



ICAO Global Aviation Training Symposium emphasizes pressing need to address training capacity gaps

For immediate release

Montréal, 12 April 2017 – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continued its efforts to bolster worldwide aviation training capacity this week, during the Fourth ICAO Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS Symposium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The event, hosted by Ethiopian Airlines and continuing from 11-13 April, is the first ICAO Global Aviation Training Symposium to take place on the African continent. It presents a unique opportunity for ICAO Member States and training organizations to come together and explore new collaboration and partnership opportunities, and to increase their awareness on key near- and long-term aviation training capacity priorities.

In her opening address, ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu spoke to these concerns, pointing to the positive and robust growth trends in the global air transport network and the imminent doubling of its flight and passenger volumes.

“Over the next twenty years, this projected growth will require many new skilled personnel such as pilots, maintenance engineers and air traffic controllers,” she stressed. “These pressing needs for aviation personnel, especially in light of competition for their skills from other high-tech sectors, make clear for us that we must address our persisting training capacity gaps sooner than later, ultimately ensuring a sustainable skilled workforce for the future of civil aviation.”

Stressing the value of training cooperation, the Secretary General also emphasized the need for training organizations to “engage in collaborative projects,” applauding Africa’s initiative in establishing the Association of African Aviation Training Organizations (AATO). The AATO is currently addressing important issues such as the standardization of course curricula, the harmonization of instructor training, and the recognition of certificates. Dr. Liu encouraged other Regions to follow this example.

The Secretary General also took time to specially recognize training organizations from 14 States which have attained various TRAINAIR PLUS Programme milestones, including China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tunisia and Venezuela .



ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu (centre left), and ICAO's Technical Co-operation Bureau Deputy Director Mr. Meshesha Belayneh (centre right), pose alongside the newly-formalized Members of the ICAO TRAINAIR Plus programme during the Fourth ICAO Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS Symposium this week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Resources for Editors

About ICAO

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, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

[ICAO's No Country Left Behind initiative](#)
[ICAO's Global Aviation Training Programme](#)

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