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## **Papua New Guinea Hosts Annual International Civil Aviation Asia Pacific Regional Accident Investigation Workshop**

The Papua New Guinea Accident Investigation Commission (PNG AIC), from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, virtually hosted the Asia Pacific (APAC) Regional Aviation Accident Investigation Workshop. Over 30 Asia and Pacific Island States participated in this event. Several International Organizations such as Airbus, Pacific Aviation Safety Organization (PASO), including the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The annual Workshop and meeting were initially planned to be attended in person, here in Port Moresby to share ideas and experiences to support States improve their aviation safety systems and their respective implementation of safety practices to international standard. However, due to the Covid-19 Global Pandemic situation, the AIC replanned and conducted the 3 Day meeting virtually on Microsoft Teams.

The Chief Commissioner, Mr Hubert Namani stated that he was pleased to learn of the high recognition expressed by ICAO during the meeting. “It is very encouraging to hear ICAO give such positive commendation to the AIC acknowledging its high standards and its efforts to support the region in aviation safety”, Mr Namani said.

The AIC is now well regarded in the region as one of the most capable organizations in the APAC region in the area of aircraft accident and incident investigation. ICAO’s recognition on the growth of the AIC’s investigation capability and its compliance with ICAO Standards is a plus for PNG and the Government of PNG that has steadily supported its growth since its inception in 2010.

Former ICAO Chief of Safety and Air Navigation Oversight and Audit Program, Mr. Nicolas Rallo expressed admiration for the AIC and PNG’s efforts to place emphasis on aviation safety investigations which provide key lessons for the improvement and enhancement of aviation safety. He added that he has observed AIC as an agency demonstrating examples for compliance with International Standards, although PNG is considered a developing State. AIC’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dean Kuri said the AIC will be liaising with its sister State Authority - CASA PNG to develop a joint request to ICAO for a validation exercise on PNG’s effective implementation of ICAO Safety Standards in the country. The ICAO validation exercise is an important exercise carried out by ICAO safety standards experts to assess and rate the safety standards and practices applied in respective members states to encourage international best practice in aviation safety across the globe.

The AIC looks to supporting other States in the region that are without the appropriate expertise, resources, and systems for conducting aviation safety investigation and is committed to establishing cooperation programs with our Asia and Pacific Island States to support their Aviation Safety Systems and infrastructure.

