

APEC Rapid Response Network / Point of Contacts for Imminent Threats to Aviation Security

Proposal:

- All APEC economies designate a Point of Contact (POC) by the end of 2006, for use in the event of urgent aviation security threats or incidents.
- The POC's will be updated and tested annually through each APEC member contacting one other economy in a test-mode.
- This rapid response capability will enhance APEC members ability to react swiftly to imminent or unfolding threats to aviation security.

Background:

Terrorist networks remain focused on committing large-scale attacks, and on inflicting mass casualties and major political, economic and psychological damage. The nature of international civil aviation – a 24/7 network of travel and trade activity, criss-crossing the globe and linking peoples, economies and lives – offers terrorists targets which match these ambitions very well. In many parts of the world and within APEC, international borders are only minutes away in flying time. This places a shared obligation on all APEC members to set, monitor and have a rapid response capability to aviation security threats.

One of the first steps in this is to designate a POC of people/organizations in each APEC member who can be contacted in emergency situations related to aviation security to initiate the relevant response. This network of contacts should be maintained through annual updates as well as an annual peer testing process. While the POC list will initially be a paper-based document, it could eventually be migrated to a planned ICAO Web-site system as well for relevant economies.

Guidelines for use: The names and contact numbers listed in the APEC POC for Aviation Security threats should be used only in situations requiring urgent action on the part of another economy in order to protect or respond to an imminent threat against civil aviation that cannot be addressed in a routine manner or during usual business hours. APEC members should provide adequate safeguards to restrict access to this document to only those persons within its organizations who require access in order to perform his/her duty. Members are also asked to be cautious and judicious when deciding to use these points of contact.