

MEDIA RELEASE

PNG AIC ACHIEVEMENTS HIGHLIGHTED AT INTERNATIONAL FORUM

The Chief Commissioner of the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC), Mr. Hubert Namani today announced that the AIC participated in the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Asia and Pacific Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG), hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on 20th and 21st October 2020.

More than a decade ago, the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Asia and Pacific (RASG-APAC) was established to address global aviation safety matters from a regional perspective in the Asia and Pacific Regions, involving State aviation authorities, international associations and stakeholders.

The APAC-AIG is a key group established under the RASG-APAC specifically aimed to assist the States in the development and improvement of independent no-blame accident and incident investigation capabilities.

Mr. Namani said *“On 20th and 21st October 2020, the activities of the Eighth Annual APAC-AIG Meeting were conducted. The meeting was hosted virtually by ICAO and more than 80 representatives of States from the entire Region participated along with PNG.”*

The topics covered during the activities were oriented to continue assisting in enhancing capabilities for investigation across the region and to promote the establishment of independent accident investigation organisations in the States.

During this important international meeting Mr. Emerson Buidal, one of the senior investigators with the AIC, presented the role of the organisation as the PNG State authority mandated to comply with the provisions of Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its involvement in activities in support of other Pacific States, especially referring to major accident investigations.

Mr. Namani explained that *“The AIC has been operating as the only independent accident investigation authority in PNG since 2010. The developments and achievements of the AIC in recent years have shown to the international community that PNG is able to conduct aviation safety investigations of all kind, from drones to large aircraft, to the highest standards both in PNG and overseas. This has been globally acknowledged and has led the AIC to become a part of the International Transport Safety Association which groups only 18 independent safety investigation organisations in the World.*

“Nevertheless, in most of the States of the Region the reality is much different as they have not yet been able to develop the necessary capabilities to meet the minimum international standards for investigation. Since 2018 PNG has been progressing a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, to provide them with the support and assistance for accident and serious incident investigation, to improve Safety not only within PNG, but also across the Pacific Region, where many PNG citizens are often travelling.”

Mr. Namani further said *“Next year, the AIC will host the Ninth APAC-AIG Annual Meeting in Port Moresby. This constitutes an outstanding opportunity for the AIC to support this important international activity from a key role, but also to encourage the Pacific States to become actively involved in a Regional cooperative framework in the area of accident and serious incident investigation.”*