

Asia/Pacific Airport Coordinators Association (APACA)

Minutes of 20th Meeting of APACA 18 November (Wednesday), 2020

1. Administration

The twentieth general assembly meeting of APACA was held virtually using Zoom system from 03:30 to 04:40UTC on 18 November (Wednesday) 2020 at the occasion of IATA 147th virtual Slot Conference. The Chair person, Petra Popovac (ACA - Airport Coordination Australia), welcomed the participants and expressed her appreciation for attending the twentieth meeting of APACA under the Worldwide Airport Coordinators Group (WWACG). The meeting was progressed according to the agenda items shown in Appendix 1.

2. Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes of 19th meeting

The minutes of the nineteenth general assembly meeting of APACA held on 12 November (Tuesday) 2019 at Room "M3" on the Mezzanine Floor, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC), Brisbane, Australia was endorsed by the meeting without adjustments, as Appendix 2.

3. Agenda Item 2: Election Results of APACA

The Chair presented the result of election using Appendix 3.

Circulation of Call for Election was on April 8th, this year. The deadline of Nomination was May 15th, and Election Result was announced on May 18th. There was 1 nominee for Chair, and were 2 nominees for 2 seats of Vice-chair of APACA. Thus, there was no secret ballot took place. Petra Popovac continues Chair and Jaideep Singh Thakur (Delhi International Airport PVT Ltd) continues Vice-Chair. Hirohiko Kawakatsu (JSC – Japan Schedule-Coordination) was newly elected as Vice-Chair and will do the role of secretariat of the APACA.

4. Agenda Item 3: WASB Activities

The Chair presented WASB Activities using Appendix 4.

WASB is composed of 7 members from airports, 7 from airlines and 7 from coordinators as shown in the presentation material.

The first WASB meeting was held on April 2nd, and we have had 11 meetings and discussed almost all for COVID. Until May, the discussion was looking at what we would do as COVID is going, what is the talkable waiver, U/L suspension, and in June we realized that airlines/airports/coordinators cannot reach agreement on deciding what waiver should be. This was the situation for S20. And W20 was a learning process. It was very frustrating for coordinators as airlines cancelling in very short notices, which quit the airport ability to plan for preparing incoming flights with additional screening and immigration requirements and quarantine requirements put us in extra conditions with W20 waiver.

In September, three WGs were established, discussing “Northern Summer 21 Approach”, “Airport Capacity Declaration and Temporary Changes in Airport Level”, and “Availability of Information”. These topics are chosen in WASB as they are high priority topics in the short term.

The first one is what we should do for the next season. The WG has been discussing hard about the following topics. 1) Importance of protecting connectivity, 2) incentivizing traffic recovery, 3) reinstating slot usage requirement, and 4) some kind of waiver should be or not at all and flexibility on U/L calculation.

The second WG discussed the Airport Capacity Declaration. The Guidance material has been drafted and approved at WASB/11.

The last one is WG3, Availability of Information, for coordinators, transparency is important, how airports and airlines can access the information. This is middle term issue, so will be discussed after WG1 and WG2.

After the presentation, there were questions and answers, and the following information are shared:

Regarding the WASB's plan for the approach to S21, it was explained that WG1 is still discussing on this topic, and the target was the end of November, but a little bit behind.

It was commented that different economies are facing different situations, recovery and type of restrictions. Even if there is an aligned approach on the S21 waiver, individual economies have their jurisdictions and set their own policies.

There was a question about the change of the deadline of returning slot in the WASB discussion, and was asked if the published schedule is kept. It was explained as follows. In the previous waiver, the calendar was not changed as WASB has concerns that the moving of the calendar events would be confusing as they are globally recognized. As for the S21, that is still under discussion in WG.

The Chair said the result of WG1 as well as WG2 would be communicated to everybody of APACA.

5. Agenda Item 4: WWACG Update

The Chair presented WWACG Update using Appendix 5.

The change in WWACG Board in the past six months was explained, including the replacement of the Chair from Eric Herbane to Fred Wister and two new board members, Didier Hocq and Hirohiko Kawakatsu, as well as the WASB Secretariat.

The Chair would like to raise the presence of the region as the WWACG Board members are a little bit Eurocentric, though it is true that majority of the coordinators are in Europe.

Regarding the WWACG Financial matters, the APACA members are strongly encouraged to pay a contribution to the WWACG, so that WWACG continue to operate and keep the organization.

6. Agenda Item 5: COVID-19 Discussion

The Chair led the COVID-19 discussion based on Appendix 6.

The Chair encouraged the attendees to share each experiences in the difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic . The following members have shared their experiences and have further discussion.

- Changi Airport : Donald TAN (Changi Slot Committee)

- Delhi International Airport : Jaideep Singh Thakur (Delhi International airport PVT Ltd.)
- Bandaranaike Airport : Linali Samaranayake (Sri Lanka Airline)
- Hong Kong Airport : Birdie Yuen (HKG Schedule Coordination)

Also attendees exchanged the views regarding the followings;

- Handling of airlines who do not technically operate and still hold operating certificate and entitle slots.
- Handling of slot transfer

At closing, the Chair appreciated everybody sharing experiences and attending this meeting.