



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION ATTENDS 2018 ASIA PACIFIC REGION MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN BEIJING, CHINA

The Minister for Civil Aviation, Hon. Alfred Manase, participated in the first *Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation* held in Beijing on January 31 and February 1, 2018. He was joined by Mr Wilson Sagati, OBE, CEO and Director of the PNG Civil Aviation Safety Authority, and Mr Hubert Namani, Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission. The theme of the conference was *Uniting To Shape The Future of Civil Aviation Through Commitment and Collaboration*. During the meeting 36 ICAO member states in the APAC Region discussed and adopted the *Beijing Declaration*.

Mr Manase said “The *Declaration* reflects the common concerns, positions and vision of all APAC member states in terms of aviation safety, air navigation services, accident investigation and human resources. It is not only a consensus on promoting the development of the aviation industry in the Asia Pacific Region, but it will also be a multilateral policy guideline for promoting the development of Asia Pacific civil aviation in the future. It will be of great significance in strengthening the cooperation among the countries in the field of civil aviation, further enhancing the level of aviation safety in the Asia Pacific Region, promoting the healthy, sustained and high-quality development of civil aviation in the region, for the social and economic enhancement of our communities”.

The Conference discussed the diverse nature of the Asia Pacific region, and that there is a compelling need for stronger regional cooperation, partnerships and engagement to continuously improve aviation safety and enhance safety and efficiency of air navigation services to cater for the projected air traffic growth in the region. In order to implement the ICAO “*No Country Left Behind (NCLB)*” initiative, ICAO member states in the APAC region agreed on commitments and actions on aviation safety, air navigation services, accident investigation and human resources, based on the work already under way.

The *Declaration* highlights that, with respect to aviation safety, ICAO member states in the APAC Region shall commit to: progressively enhance safety oversight capability to achieve a *Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program (USOAP)* score higher than, or equal to the global average of compliance by 2022 (currently 65.1 %); implement an effective *State Safety Program (SSP)* by 2025; endeavour not to have any *Significant Safety Concerns (SSCs)* under the *USOAP Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA)*, and to resolve any future SSCs within the time frame agreed with ICAO; certify all aerodromes used for international operations by 2020; use data driven methodologies to identify high risk categories of occurrences, and implement collaborative solutions to reduce accident rates and fatalities in the region; and include aviation safety in national planning frameworks. In the meantime, they shall promote regional government and industry collaboration for sharing of best practices in safety management through the *Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG)*.

With respect to *Air Navigation Services (ANS)*, ICAO member states in the APAC region agreed that they shall commit to implementation of the *Asia Pacific Seamless Air Traffic Management (ATM) Plan* by 2022, to enhance ATM capacity and harmonization in the Region, including a focus on, among others, *Performance Based Navigation (PBN)* implementation, an enhanced level of civil/military cooperation, and *Air Traffic Flow Management/Collaborative Decision Making (CDM)* implementation for high flow density airports. Also, they shall promote sharing of best practices in the provision of ANS through regional cooperation and enhanced coordination.

The Declaration emphasised that, with respect to accident investigation, ICAO member states in the APAC Region shall, in accordance with the Chicago Convention, commit to either establish an accident investigation authority that is independent from state aviation authorities and other entities that could interfere with the conduct, or objectivity of an investigation, or where appropriate develop a bilateral sub-regional or regional partnership to support the establishment of accident investigation capabilities to serve the region, sub-region or State.

Mr Manase said “as Minister responsible for Civil Aviation, I am pleased that PNG is a leader in the South Pacific Region having an independent aviation safety investigation organisation, and that proposed independent legislation will strengthen the AIC’s independence as required by ICAO”.

With respect to human resource development, the Declaration pointed out that ICAO member states in the APAC Region shall, in line with the ICAO initiative on *Next Generation of Aviation Professionals* (NGAP), accord priority to human capital development to provide sufficient qualified and competent aviation professionals to support the region’s growing needs, including where appropriate: establish access to quality training; and encourage sharing of resources bilaterally and/or multi-laterally as well as with industry partners.

Mr Manase said “The PNG Accident Investigation Commission is in advanced negotiations with a number of Regional neighbour States for the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding on cooperation and assistance. The ICAO member States in the APAC Region agreed to promote the attraction of new talent and the retention of trained, qualified and experienced personnel among State aviation organizations”.

Mr Manase added “Together with Mr Sagati and Mr Namani, I had many beneficial discussions with Regional Ministers and their Regional State aviation executive officers, which provided the opportunity to raise awareness of the outstanding achievements of the aviation industry in PNG, and also to discuss organisational and operational needs and safety concerns of mutual significance.

Hon. Alfred Manase, LLB
Minister for Civil Aviation,
6 February 2018



PNG Minister for Civil Aviation Hon. Alfred Manase extending an invitation to visit PNG, to ICAO President Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu during the *Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation* in Beijing, China



PNG Minister for Civil Aviation Hon. Alfred Manase addressing the *Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation* in Beijing, China