

Address by ICAO  
ICAO Regional Runway Safety Seminar (RRSS)  
*(Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-20 November 2013)*

1. Good morning, his excellency, Mr Datuk Aziz Kaprawi, Deputy Minister of Transport, Mr Dato Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, Director general of Civil Aviation, ICAO partners, ladies and gentlemen.
2. First, on behalf of ICAO, I would like to transmit our condolences and sympathie to the government of Philippines and the families of the victims of the typhon Haiyan, which struck this region.
3. Second, I wish to express ICAO's thanks to the Authorities of Malaysia for generously hosting this important event, and to our safety partners in particular the Flight Safety Foundation and the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines for coopertating with Malaysia and ICAO on its successful organisation.
4. Now the good news are that Malaysia was elected by the last Assembly in Septembre to keep it's seat on the Council of ICAO. Congratulations Malaysia.
5. For those who have not attended the ICAO Assembly, you should know that Mr Dato

Azharuddin Abdul Rahman was elected chairman of the important Technical Commission, which endorsed Annex 19 on Safety Management and the two ICAO Global Plans for aviation safety and Air Navigation. Mr Abdul Rahman had done a great job and was congratulated by the Assembly for his leadership.

6. Today, I am grateful for the chance to discuss our global civil aviation Safety objectives, stressing some recent and related decisions by our 38th Assembly and including of course the specific work we have undertaken or are presently planning in the area of runway safety.
7. ICAO concluded its 38th Assembly last month on a number of very successful notes, receiving endorsement and support from our Member States for sector-wide global strategic and tactical planning across five strategic objectives, which are: Safety; Air Navigation Capacity & Efficiency; Security & Facilitation; the Economic Development of Air Transport; and Environmental Protection.
8. In the Safety domain specifically, the 38th ICAO Assembly endorsed the Global Aviation Safety Plan and reiterated the fundamental commitment to reduce the rate and number of aircraft accidents worldwide. It also confirmed that this work will now be guided by the incremental targets as outlined in the revised Global Aviation Safety Plan.

9. These collective endorsements give ICAO a clear mandate to continue driving greater transparency, collaboration and responsiveness in safety improvement, through real-time analysis and reporting cycles and, importantly to all of you here today, greater regional accountability.
10. It also sends a strong message that collaboration and partnership on air transport's safety challenges remains essential to achieving positive results. ICAO will therefore be driving these efforts in the years to come through more intensive engagement with all regional and global players.
11. As we all know, Air transport's global safety record has witnessed some tremendous improvements in recent years, especially with respect to major accidents and associated fatalities, and our work on reducing runway-related safety incidents has been instrumental to our overall progress.
12. The 2013 Edition of the ICAO State of Global Aviation Safety, released during the Assembly and currently available in all ICAO languages on our public website, indicates that runway safety related accidents have fallen considerably, from nearly 60 per cent of total accidents during the

2006 to 2011 benchmark period, to 48 per cent of all accidents in 2012.

13. Regarding overall fatalities, the contribution of runway safety related accidents has fallen from an average of 18 per cent in the same benchmark period, to just one per cent in 2012.
14. But we must remain determined moving forward to ensure that our successes don't become an impediment to our underlying goal – which is to achieve a sector-wide safety culture based on sharing of safety information, transparent metrics, continuous monitoring, and constant improvement.
15. As our number one priority with respect to safety implementation today, and an area of clear recent success, runway safety will therefore be a useful test-case for how we maintain our vigilance and continue to leverage collaborative programmes in the years ahead, in order to successfully address this and other multidisciplinary safety challenges.
16. Indeed, it is precisely in this spirit of collaborative decision making and coordinated action that we are here today to agree on some important next steps in our joint runway safety planning.

17. Continuing the work begun at the Global Runway Safety Symposium in 2011, as well as at follow-on seminars which have taken place throughout the world during 2012 and 2013, this Runway Safety Seminar features a number of objectives which help to illustrate both our recent achievements and the wider runway safety dynamic here in the Asia Pacific Region.
18. This seminar will highlight the work within the APAC Regional Aviation Safety Group (RASG-APAC) regarding the main runway safety risks and mitigation options, hear from existing Regional Safety Teams (RSTs) and runway safety programmes and contribute to regional initiatives to support the promotion, establishment and operation of RSTs.
19. Finally, I would like to renew the commitment of ICAO to all safety initiatives in this region and wish us very productive deliberations during the next three days.

Thank you to all.