

**61ST CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION**

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
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**AGENDA ITEM 8: CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
TO TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION**

(Presented by the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA))

DISCUSSION PAPER

SUMMARY

The Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in Delhi in 2024 promulgated the Delhi Declaration recognizing the likely growth of the sector within the region and the consequent need to ensure cooperation between stakeholders within the region to build capacity and enhance capability. Aviation has a responsibility to maximize its positive socioeconomic impact while minimizing harm arising from its activities. Cooperation between all stakeholders within the region is essential to meeting these challenges while enhancing capacity and capability at all levels and in all parts of the industry.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO TECHNICAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the Second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in Delhi in September 2024, Ministers of the various states of the Asia Pacific region met and promulgated the Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Civil Aviation (Delhi) (“the Delhi Declaration”). The Delhi Declaration fulfills a key function by setting the pace for the development of the aviation sector within the Asia Pacific region.

1.2 In particular, the Delhi Declaration recognizes the likely growth of the sector within the region and the consequent need to ensure cooperation between stakeholders within the region to build capacity and enhance capability. Aviation has a responsibility to maximize positive socioeconomic impact and to minimize the environmental harm of its activities. Cooperation is essential to fulfill these responsibilities.

1.3 Such cooperation includes engagement between States/Administrations and the international and regional organizations (including technical and operational bodies) that support the DGCA Conference through regular attendance (“international organizations”). However, the aviation industry faces similar capability and capacity challenges and therefore States/Administrations should promote engagement with stakeholders, operators and personnel at all levels as appropriate to each State or Administration’s regulatory and institutional context.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The Delhi Declaration recognizes that the recovery of air transportation from the COVID-19 Pandemic is progressing strongly and that passenger and freight demand in the Asia and Pacific Region is forecast to regain higher growth rates. Within this context, States and the industry must cooperate to meet increasing demand while enabling a safe, secure, efficient, sustainable and a more resilient aviation sector.

2.2 States and the industry must also engage to meet the challenge of minimizing the adverse effects of international civil aviation on the global climate.

2.3 Within the Asia and Pacific Region, it is fundamental that States and the aviation industry collaborate to develop capabilities to improve the safety, security, and sustainability of the regional aviation sector. An important part of this collaboration is the development of capacity and capability within the region at all levels. This should also include the development of capacity and capabilities within and across the industry.

2.4 The Delhi Declaration calls for States and international organizations to enhance cooperation and provide technical expertise, resources and funding support for technical assistance, capacity-building initiatives and the implementation of the above commitments/actions in the Asia and Pacific Region.

2.5 These challenges call for not only States/Administrations but also industry, operators and personnel to scrutinize their operations in order to collaborate to create value from social, environmental and economic perspectives.

2.6 Local industry and operators can also benefit from engagement with services designed to build capacity and enhance capabilities. Personnel can benefit from awareness of and access to training and similar programs offered by international regional organizations that represent workers. All parties can engage in collaboration to address the challenges of environmental sustainability and climate change and to ensure the fair development towards a net-zero economy.

2.7 Industry and personnel can provide powerful ambassadors for delivering a sustainable future for aviation. In many aspects these stakeholders inherently understand the need for a sustainable sector that provides a safe, secure future. International organizations are responding to the resourcing challenge by taking

measures to enhance the capacity of the operators and personnel that they represent.

2.8 Overwhelmingly, this is because businesses and workers realize that they have a responsibility for each other's wellbeing and that of the public that now, more than ever, matters significantly to the community. Providing a safe, healthy, just and inclusive environment along with an efficient and positive customer experience is key to retaining public trust and ensuring prosperity for the future.

2.9 However, these objectives require the continuous development of mechanisms to enable engagement between stakeholders that are appropriate to each State's regulatory and institutional context.

2.10 States/Administrations attending the DGCA have recognized the value of strengthening existing mechanisms and developing new mechanisms to address the needs and priorities of the region (including through DGCA59 action items 59/41 and 59/43). These are important steps to ensuring that the capacity and capabilities of States/Administrations are appropriately developed to manage and facilitate the future growth of the aviation sector.

2.11 The DGCA has established the RCM Task Force and has tasked it with following up on the recommendations of its report included in DGCA59 DP/9/2 and providing a progress report to this Conference including the details of a proposed forum.

2.12 States/Administrations have also recognized the value of including appropriate participation from international organizations as they take these steps. The inclusion of international organizations in this manner will enable a coherent and consistent approach to the development of capacity and capability not only across the region but also across industry, operators and personnel within the region.

2.13 States and industry can work together to enhance the positive socioeconomic impact of the industry on its personnel through such means as reshaping terms and conditions of employment to embrace flexible working conditions and improve employee engagement in a manner consistent with national frameworks.

2.14 Personnel who feel heard, safe, and valued are essential to growth and maximizing the positive impact of aviation. As States and operators around the world experience workforce challenges, it is vital to adopt innovative approaches and shifts in recruitment, training, and employee engagement.

2.15 Developing strong and trusted relationships with local communities is also key. This includes transparency on upcoming developments and related decision-making processes, highlighting the various benefits and future challenges they may bring.

2.16 Sharing these matters can turn local communities into allies, helping to secure long-term support and ensuring their voices are heard.

2.17 International organizations can continue to positively and constructively contribute to enhancing the capacity and capabilities of the operators and personnel that they represent throughout the region whilst moving in harmony with States/Administrations as they develop new mechanisms and strengthen existing mechanisms to address the joint challenges of growth and sustainability.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) recognize the interest of international and regional organizations within the region in developing the capacity and capabilities of industry, operators and personnel;

- c) consider formulating a register of international and regional organizations that customarily participate and observe in DGCA and other Asia Pacific aviation forums; and
- d) continue to invite international and regional organizations that have customarily participated and observed in regional meetings to future conferences and forums.

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