



MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION

MEDIA BRIEF

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Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands enter an MoU on Aviation Safety Investigations

In conjunction with the 42nd Triennial Session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly in Montréal, Canada; Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Solomon Islands (SI) today signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on aviation safety investigations.

The MoU was executed by the signatories – Hon. Wake Goi, Minister for Civil Aviation of PNG, and Hon. Frederick Kologeto, Minister for Communication and Aviation of SI.



This MoU establishes cooperation between the PNG Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Solomon Islands (CAASI), enabling the sharing of technical expertise, resources, training, and capacity-building programs in the aviation safety investigation space. It also supports the independence of investigations from civil aviation regulatory and operational functions, in line with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

PNG has achieved and maintains an Effective Implementation (EI) score of 95.18% in accident/incident investigations; a measure of PNG's compliance to ICAO SARPs pertaining to accident/incident investigations. This is the highest among the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) within the Pacific and ranks PNG among the top 10 globally.

The global average EI in accident/incident investigation is 55.71%, while the Asia-Pacific (APAC) regional average lags at 45.68%. Strengthening aviation safety investigation capacity in SI and other SIDS in the Pacific will not only contribute to enhancing CAASI's civil aviation safety oversight performance but will also positively influence the APAC region's average to rise above the global average. This will, in turn, significantly improve overall ICAO compliance for SIDS in the Pacific.

The MoU directly contributes to ICAO's "No Country Left Behind" initiative, which emphasizes the need for all States to achieve and maintain effective safety oversight systems. It is also consistent with the Asia and Pacific Regions Code of Conduct on Cooperation relating to Civil Aviation Accident/Incident Investigation, reinforcing both States' commitment to regional collaboration and solidarity in aviation safety.

The initiative also reflects ICAO Assembly discussions and recent recommendations by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), both of which emphasized the importance of technical resource sharing among States. Thorough, independent investigations and regional collaboration ensure that safety lessons are widely shared and acted upon, enhancing aviation safety across the Pacific and beyond.

Looking Ahead:

PNG is in discussion with other Pacific States on similar bilateral MoUs. In addition, there are ongoing consultations with the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) on the feasibility of a multilateral agreement that would enable broader cooperation among Pacific States in accident investigation.

Hon. Wake Goi, the Minister for Civil Aviation, in signing the MoU, stated that, “The MoU strengthens aviation safety and our ties with our Solomon Islands. We are committed to establishing similar arrangement with our other pacific neighbour States to bring our Pacific civil aviation safety standards compliance level up, and subsequently that of the APAC region.”

Hon. Frederick Kologeto, SI Minister for Communication and Aviation in thanking PNG, stated that, “The partnership gives Solomon Islands access to essential technical expertise, allowing us to meet ICAO requirements and build our capacity while maintaining independence in investigations.”

Raymond Vai, CEO of the AIC said: “Regional cooperation is the only way forward for smaller Pacific Island States that lack resources for fully independent investigation bodies. This MoU shows how working together raises the regional average and builds a safer future.”

Authorised for Release
Hon. Wake Goi, MP
Minister for Civil Aviation