

**58th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

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**AGENDA ITEM 5: AVIATION SECURITY AND
FACILITATION**

**PUBLIC HEALTH CORRIDOR IMPLEMENTATION
PACKAGE: THAILAND'S IMPLEMENTATION**

(Presented by Thailand)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

Thailand implemented a Public Health Corridor (PHC) to manage COVID-19 travel measures. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) provided an Implementation Package (iPack) to assist in establishing PHCs, with guidance, expert support, and training based on WHO recommendations. The iPack aids in safe travel corridor creation and pandemic risk management, ensuring effective public health incident management in civil aviation through collaboration with partners via CAPSCA.

PUBLIC HEALTH CORRIDOR IMPLEMENTATION PACKAGE: THAILAND'S IMPLEMENTATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 COVID-19 caused disruption in air transport globally. ICAO has come up with the solution, which is a Public Health Corridor (PHC). PHC is created when two or more States agree to mutually recognize and implement COVID-19 mitigation measures on specific travel routes connecting them. This recognition relies on active collaboration, information sharing, and bilateral or multilateral discussions among the states to harmonize PHC implementation effectively.

1.2 To assist states in establishing PHCs, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has developed an Implementation Package (iPack) dedicated to this purpose. The iPack comprises procedures and tools designed to aid states in this process and will be continually updated in line with the latest scientific advancements.

1.3 This iPack has been developed to facilitate the relevant national authorities, in collaboration with multi-sector stakeholders, to establish PHC during the COVID-19 pandemic to enable safe travel between Thailand and regions.

1.4 In 2022, Thailand acquired the “Establishing a Public Health Corridor (PHC)” Implementation Package (iPack) from ICAO. The Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT) and relevant stakeholders (Airport Operators, aircraft operators and Ministry of Public Health) participated in the deployment of the Implementation Package (iPack) entitled “Establishing a Public Health Corridor (PHC)” from October to November 2022, and the implementation of the iPack was supported remotely by a Subject Matter Expert (SME).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Thailand benefits from ICAO’s PHC iPack as part of pandemic recovery tools. This iPack includes guidance, expert support, and training based on ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) and WHO recommendations, aiding in establishing safe travel corridors and pandemic risk management.

2.2 The PHC iPack from ICAO gives national authorities the ability to improve local skills and gain access to the most recent best practices. This iPack focuses on response and recovery needs. Effective management of public health incidents in civil aviation is ensured by collaboration with partners through the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA).

2.3 The PHC concept emphasizes maintaining a virus-free environment in aviation by implementing stringent measures. This involves ensuring cleanliness in terms of crew, aircraft, airport facilities, and passengers. The term “clean” denotes the adoption of procedures to minimize the risk of virus transmission as much as possible.

2.4 With this iPack implemented, CAAT and relevant stakeholders are better prepared to:

- a) Assess the status of the implementation of COVID-19 public health mitigation measures in Thailand, conduct a gap analysis against the relevant ICAO SARPs, Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) recommendations, Collaborative Arrangement for CAPSCA and associated guidance material and determine an action plan for further improvement;
- b) Develop a COVID-19 aviation risk assessment framework in accordance with sovereign principles that integrates with existing national frameworks;
- c) Apply decision-making tools to determine the risk of transporting potentially infectious passengers or importing/translocating the virus between states;

- d) Mitigate the COVID-19 infection risk by implementing a multi-layer risk management strategy that is evidence-based and performance-based;
- e) Share public health risk mitigation measures and best practices with other states to encourage harmonization; and
- f) Engage in bilateral or multilateral discussions with other states to establish public health corridors between states.

2.5 The PHC iPack assists Thailand in improving preparedness and responses to public health events, especially in setting up secure travel corridors with full health and safety measures. It also helps develop multi-layer pandemic risk management strategies in line with global harmonization goals, ensuring continuous updates in Public Health Corridor planning.

2.6 The PHC iPack could potentially serve as a means to establish standardized measures among states and facilitate passenger transportation.

2.7 The tools provided by this iPack can be used to coordinate with the other state; however, PHC was not intensively studied by most states, thus making the coordination among states minimal.

2.8 To improve state coordination for the PHC, more collaboration among states on the matter should be encouraged.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this Paper.

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