



**Address by the Secretary General  
of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),  
Dr. Fang Liu,  
to the Second Model ICAO Forum**

*(Shenzhen, China 12 December 2018)*

1. Good morning everyone!
2. It's very exciting to see you all here today, so eager to learn more about the challenges and rewards of a skilled aviation career.
3. There will be some tremendous opportunities all across our sector in the coming years, for young people just like you, and ICAO is very pleased to be able to help prepare and excite you here in Shenzhen about the incredible possibilities that await you.
4. Before you begin this journey, I must take a moment to express ICAO's deepest thanks and very fond appreciation. 我要向中国航空协会、深圳市人民政府表达最诚挚的感谢，我还要感谢所有参与本次活动的高校和专家们，感谢你们对活动的贡献和支持。
5. It's extremely important for ICAO, and our entire aviation sector, that the best and brightest of the next generations appreciate the many benefits that an aviation career has to offer.
6. Whether your educational path takes you toward aeronautics, or aviation law, or even to flight school for the future pilots among you, an entire world of aviation activity and opportunity will await you upon graduation.
7. This is because air transport has become such an essential aspect of modern life and business, supporting more than 65 million jobs around the world and trillions of dollars of economic activity each year.

8. Some of you for example will have bought some gifts online this holiday season, and air transport today is making that possible because no less than 90 percent of e-Commerce relies on the speed and safety of modern air freight.
9. Another critical factor supporting a robust future for you in aviation is the fact that our sector continues to grow and expand into new markets and territories.
10. And by ‘grow’ I don’t just mean a little, I mean a lot.
11. In fact, in twenty years’ time we expect that the 10 million daily passengers we move around the world will double, and so will the number of flights that carry them.
12. This means that by the mid-2030s, some 200,000 flights will take off and land safely and efficiently each and every day all over the world, and maybe even with one of you at the controls!
13. Over a hundred years ago, the very first commercial aircraft embarked on just a short, 34-kilometre domestic journey.
14. But today, passengers and cargo are being carried vast distances around the world each year – some 49 billion kilometres or the equivalent to almost 500 journeys from Earth to Mars and back again.
15. An outer-space analogy like this is appropriate to this event in some respects, because by the time some of you are ready to enter the aviation workforce, there could well be not only traditional travel but even space tourism careers that await you.
16. These types of innovations in operations and propulsion methods are in fact completely changing the face of aviation today, and with the advent of flying taxis, cars, scooters, and everything else which drone technologies are making possible, you’ll be entering the world of aviation at perhaps the most exciting point in its already exciting history.
17. Looking out across this room today I see nothing but excitement and potential, and that’s exactly what the air transport needs from your generations.
18. I look forward to you building on your aviation interest and enthusiasm with concrete commitments to your personal responsibilities and educational performance.

19. And with those assured, so too will be your bright and rewarding future in air transport.
20. Thank you, and I wish you all a very exciting and fulfilling time here in Shenzhen with us.