



Qatar Symposium highlights need to increase aviation training capacity, effectiveness, and intelligence in face of forecast growth

For immediate release

Montréal and Doha, 14 December 2018 – ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu opened the Fifth ICAO Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS Symposium in Doha, Qatar, earlier this week, stressing to its participants the key value of Aviation Training Intelligence, and how the growth and potential of the global aviation network can only be realized if the sector has sufficient numbers of the highly skilled professionals to fill its ranks.

“Commercial aviation globally has doubled in flight and passenger volumes once every fifteen years since this data began being analyzed in the mid-1970s, and air traffic continues to grow robustly in all regions today,” the ICAO Secretary General underscored, adding that “current forecasts indicate that by 2034 airlines will carry almost double the passengers and freight they currently do, supporting close to 100 million direct and indirect jobs in the process, and some USD\$5.7 trillion in economic activity.”

Dr. Liu stressed to her Symposium audience that even as air transport will need more and more skilled professionals to manage forecast growth without subsequent negative impacts on air transport safety, security and efficiency, as well the economic growth of developing nations, the sector is also being considerably challenged by current attrition factors.

“Attrition dynamics pose risks not only to our sector’s airlines and airports in terms of the pilots, maintenance personnel, controllers, and other qualified staff they need on hand, but also to Governments with respect to their safety and security oversight responsibilities under the Chicago Convention,” she remarked.

The Doha Symposium focused around the theme of Aviation Training Intelligence, and on how in today’s world of information abundance, data collected through various sources needs to be structured and managed in a coherent and functional way to develop and implement effective training.

It also explored new means of measuring training effectiveness, and Dr. Liu commented that when developing new training programmes, “new behaviours, improved skills, and increased productivity should be expected as common sense outcomes.”

“It is therefore critical to be able to effectively measure training impacts based on data collection types, analyses, and results which generate sound decision-making intelligence,” she said.

Another important factor stressed by the ICAO Secretary General in terms of current human resources development, management, and planning priorities was the rapid increase in the deployment of new technologies across every major industry sector.

“With the introduction of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and unmanned aircraft systems, to name just a few areas of intensive innovation today, we are also seeing some tremendous competition globally for qualified technical personnel,” she noted. “This poses still further challenges for aviation in terms of attracting and retaining the personnel we now need.”

Highlighting regional variations posing challenges to sector-wide potential and harmonization, Dr. Liu

also stressed the need for increased coordination among States on required training needs and course offerings, whether globally, regionally or locally.

“This reinforces why we must pursue effective regional associations of aviation training organizations, and I would urge those regional representatives from Africa, Europe, North America and the Caribbean with us today to continue in their efforts toward increased standardization of course curricula, harmonization of instructor training, recognition of certificates, and the sharing of their limited resources.”

She drew attention to the important role of the ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Programme in this regard, which is composed of more than 100 Members, including 12 training organizations in the Middle East Region, as well as to the fact that it is welcoming an increasing amount of universities into its network today.

During a Membership Ceremony, the Secretary General recognized nine organizations which have recently attained TRAINAIR PLUS Programme milestones, including training centres and Universities from Algeria, China, Oman, Singapore and the United States of America.

Airports Council International, the global trade association of the world’s airports, was also officially recognized as a TRAINAIR PLUS Corporate Partner, paving the way for further joint course development and delivery activities.

Additionally, a special ceremony was held to award and highlight the accomplishments of six training organizations and the contribution of the late Mr. Pedro Miguel Ravelo of Cuba, for his course validation achievements.

During her visit to Qatar, Dr. Liu met with HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior for Qatar, Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al-Thani as well as the Minister of Transport and Communications, HE Jassim Saif Ahmed Al-Sulaiti. The leaders reviewed areas of co-operation between Qatar and the ICAO, and discussed a number of topics on the agenda of the symposium.

The meeting with Minister Al-Sulaiti was also attended by Chairman of Qatar’s Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), HE Mr. Abdulla bin Nasser Turki Al Subaey.



ICAO Secretary General Dr. Fang Liu with ICAO and Qatari officials during the Membership Ceremony which was held during the Fifth ICAO Global Aviation Training and TRAINAIR PLUS Symposium in Doha, Qatar, earlier this week.



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Resources for Editors

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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 192 Member States.

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