

The CANSO column

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ADS-B study shows CANSO's value

CANSO's Asia-Pacific Office in Singapore has just passed its first year of operation. Much has been achieved over the past 12 months but the last couple of months have been a particularly busy time, with our 4th Asia-Pacific ANSP Regional Conference preceded by visits to potential CANSO Members by our Secretary General and myself. Most importantly, we have also published our Cost Benefit Study for the initial phase of ADS-B implementation over the South China Sea. The study showed that deployment of ADS-B stations by the ANSPs of Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore would result in significant improvements in airborne efficiency and a reduction in ground delays.

I am grateful to the FAA/ATO and CAAS for their help with this Study, which we produced in partnership with IATA. The cost-savings it identified for just one part of the airspace – some \$4m dollars a year – along with additional safety and environmental benefits, should help to focus minds on accelerating deployment of ADS-B in the area. The next step for the for the ANSPs concerned is to enter into formal agreements for the sharing of ADS-B data and VHF communications so that operational trials can proceed by the end of 2010.

Here at the CANSO Asia-Pacific Office we are keen to maintain the momentum of this project, not only for the performance benefits it gives to the aviation system, but also to demonstrate to ANSPs in the region the important role CANSO can play in bringing ANSPs together and facilitating cooperative initiatives. The project is an excellent example of how regional collaboration among neighbouring ANSPs can deliver real benefits to our customers.

Our aim is to expand ADS-B coverage beyond the airspace of this initial phase. This study has generated much interest from other ANSPs who are keen to reap similar benefits. CANSO will conduct a cost benefit study for other airways in the South China Sea involving ADS-B deployment in the Philippines and Brunei. We are also planning to work with India, Indonesia and Malaysia to examine if a similar initiative could be started over the Bay of Bengal where there is no radar coverage.

The ADS-B programme is only one of the projects we are working on in this region. Within its first year of operation, the CANSO Asia-Pacific Office has clearly established the ANSP Conference as the premier ANSP event in the region. The recent Conference has identified Safety and HR management as high priority items for ANSPs here. At that Conference, CANSO signed an MOU with the Singapore Aviation Academy to collaborate on ATM training for ANSPs. This MOU will provide a useful platform for CANSO to extend its reach into the region by offering ANSPs training in best practices on areas that are most pressing.

I am pleased with the momentum we are building, after one year of operation. However to be truly effective, we need to grow CANSO's membership in the region, so that our work programmes can reach a wider audience and deliver even greater improvements to the ATM system in the Asia-Pacific.