



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIO 07/07

DR. SILVIO FINKELSTEIN OF ARGENTINA RECIPIENT OF 2007 EDWARD WARNER AWARD

MONTREAL, 18 September 2007 – The 38th Edward Warner Award, the highest honour in the world of civil aviation, was conferred by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) today on Dr. Silvio Finkelstein, in recognition of his leadership in the field of aviation medicine and his important contribution to safety in international civil aviation.

“It is a great honour for me which goes beyond my person. It honours my country of Argentina and the numerous practitioners of aviation medicine around the world,” expressed Dr. Finkelstein upon accepting the prestigious decoration.

The Award was presented by Roberto Kobeh González, President of the Council of ICAO, during a special ceremony at the Organization’s Headquarters. Mr. Kobeh González praised Dr. Finkelstein for his vision and determination which have been instrumental in significantly raising the profile of health and aviation.

“His deep commitment to his work and assiduous efforts have led to major achievements in aviation medicine,” said Kobeh González. “Dr. Finkelstein’s untiring energy in emphasizing the strong link between health and safety in aviation operations have benefited civil aviation throughout the world.”

After joining ICAO in 1971 as an Aviation Medicine Officer, Dr. Finkelstein soon went on to become Chief of the Organization’s Aviation Medicine Section between 1975 and his retirement in 1994. During that time, he undertook a special study on the potential adverse safety effects of tobacco smoking. A decade of pioneering work and research on the subject led to the adoption by the ICAO Assembly, in 1992, of Resolution A29-15, restricting smoking on international passenger flights.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Finkelstein has made aviation medicine education the cornerstone of his activities. The *ICAO Manual of Civil Aviation Medicine* was developed under his leadership and published in 1973. He also spearheaded the development of a standard for aviation medical examiners emphasizing the importance of training, and is responsible for the worldwide introduction and expansion of regional aviation medicine training seminars.

Since his retirement from ICAO, Dr. Finkelstein has remained active with the International Academy of Aviation and Space Medicine (IAASM) and the Aerospace Medical

Association (AsMA). He has also been working as a consultant to government authorities and providing his services to the ICAO Technical Co-operation Bureau for multinational projects on matters such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Avian Flu.

Recently, Dr. Finkelstein has devoted his time to studies on crew and passenger health and the development of systems to reduce the risk of spreading communicable disease by air transport. As Chief Observer for IAASM at the 35th Session of the ICAO Assembly in 2004, he participated in deliberations resulting in the adoption of Resolution A35-12, which, for the first time recognized that the protection of the health of passengers and crews is an integral element of safe air travel.

Among the many honours and awards he has received is the Merito Santos Dumont granted by the Government of Brazil and the prestigious Eric Liljencrantz Award from AsMA for his role as an educator in aviation medicine.

The Edward Warner Award is bestowed, in the form of a gold medal, on an individual or institution, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the safe and orderly development of civil air transport. Edward Warner (United States) was the first President of the Council of ICAO.

<p>A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.</p>
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