Airport Privatisation - Role of the Regulatory Authorities - A Safety Perspective

Arun K. R. Rao,
Chief, Aerodromes, Air Routes and Ground Aids Section
Air Navigation Bureau
ICAO
Introduction

- Importance of civil aviation system
- Air traffic growth - 5% for the period 1995-2005
- Demands on airports
- Impact on airport administration
- Divestment of airports
Current Situation and Changing Scenario

- Government-owned airports
- Government controlled airport authorities
  - General positive experience - better efficiency
- Efficiency dependent upon autonomy and financial independence
- Privatisation trend
- Impact on safety
Responsibility under the Convention on International Civil Aviation

- Article 15 on uniform conditions for all aircraft
- Article 28 - obligations of States to provide airports and air navigation infrastructure
- Article 37 - on adoption of ICAO SARPs for harmonising regulations, standards, procedures and organization
Need for States to retain its regulatory functions

- Traffic growth and safety - past decline in accident rates, current constant low rate
- Privatisation and safety issues - financial profits and alternative revenue generation
- Slot allocations and management etc.
- The need to ensure safety compliance
- Airport operators’ staff competence and safety awareness
Appropriate Legislation for safety oversight functions

- Airports experiencing significant changes, traffic growth, demands for better services...
- Need for safeguards before privatisation
- Obligation of States as signatories of the Convention
- Regulatory aspects - airport certification
- Appropriate legislation and State entity
Current ICAO Safety Oversight Audit Programme

- Historical information of the voluntary programme
- Current mandatory programme and its progress
- Fields of Annexes 1, 6 and 8
- Additional recommendations of DGCA’s Conference
- ICAO Secretariat work
ICAO’s work on airport certification

- SARPs development procedure
- An ANC- approved task on this subject
- Progress of work briefly
- Airport certification requirements, regulatory system, model regulations, sample application forms, broad organizational structure
- Status of this document
Conclusion

- Effects of privatisation and the need for adequate safety regulations
- States to review their national legislation and regulations
- States to take necessary measures to empower their regulatory authorities to inspect airports, monitor and ensure implementation of safety specifications.