

Closing Remarks by the Secretary General of ICAO
Mr. Raymond Benjamin
to the
ICAO Air Transport Symposium (IATS)
(Montréal, 20 April 2012)

The first thing I would like to say is that I realize that you all worked very hard during the past three days, so I will not speak for too long...!

As I told you at the beginning of the Symposium, when I looked at the agenda for the Symposium a few months ago, I thought... never will we be able to complete the work in three days, and I am sure that, on a number of occasions, some of you may have felt the frustration of not being able to come to conclusions or to continue the discussion further until you did.

But the work you did is **extremely important** as it is the first step in preparing for the Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference in March 2013. We have discussed many critical and difficult issues and I sincerely believe that we have laid the foundations for good results to be reached at the Air Transport Conference.

We were fortunate to have had a full representation of the air transport sector at the Symposium — representatives from States, airlines, airports, air navigation services providers, manufacturers, international organizations, regional intergovernmental organizations, expert analysts, academics, and also students who represent the next generation of air transport managers.

We have tackled the issues head on, agreed on some, disagreed on others, but the important thing is that a dialogue was established.

But our work is certainly not done! We will all be going back home tonight and I ask you to keep in mind that it is our collective responsibility to continue moving the agenda forward if we want to make the Sixth Air Transport Conference successful. **We must keep the momentum going!**

Finally, I want to assure you that I have taken on board your wish to see ICAO play a stronger leadership role in fostering the promotion of sound regulatory and business practices to ensure the sustainable development of civil aviation. Your message was loud and clear.

I now wish to express my warmest thanks to the speakers who have kindly accepted to join us in this “brainstorming session”, the distinguished and eminent moderators from our partner, the Air Transport Research Society (ATRS) and ,in particular, my dear friend, Tae Oum. A special thanks to Vijay who did a great job in synthesizing the results of this Symposium and, of course, to our sponsors – without your participation, the Symposium would not have been possible.

I also wish to extend my thanks to all participants for picking up the challenge and responding positively.

I look forward to seeing you all in March 2013! À bientôt!
