

Pearl River Delta Region Air Traffic Management Planning and Implementation Tripartite Working Group holds high-level meeting

The Director-General of the Air Traffic Management Bureau (ATMB) of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), Mr Che Jinjun; the Director-General of Civil Aviation, Mr Victor Liu; and the President of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Mr Chan Weng-hong, attended the Pearl River Delta Region Air Traffic Management Planning and Implementation Tripartite Working Group (TWG) high-level meeting via video conferencing today (November 17). They deliberated on the work progress of the Airspace Management Technical Sub-group and the Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) Technical Sub-group under the TWG, and discussed measures to enhance the efficiency of airspace management and regional ATFM in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

At the meeting, the TWG agreed that progress has been made by the two Sub-groups in their scope of work and the improvement measures implemented by the three parties have yielded concrete results.

With regard to airspace optimisation and air traffic management enhancement, building upon a high-fidelity airspace model previously built, the Airspace Management Technical Sub-group has further deployed the fast-time simulation software and completed the GBA Airspace Planning Fast Time Simulation Evaluation – Tripartite Airspace Optimisation Modelling Evaluation Report. The report actively explores new ideas about airspace development in the GBA and lays a solid foundation for continuing to promote close co-operation among the three parties. The experience of the tripartite modelling work shows that synergy is beneficial to the overall development needs of the airport cluster in the GBA, including promoting the co-ordinated development of all airports in the region in achieving their capacity targets. The report also points out the importance of optimising peripheral flight routes in the GBA to satisfy the ever-growing air traffic demand in the GBA and China as a whole, as well as the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

In line with the development of the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the TWG will launch a study on airspace planning of the airport cluster in the GBA, which will serve as an important reference for all parties in the GBA to implement airspace optimisation work. The three parties will continue to proactively explore suitable application of new technologies to promote advancement and enhancement of air traffic control operations in the GBA through innovation.

For ATFM, the TWG discussed a number of regional co-operation initiatives in Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao and the APAC region to improve the

efficiency of ATFM in the region through a multi-pronged approach. The initiatives include establishing the National Flow Management System-based co-ordination mechanism as a target; further improving the data interchange scheme, as well as exchange of content and formats; and participating in the APAC Cross-Border Multi-Nodal ATFM Collaboration.

Mr Liu said that despite the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, with the efforts and collaboration of experts from the three parties, the TWG has made promising progress in various aspects, and is well prepared for the recovery of the aviation industry. With the support of the ATMB of the CAAC, the Civil Aviation Department will continue to take forward air traffic management enhancement measures and seize the opportunities of the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of the GBA to strengthen and enhance Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub, as well as to achieve the target runway capacity of 102 flights per hour at the Hong Kong International Airport Three-runway System.