



Address by the Secretary General of ICAO
Mr. Raymond Benjamin
to the
TRAINAIR PLUS Associate Membership Ceremony
East African School of Aviation (EASA, Kenya)
(Nairobi, April 2012)

I wish to thank our host, the East African School of Aviation, and all of you for taking the time to be here with us today as we celebrate the success of the school with the presentation of a TRAINAIR PLUS Associate Membership certificate.

In a way, this is only a beginning since EASA is working on the development of two Standardized Training Packages to complete the process to become a Full Member of the TRAINAIR PLUS programme.

You may be aware that for the first time in the history of air transport, there is a very real possibility that we could experience a shortage of qualified aviation professionals such as pilots, maintenance personnel, air traffic controllers and various other related professionals if we don't effectively address the issue of training around the world.

The ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) initiative is looking into how we can ensure that there will be enough qualified professionals to meet the demand created by the growth of civil aviation from now until the year 2030.

We must start with the obvious question – what is the scope of the challenge that lies ahead?

Part of the answer can be found in an extremely useful study published by ICAO entitled ***Global and Regional 20-year Forecasts for Pilots, Maintenance Personnel and Air Traffic Controllers***.

The document is largely based on a survey of States and industry and the underlying premise is, of course, that demand for aviation professionals will be driven by the growth in traffic and by the number of aircraft deliveries.

In this context, we estimate that the number of commercially-operated aircraft will jump from about 62,000 today to some 152,000 in 2030 worldwide. During the same period, we estimate a 6.1 % fleet growth in Africa, ranking it third in the world after Asia/Pacific and Europe, and we expect the number of aircraft movements to double, from 26 million annually to close to 52 million in 2030.

The implications are clear. We, the aviation community, will have to ensure that there are enough competent and qualified aviation professionals to meet the needs in every region of the world.

Our challenge is that we do not currently have enough capacity worldwide to train all of the hundreds of thousands of people needed to fill those positions. Another concern is that training capacities vary considerably between the various regions of the world, and we cannot afford to have different training frameworks for the same aviation jobs across ICAO members.

Therefore, we need to train more efficiently and address training at the international level.

This is even more important today with the difficulties of the global economy, as States don't have the financial resources to address training capacity and establish more training institutions. Training should therefore be more effective and efficient, and cooperation between States and training Institutions is becoming a key factor.

With this objective in mind, ICAO has invested a lot of resources to further develop one of its major programmes, TRAINAIR, to enhance its support to States in the training field.

The new TRAINAIR PLUS is an essential partner in providing tools to achieve high-quality training. It enhances efficiency and workplace performance by facilitating the development of training materials as well as encouraging networking and collaboration between training centres.

It also presents a unique opportunity to share best practices and experiences, to look at what works, and integrate that into a training package that will benefit the entire aviation community through the TRAINAIR PLUS Membership.

In addition, the TRAINAIR conferences offer a regular opportunity for a direct exchange of ideas and experiences. So, I am, very pleased to invite you to a *rendez-vous* next September in Singapore for the **first TRAINAIR PLUS Global Symposium**. The theme will be "*How to prepare tomorrow's aviation workforce with today's training tools*" and I hope that you will be able to join us.

Now, let me turn my attention to EASA and the leading role that it played in being the first training organization to join the TRAINAIR PLUS programme in the Eastern and Southern African region. I would strongly encourage other training organizations to join EASA and participate in the global training effort for the benefit of Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I would like to present this TRAINAIR PLUS Associate Membership certificate to Mrs. Justina Nyaga, Director of the East African School of Aviation.

I am hoping to quickly follow-up with the Full Membership certificate, maybe during the TRAINAIR PLUS Global Symposium, if not before.
