National Aviation Preparedness Plan for Public Health Emergencies

SRI LANKA &
CAPSCA AV

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Focal Point/National Aviation Preparedness Plan for PHEs
State involvement

- Sri Lankan modern aviation history began in 1912 when the first aircraft took off from Sri Lankan soil into the air and since then we have managed to have a very good reputation on aviation safety.

- Even though we were doing well in the area of aviation safety, need of improving systems and plans especially in the area of management of PHE in air transport was identified by the Civil Aviation Ministry.

- As the air traffic through our country has tremendously increased in the recent past, risk of rapid dissemination of communicable diseases and PHEs are more likely and as PHEs in aviation may effect the National economy we have initiated to prepare a comprehensive plan for PHEs in Sri Lanka.
Where are we now?

At present we manage the Aviation PHE with collaboration of Public Health Dept, MoH once the PHE is declared

but

No laid down protocols or plan for Aviation PHE
No laid down guidance on how to react during a Aviation PHE

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Civil Aviation Authority has initiated the process of developing the Aviation Preparedness Plan for PHE.
Main Stakeholders

- **Aviation Sector**
  - Ministry of Civil Aviation
  - Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka
  - Airport and Aviation Services
  - National Airlines

- **Public Health Sector**
  - Ministry of Health

- **International Organizations**
  - ICAO
  - WHO

- **Others**
  - Department of Emigration/Immigration
  - Sri Lanka Customs
Steps taken up to date

- Dr Bimal Dias was appointed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to look into this issue, to coordinate with all relevant stake holders and to prepare the National Aviation Preparedness Plan for PHEs.
- Sri Lanka became a member of CAPSCA project in 2012.
- Sri Lankan delegation participated ICAO CAPSCA Technical Advisor workshop held in Dec 2012 in Bangkok.
- A working group representing all stakeholders was appointed by the Secretary of Civil Aviation to look into the present situation and to give their professional inputs for the National Aviation Preparedness plan in the preparatory phase.
- Requested a CAPSCA Assistance visit to Sri Lanka to have an evaluation of present situation in Sri Lanka.
Main activities in NAPPHE suggested by the working group at present

- Heighten the awareness of the public and travelers
- Implementation of Risk mitigation efforts (Quarantine and Isolation)
- Establishment of traveler screening procedures at all airports
- Medical assessment of travelers
- Pre medical examination and assessment of migrant workers
- Awareness creation for all stake holders on PHEs
- Training the relevant staff members how to react, manage in a PHE situation
Expectations from the Assistance visit

As we are in the process of preparing the National Aviation Preparedness Plan for prevention of PHEs, we expect:

- Technical assistance from AV expert team
- Local awareness training from the team
- Identify the areas that we have to improve and provide expertise
Thank you