

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

**THE AIR ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNIT (AAIU) MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION
AND COMMUNICATIONS
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**

AND

**AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BUREAU MINISTRY OF CIVIL
AVIATION
REPUBLIC OF INDIA**

ON COOPERATION RELATING TO

AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The Air Accident Investigation Unit (AAIU) of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) of the Republic of India, hereinafter referred to collectively as "the Parties" or individually as a "Party".

Reaffirming the objective enshrined in Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation ("the Chicago Convention") that the sole objective of the investigation of an aircraft accident or incident shall be the prevention of accidents and incidents and that it is not the purpose of this activity to apportion blame or liability;

Committed to enhancing the capabilities and professionalism of their respective aircraft accident investigators;

Desiring to share expertise and experience relating to aviation investigation;

Recognizing their common interest in establishing a lasting framework for cooperation in the area of aviation investigation;

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

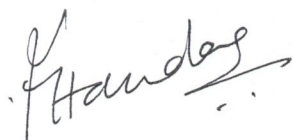
Purpose and Objective

1. The sole objective of both Parties in entering into this Memorandum of

Understanding is the enhancement of aviation safety.

Areas of Cooperation

2. The Parties will cooperate in aircraft accident and incident investigation, investigation training and sharing of information and expertise, consistent with the *Standards and Recommended Practices of Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention*. The areas of cooperation are as follows :-



- a. Each Party will offer assistance and the use of air safety investigation facilities and equipment to the other Party for aircraft accident and incident investigation, as it deems appropriate and as resources permit. Such assistance may include expertise in the fields of search and salvage from water, air traffic services, engineering, operations, flight recorders, human performance and management organization.
- b. Each Party will, where practicable, invite the other Party's investigators to attend its general and specialist investigation courses and training.
- c. Each Party will, to the extent permitted by its laws and regulations, facilitate the attachment of the other Party's investigators as observers to its investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents, with a view to enhance the other Party's understanding of its investigation requirements and procedures. This will serve to develop effective cooperation between the Parties in any investigation of aircraft accidents or serious incidents it conducts pursuant to Annex 13 to the Chicago Convention involving an aircraft of which the State of the other Party is the State of Registry, State of Operator, State of Design or State of Manufacture.
- d. The Parties will maintain regular contact and organize visits to each other's establishment or meetings between their officials / experts with the aim of exchanging experiences, skills and technical knowledge.
- e. Each Party will, to the extent permitted by its laws and regulations, endeavour to share with the other Party relevant information about an investigation it is conducting in which the other Party has expressed an interest. This information, consistent with Annex 13, will not be released by the other Party without the express consent of the Party conducting the investigation.
- f. In the event that AAIU, Bhutan intends to set up investigation facilities, laboratories and other related infrastructure, AAIB, India would offer assistance in terms of technical knowhow / expertise and vendor selection.

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3. The Parties may develop additional areas of cooperation to widen the scope of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Confidentiality

4. Neither Party will disclose, release or distribute to any third party confidential information, documents or data obtained pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding, without the prior written consent of the other Party.

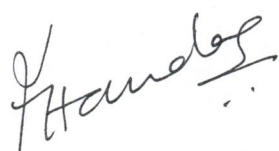
Coordination

5. The contact person in the AAIU of the Royal Government of Bhutan for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding is:

Mr Sonam Dorji
Officer In-charge to AAIU
Air Accident Investigation Unit
Ministry of Information and Communications
Royal Government of Bhutan
Tel: + 975-02322567 (Ext: 151)
Fax: + 975-02326180
Mobile: + 975-17620275
Email: sonamd@moic.gov.bt

6. The contact person in the AAIB of Republic of India for the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding is:

Mr. Aurobindo Handa
Director General
Air Accident Investigation Bureau
Ministry of Civil Aviation
Republic of India
Tel: +91-11-24654017
Mobile: +91-9999220469
Email: dg.aaib-moca@gov.in



7. Each Party will inform the other Party in writing whenever there is a change to its contact person.

Financial matters

8. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties further, the AAIB will provide financial, technical and other supports deemed necessary to AAIU for the implementation of the matters set out in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Legal Effect

9. This MOU constitutes an expression of mutual good faith and is not intended to create legally binding obligations on either Party. The Parties shall endeavour to promote and achieve the objective of this MOU.

Resolution of Differences

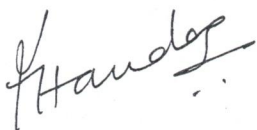
10. Any differences in the interpretation of the provisions of the MoU may be settled amicably between the Parties through consultations.

Amendment

11. This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended in writing at any time by mutual consent of the Parties.

Commencement and Duration

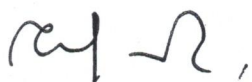
12. This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signing and will remain in effect unless it is terminated by either Party giving one month's notice in writing to the other Party.
13. The Parties may, by mutual agreement, provide for the continuance of any arrangement entered into under clause 2 of this Memorandum of Understanding but not fully performed prior to the termination of this Memorandum of Understanding.



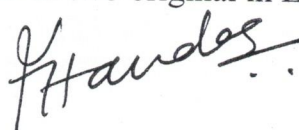
14. This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create legally binding rights and obligations under international or national law. The implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and any activity hereunder, will be in accordance with the national legislation of each Party. Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect the rights and obligations arising from international agreements or treaties to which either State is Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by the respective Parties, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at Thimphu on August 17, 2019 in two original in English.



Mr. Pemba Wangchuk
[Acting Secretary]
Ministry of Information and
Communications
Royal Government of Bhutan



Mr. Aurobindo Handa
[Director General]
AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
BUREAU (AAIB)
Ministry of Civil Aviation
Republic of India