

ICAO REGIONAL SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM  
THE JOURNEY TO ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE SAFETY MANAGEMENT  
Asia and Pacific & Middle East Regions

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**Mike O'Neill**  
**Executive Vice-President,**  
**Asia-Pacific, IFATCA**

Mr. Mike O'Neill is a former Australian Air Traffic Controller. He certified as a controller in the Royal Australian Air Force in 1975 as a tower and approach controller. In 1980 he transferred to civilian air traffic and operated in Brisbane, Townsville and the Gold Coast until 1997. From 1990 for a period of 5 years he regained his military validation and worked part time in the air force reserve and operated as a tower and approach controller at both a civil and military airfield.

Mr. O'Neill gained his pilot's licence in 1993 and remains current. In 1997 he was recruited in Hong Kong by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) and controlled at Kai Tak airport for the last 12 months of operations. For the next decade he was an instructor and examiner at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA).

In 2010, Mr. O'Neill was seconded to a project role within CAD overseeing the development, safety assessment, training and installation of new equipment and ergonomic consoles into the tower. In 2004, he was elected to IFATCA's Professional and Legal Committee and served for 9 years. In 2013, he was elected into his current role of Executive Vice President for Asia Pacific.

Mr. O'Neill has also served as the Vice President Technical and then President of the Hong Kong Air Traffic Controllers Association. He has conducted numerous ATC/Pilot gatherings locally to better serve communication and understanding between these two groups. Five years ago he returned to full time ATC. He performed a mix of ATC and project work for Hong Kong's 3rd runway project until December 2017. He is now engaged in consultancy ATC work.