

Twentieth Meeting of the Cross Polar Trans East Air Traffic Management Providers' Work Group (CPWG/20)

(Anchorage, Alaska 26-29 October 2015)

Agenda Item 3:

Looking Back at 10 years of the Cross Polar Working Group

(Presented by United Airlines)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information on the “look back” of the ten years of the Cross Polar Working Group.

1 Introduction

1.1. The Cross Polar Working Group is celebrating 10 years of meetings with the 20th meeting in Anchorage this month (October) 2015. The first CPWG was also held in Anchorage during March 2006.

1.2. This information paper provides some background to the creation of this Working Group, along with the variety of locations and accomplishments over the past ten years.

2 Discussion

2.1. The cross polar route system and Russian Trans East route networks were established through the Russian American Coordinating Group for Air Traffic Control (RACGAT) in the late '90s and through 2003. RACGAT 13 was the final meeting of this United States and Russia bi-lateral group held in Vladivostok Russia in October 2003.

2.2. By the end of 2003, United had flown a total of 1770 cross polar flights since 1999, with 770 of that total occurring in 2003.

2.3. From the end of 2003 through most of 2005 there was not an informal or formal working group that focused on this airspace from a “user’s perspective.” IATA engaged the Russian Federation to meet in Bangkok in November 2005 to discuss route and capacity issues within the cross polar and Trans East route networks due to a lack of movement to establish a RACGAT meeting. The meeting was hosted by the ICAO Regional Office. China and Mongolia, along with the FAA (Anchorage Center) attended the meeting.

2.4. IATA advised the meeting that a RACGAT meeting was long overdue and urged both the Russian Federation and the United States to consider convening a RACGAT meeting.

2.5. As a result of the Bangkok meeting, the FAA hosted a provider and user meeting in Anchorage in March 2006, which included representatives from Russia, Nav Canada, IATA, and FAA Anchorage Center and FAA Headquarters.

2.6. **The Cross Polar Working Group was “born” during these meetings on March 16, 2006 with 30 people present.** Four airlines, United, Continental, Northwest, and Cathay Pacific attended, along Dave Behrens of IATA’s Asia Pacific Singapore office.

2.7. Here is a list of CPWG meetings from 1 to 20:

| | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| CPWG/1 | Mar 2006 | Anchorage | 30 people | 4 operators |
| CPWG/2 | Sep 2006 | Montreal | 35 people | 8 operators |
| CPWG/3 | Apr 2007 | Washington | 35 people | 10 operators |
| CPWG/4 | Sep 2007 | Edmonton | 48 people | 11 operators |
| CPWG/5 | Apr 2008 | Dallas | 62 people | 13 operators |
| CPWG/6 | Nov 2008 | Hong Kong | 50 people | 14 operators |
| CPWG/7 | Jun 2009 | Paris | 35 people | 9 operators |
| CPWG/8 | Dec 2009 | Atlanta | 44 people | 15 operators |
| CPWG/9 | Apr 2010 | Montreal | 55 people | 12 operators |
| CPWG/10 | Nov 2010 | Paris | 37 people | 8 operators DL/NW merged |
| CPWG/11 | Jun 2011 | St.Petersburg | 55 people | 7 operators |
| CPWG/12 | Dec 2011 | Beijing | 50 people | 8 operators UA/CO merged |
| CPWG/13 | Jun 2012 | Reykjavik | 42 people | 7 operators |
| CPWG/14 | Dec 2012 | Chicago | 52 people | 9 operators |
| CPWG/15 | May 2013 | Bodo | 32 people | 9 operators |
| CPWG/16 | Dec 2013 | Ottawa | 40 people | 9 operators |
| CPWG/17 | Jun 2014 | Samara | 38 people | 6 operators |
| CPWG/18 | Dec 2014 | Paris | 42 people | 10 operators |
| CPWG/19 | May 2015 | Tokyo | 50 people | 12 operators |
| CPWG/20 | Oct 2015 | Anchorage | | |

2.8. Some of the accomplishments of the Cross Polar Working Group over the past ten years:

- Operators attending the meetings have grown from the original 4 to over a dozen, with increased participation by various Chinese operators, Hawaiian Airlines, Philippine Airlines, and several Middle East operators. A truly “global” representation..
- Expansion of the cross polar routes and Russian Trans East region continues
- RVSM over Russia in 2011 was a significant achievement that reduced complexity of transfer of aircraft to and from other ANSP’s airspace and resulted in significant improvement of overall efficiency of operations
- Consolidation of ACCs in the Russian Federation has been occurring during the last ten years resulting in greater efficiency.
- The Pacific Project has been created to focus on the North Pacific airspace and transitions into and out of Russia, including expansion of User Preferred Routes (UPRs)
- **We sincerely appreciate the significant support from all the current ANSPs and operators that have attended the CPWG, which has resulted in enormous success for everyone!**

3 Recommendation

3.1. The Meeting is invited to note the information provided in this paper.