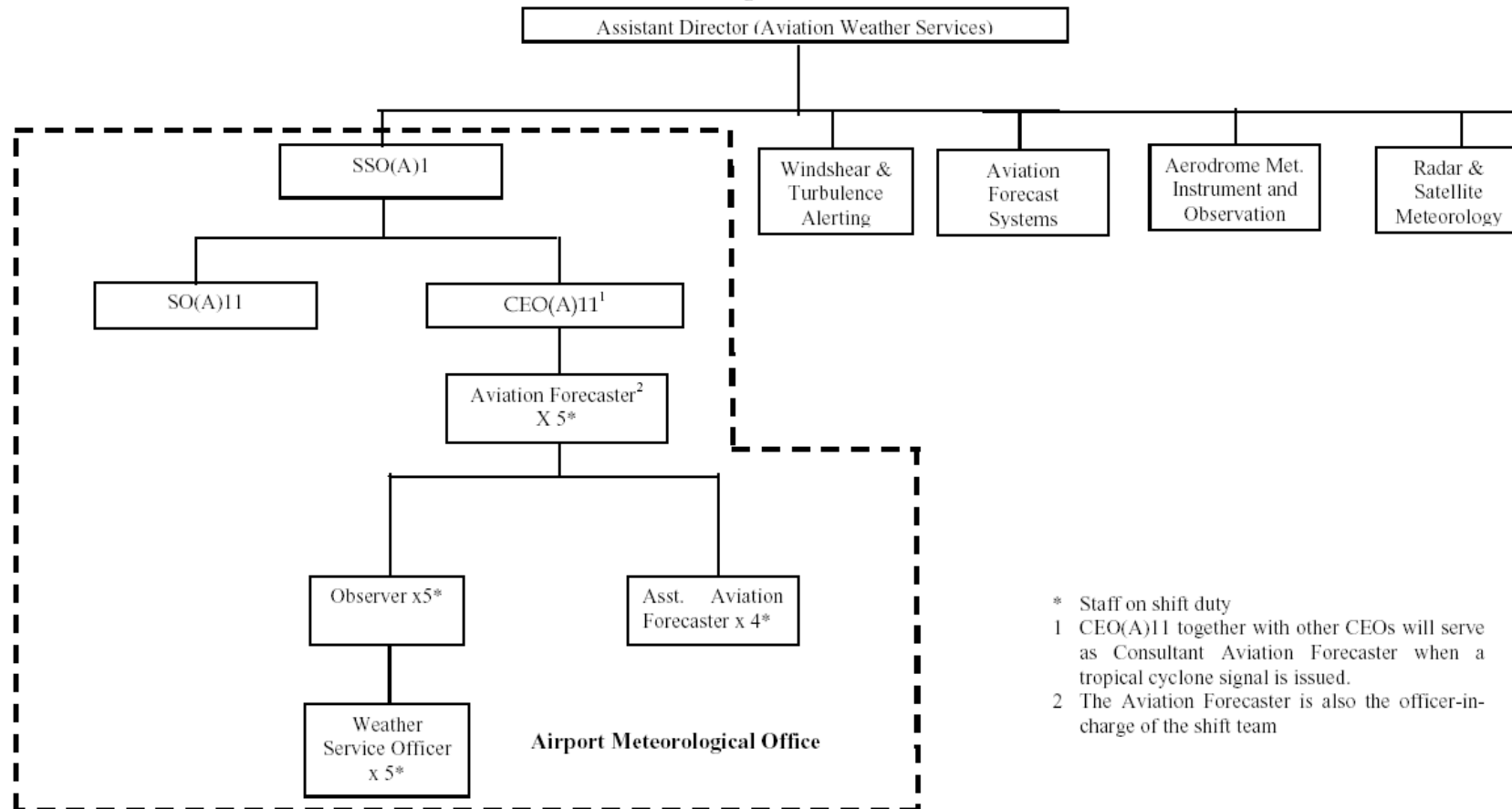
2.3 For aircraft take-off and landing, weather reports, aerodrome forecast, landing forecast, and warning messages are disseminated electronically to ATC for onward transmission to pilots via voice communication and via the ATIS and VOLMET services which are provided in both voice broadcasts and data link.

2.4 Weather briefings for airline users, flight crew members and ATC personnel are provided by the Aviation Forecaster via telephone upon request. For severe weather events such as passage of tropical cyclones, centralized weather briefings will be provided by the officer-in-charge of the AMO to the Airport Authority, ground operators and airline operators at HKIA.

3. ACTION

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided in this paper.

Organization Chart



* Staff on shift duty

1 CEO(A)11 together with other CEOs will serve as Consultant Aviation Forecaster when a tropical cyclone signal is issued.

2 The Aviation Forecaster is also the officer-in-charge of the shift team