



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Title: Cooperative Agreement for Preventing the Spread of Communicable Diseases through Air Travel (CAPSCA)

Number: RAS/06/801

Initial Duration: 3 months

Project Site: Bangkok and Major International Airports in the Region

Sector & Sub-Sector: Transport and Communications

Government

Implementing Agencies: Civil Aviation Administrations and Airport Authorities in Participating States and Special Administrative Regions

Executing Agency: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Estimated Starting Date: July 2006

Estimated initial project cost: US \$100,000

Brief Description: The project aims at reducing the risk of spreading Avian influenza and similar communicable diseases by air travellers through cooperative arrangements between the Participating States/Administrations and airports. This would be achieved initially by the application and implementation of ICAO Guidelines for preventing the spread of Avian influenza at major international airports. An ICAO Expert provided through the project will visit participating airports to ensure the guidelines are adhered to and fully implemented and to train personnel from the participating civil aviation and airport authorities, as well as airlines to ensure the continued implementation of these guidelines and to assist other states in the region that may join the programme.

Signed on behalf of:	Signature	Name/Title	Date
The Government of Singapore	_____	_____	_____
The Government of P.R. China	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Hong Kong SAR China	_____	_____	_____

Signed on behalf of:	Signature	Name/Title	Date
The Government of Macao SAR China	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Bangladesh	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Bhutan	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Brunei Darussalam	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Cambodia	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Fiji	_____	_____	_____
The Government of India	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Indonesia	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	_____	_____	_____
Civil Aviation Bureau, Japan	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Kiribati	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Lao PDR	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Malaysia	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Maldives	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Mongolia	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Myanmar	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Nauru	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Nepal	_____	_____	_____
The Government of Papua	_____	_____	_____

Signed on behalf of:	Signature	Name/Title	Date
New Guinea			
The Government of Pakistan			
The Government of Philippines			
The Government of the Republic of Korea			
The Government of Samoa			
The Government of Solomon Islands			
The Government of Thailand			
The Government of Timor- Leste			
The Government of Tonga			
The Government of Vanuatu			
The Government of Viet Nam			
International Civil Aviation Organization		Director Technical Co-operation Bureau	

1. CONTEXT

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The rise and spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 raised the concern of ICAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and a number of States and Special Administrative Regions in South East Asia and led to the development and implementation of Anti-SARS protective measures and guidelines at certain airports as a means of controlling SARS and preventing its spread through air travel.

1.1.2 The rapid and wide spread of Avian Influenza in 2005 and the potential for human pandemic influenza raised even greater concern and led the WHO to hold a meeting in Geneva during November 2005. The aim of the meeting was the building of consensus on a common approach to the worldwide concern about avian influenza and the possibility of a human pandemic.

1.1.3 The WHO meeting in which 600 experts and representatives of states and international organizations participated, including ICAO, reached a consensus that neither the timing nor the severity of the next pandemic could be predicted with any certainty due to the unpredictable behaviour of influenza viruses. Therefore, information had to be compiled to help policy makers and the public stay informed about a rapidly evolving situation. Consequently, governments around the world need to take the threat seriously, mobilize resources and take appropriate preventive actions.

1.1.4 The WHO also produced a “global influenza preparedness plan” which sets out specific objectives and actions for each of the six phases in the development of an influenza pandemic. The pandemic alert period covers phases three to five, while screening of travellers and other travel restrictions are required in phases 4 and 5. Phase three was declared in late 2005.

1.1.5 Article 14 of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation requires each contracting State to take effective measures to prevent the spread by means of air navigation of communicable diseases. To that end, Contracting States will keep in close consultation with the agencies concerned with international regulations relating to sanitary measures applicable to aircraft.

1.1.6 Therefore, ICAO and many of its Members States consider it necessary to have a proactive approach to address the Avian Influenza to air travel. Immediate action was taken accordingly to develop an aviation related preparedness plan. The convening of meetings for this purpose in Singapore was made possible by the agreement of the participating Governments to utilize their remaining funds in the Anti-SARS ICAO project RAS/03/804.

1.1.7 Accordingly, invitations were extended to relevant parties and experts to form a working group for the development of an aviation related preparedness plan to prevent, as much as possible, the spread of Avian influenza and similar communicable diseases by air travellers and mitigate the socioeconomic consequences.

1.1.8 Two back-to-back meetings on the subject were held at Singapore Changi Airport between 7 and 10 February 2006. The first meeting on 7 and 8 February was for the 15 member Working Group which finalized the guidelines for States, airports and airlines, which had been drafted earlier by the Chief Aviation Medicine at ICAO HQ and the ICAO Technical Cooperation Expert with the assistance of experts from WHO, ACI, IATA and CDC. The Global Aviation Preparedness Plan for Avian Influenza was approved after minor modifications.

1.1.9 The second meeting on 9 and 10 February 2006, which was attended by 42 participants and experts from 10 states, allowed representatives from APAC States (Australia, Japan, Pakistan, Singapore and Thailand, as well as Hong Kong and Macao, SARs China) to present their own plans which were considered in light of the ICAO plan approved by the Working Group. After deliberation, some modifications were introduced and the meeting proposed that the main document should now be entitled “Preparedness Planning Guidelines (Aviation Aspects) for a Communicable Disease of Public Health Concern” to make it relevant to any communicable disease.

1.1.10 Since aviation preparedness planning for communicable diseases may require considerable time for its consideration and formal approval by ICAO, the ICAO guidelines finalized by the Working Group in Singapore will be promulgated and implemented for the time being.

1.2 Strategy to be followed in achieving the project objective

1.2.1 Continuously develop and update guidelines to prevent, to the extent possible, the spread of Avian influenza and similar communicable diseases by air travellers.

1.2.2 Prepare a roster of experts from States and international organizations for assistance to Civil Aviation Administrations and airport authorities in the development and implementation of the guidelines.

1.2.3 Subject to concurrence by the airport to be evaluated, representatives of international organizations and agencies concerned, such as the UN Resident Coordinator, WHO, IATA, ACI, may be invited to participate in the airport evaluations, at their organization’s expense.

1.2.4 Conduct evaluation visits to airports as needed to determine the adoption and proper implementation of the guidelines. Such visits would be arranged, as far as possible, for a group of airports in the same mission so that the expert’s travel cost element per airport is reduced.

1.2.5 Train through seminars and on-the-job, personnel from participating civil aviation and airport authorities for the continued implementation of the guidelines.

1.2.6. Develop a cooperative follow up and supervisory mechanism within the region for the continued development and implementation of the guidelines for preventing the spread of communicable diseases.

2. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

Immediate Objective 1

Contribute to global efforts for preventing the spread of Avian Influenza or other similar communicable diseases of worldwide concern by reducing the risk of transmission by air travellers.

Output 1.1

Application and implementation of ICAO guidelines on the prevention of the spread of avian influenza and similar communicable diseases.

Activity 1.1.1

Prepare a roster of experts in communicable diseases particularly those from the region who can be recruited to assist States in preventing the spread of avian influenza and other communicable diseases by air travellers.

Activity 1.1.2

Recruit and field experts to visit and evaluate major international airports in participating States and the Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of China to ensure application and implementation of the ICAO guidelines on the Global Preparedness Plan (Aviation Aspects) for Avian Influenza/Communicable Diseases.

Activity 1.1.3

Provide seminars and on-the-job training, as may be required, to civil aviation, airport and airline personnel from the region for carrying out subsequent evaluations at major international airports in their own countries or at other airports in the region that may participate in this programme.

Activity 1.1.4

Advise participating aviation administrations and airports in rectifying any deficiencies in the application and implementation of the guidelines identified during the evaluations.

Activity 1.1.5

Hold a meeting on the subject for all states in the region, plus relevant international organizations and potential donors.

Activity 1.1.6

Develop a regional cooperative follow up and supervisory mechanism composed of participating authorities and agencies concerned for ensuring the continued implementation of the relevant guidelines and on steps needed to mitigate the potential health and socioeconomic consequences associated with the spread of any communicable disease of global health concern.

Activity 1.1.7

Prepare Project Terminal Report in ICAO format.

3. INPUTS

3.1 Government / Airport / Sponsor Inputs

a) Personnel

Qualified medical personnel at each airport with responsibility for the application and implementation of the ICAO guidelines on the Aviation Aspects of the Global Preparedness Plan and act as a counterpart to the ICAO expert during his visit to the airport.

- b) Air and ground transportation for travel to and from airports in the same country
- c) Local support staff and office arrangements, as required
- d) Funding as indicated by ICAO, to cover the costs of airport evaluations, seminars and on-the-job training

3.2 ICAO Inputs

- ICAO Expert in Aviation Medicine/communicable diseases
- International travel costs for ICAO Expert (s)
- Mission costs for ICAO personnel to support/monitor/evaluate the project, as required
- Miscellaneous costs including reporting, sundry expenses and ICAO handling charge.

4. MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

4.1 ICAO will manage the project and organize the field visits of its expert(s) in coordination with the civil aviation administrations/airport authorities participating in the project in accordance with its relevant rules and regulations. It will recruit the expert(s) and arrange payment of their salaries and expenses, maintain financial accounting, provide backstopping and monitoring, as well as accurate and timely reporting.

5. MONITORING AND REPORTING

5.1 ICAO Headquarters will monitor the project through its contacts with the expert and participating administrations, the reports submitted by the expert and through monitoring visits, as appropriate.

5.2 A draft Project Terminal Report will be prepared by the expert prior to the end of the project. The Report will be finalized by ICAO Headquarters and provided to the civil aviation administrations/airport authorities concerned.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 Initial Major Risk Factors

6.1.1 Delay in the approval of the project

Risk Level - Low

ICAO will work with the countries in Asia and the WHO to facilitate the signing of the project document and will assist in resource mobilization.

6.2 Long-term Risk Factors

6.2.1 Delay in the fielding of experts

Risk Level: - Low

ICAO will review its roster of experts and work with the WHO, etc., if required, to ensure candidates are identified for fielding under this project.

6.2.2 Non-participation of appropriate experts and Government Officials

Risk Level: - Low to Medium

ICAO will continue to work with the international organizations, experts and governments that were involved in the February meeting in Singapore to ensure that the necessary action and involvement continues regarding avian influenza.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION BUREAU

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title:	Aviation Medical Expert/Team Leader
Post No.:	11-51
Duty Stations:	Participating major international airports in the region
Date Required:	ASAP
Initial Duration:	3 months

Qualification Requirements:

1. University degree in Medicine, preferably with specialization in communicable diseases.
2. A minimum of 15 years experience in the field of aviation medicine, with government and/or at an international organization.
3. In-depth knowledge of ICAO SARPs and guidelines related to Aviation Medicine and communicable diseases.
4. Experience in the evaluation of airport medical control procedures, including health screening, quarantine, etc.
5. Experience in the investigation and evaluation of the transmission of communicable diseases and preventive measures, including those relevant to major international airports.
6. Knowledge of avian influenza prevention measures and passenger screening procedures at major international airports.
7. Knowledge of the Aviation Preparedness Planning Guidelines for preventing the spread of avian influenza and other communicable diseases by air travellers.
8. Computer literate.
9. Fluency in the English language, including proven ability to write clear and concise reports.
10. Initiative, tact, sound judgement and the ability to foster and maintain harmonious working relationships in an international team.

Duties:

1. In consultation with the participating civil aviation administrations/airport authorities, organize a programme of visits to evaluate the effectiveness of Avian influenza screening and control at the participating international airports.

2. Undertake a visit to each participating airport, with the objective of assessing the implementation of Avian influenza protective measures and the application of ICAO guidelines in this regard with special emphasis on health, medical screening and quarantine procedures.
3. Discuss the outcome of the evaluation with the airport and medical authorities concerned and recommend corrective action where needed, particularly on the medical aspects.
4. Submit a draft report on the evaluations carried out, with findings and recommendations regarding the Avian influenza protective measures applied.
5. Provide seminars and on-the-job training.
6. Prepare the draft Project Terminal Report.
7. Perform other related duties as required.