

Carole Couchman, IFALPA Senior Technical and Regional Officer, recaps IFALPA's activities at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

IFALPA @ ICAO

There have been Expert Group, Task Force, and Panel Meetings at ICAO throughout June. The Wildlife Hazard Mitigation Expert Group (WHMEG) met for the third time in the IATA Montreal offices. The group continued to develop content for the new edition of the Airport Services Manual, Wildlife Hazard Management (Doc 9137 Part 3). The new document is expected to provide a better understanding of wildlife hazard management for management and wildlife hazard control personnel. A new chapter on training has been developed which includes training for both management and dedicated wildlife control personnel.

The Obstacle Limitation Surface Task Force also met in June. This Task Force is continuing to re-evaluate how the Obstacle Limitation Surface is calculated. They will be proposing to replace the Obstacle Limitation Surface (OLS) with two new surfaces: the Obstacle Free Surface (OFS), and an Obstacle Evaluation Surface (OES). The Task Force is working on the Standards and Recommended Practices that will be required to go into Annex 14 and PANS-Aerodrome. They are also providing guidance material on how to achieve these new surfaces. In addition, they are preparing guidance on how to conduct Aeronautical Studies.

The Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Panel (RPASP)/11 also met in June. This Panel continues to work on providing Part IV to Annex 6 for the operation of RPAS. There was a concept briefing provided by the Operations Working Group of the Panel where other ICAO Panel members were invited to be introduced to the concept of integrating RPAS into manned airspace. Several ICAO Annexes will be affected by this integration and initial Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) are now being finalised. All the Working Groups are involved with the writing of SARPs as well as guidance material to help States implement these changes.

Council and Air Navigation Commission Meetings were also held in June. Both have now completed their sessions and will not resume until mid-September.

If you have news to share from your Member Association, please write: communications@ifalpa.org