

**59th CONFERENCE OF
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONS**

*Cebu, Philippines
14 to 18 October 2024*

AGENDA ITEM 4: AIR NAVIGATION

**UNITING THE STRENGTH OF INNOVATION FOR BUILDING
A SEAMLESS SKY - THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION
INNOVATION & CAPACITY BUILDING SYMPOSIUM 2023**

(Presented by Hong Kong China on behalf of the Organizing Committee of APICS 2023)

INFORMATION PAPER

SUMMARY

This paper shares the successful hosting of the Asia Pacific Region Innovation & Capacity Building Symposium 2023 under the theme “*Uniting the Strength of Innovation for Building a Seamless Sky*” in Hong Kong China in December 2023, and encourages States/Administrations to continue supporting the upcoming international conference/exhibition related to civil aviation to be hosted at Hong Kong China.

UNITING THE STRENGTH OF INNOVATION FOR BUILDING A SEAMLESS SKY - THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION INNOVATION & CAPACITY BUILDING SYMPOSIUM 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia Pacific Region Innovation & Capacity Building Symposium 2023 (APICS 2023) successfully took place from 14 to 15 December 2023 at the AsiaWorld-Expo, Hong Kong China, which was co-hosted by the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), the Hong Kong Civil Aviation Department (CAD), and the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy (HKIAA), with support from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia and Pacific (APAC) Regional Office and the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK), to foster innovation, technological development and capacity building of the civil aviation industry regionally and globally.

1.2 In the 58th DGCA Conference held in Bangladesh in October 2023, an action item 58/20 was formulated to encourage States/Administrations to support and participate in the Symposium, and promote industry partners and exhibitors to attend the Symposium.

1.3 Under the theme “*Uniting the Strength of Innovation for Building a Seamless Sky*”, this flagship Symposium has attracted over 2,000 global aviation professionals from more than 35 States/Administrations and regions. Among them were top leaders and experts from civil aviation authorities, air navigation service providers, airport operators, the aviation industry, as well as young aviation professionals.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 With the theme “*Uniting the Strength of Innovation for Building a Seamless Sky*”, APICS 2023 hosted keynote speeches and panel discussions from experts on innovation and capacity building, with leading global industry partners assembling and showcasing their latest innovative solutions and capabilities via exhibition, demonstration and talks.

Keynote speeches

2.2 The keynote speeches delivered by Director-General of Civil Aviation of Hong Kong, China, Mr. Victor Liu Chi-yung, and Regional Director of ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office, Mr. Tao Ma, highlighted the growth and challenges faced by the region and emphasized how suitable applications of new technologies, orchestrating with three core elements – air, ground and people, could assist aviation development to be maintained in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner.

Expert Panels

2.3 The industry heavy-weighted professionals and leaders gathered in the three expert panels on topics “*Innovation in Sky - Air Navigation Service*”, “*Innovation on Ground – Airport Operations*” and “*Capacity Building for Civil Aviation Workforce*”, sharing their insights, experience and practical strategies related to innovation and capacity building.

Exchange Ceremony for Memorandum of Understanding / Collaborative Agreement

2.4 Featuring strategic collaboration and promoting cooperation in civil aviation industry, more than 25 organizations and institutes exchanged a total of 18 documents including memorandum of understanding (MoU), collaborative agreements (CAs), and contracts, which signified a common objective of collaboration.

Business Engagement Talks

2.5 A series of thought-provoking business engagement talks were delivered by leading industry suppliers on the latest innovative technologies for civil aviation, which not only gathered industry professionals and provided valuable industry-specific insights, but also offered excellent

opportunities for networking and collaboration, facilitating interactions among participants, industry professionals and potential partners who shared similar interests and aspirations.

Exhibition

2.6 The exhibition featured a diverse variety of cutting-edge technologies, products and innovative solutions showcased by some 60 globally renowned exhibitors in the civil aviation sector, including technology solution providers, systems suppliers, systems integrators, as well as research and academic institutions from Mainland China, local and overseas, serving as a platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and collaboration across the region. The interactive environment facilitated the establishment of potential collaborations and strengthened partnerships for driving innovation and capability building.

Conclusion

2.7 With APICS 2023 being successfully concluded after two fruitful days, participants, exhibitors and speakers were highly satisfied with the event outcomes. In particular, exhibitors have expressed that the event had far exceeded their expectation with abundant opportunities for collaborations and business matching.

2.8 On behalf of the Organizing Committee, Hong Kong China would like to express sincere appreciation for the active participation and strong support from ICAO APAC Regional Office, exhibitors, sponsors and general participants who contributed to the great success of the Symposium on promoting innovation and capacity building in civil aviation industry for building a Seamless Sky. The constructive outcomes and key takeaways from the Symposium were consolidated and compiled into the report of APICS 2023, which is posted at the event webpage at <https://www.cad.gov.hk/english/apics2023.html>. States/Administrations are encouraged to continue supporting the upcoming international conference/exhibition related to civil aviation to be hosted at Hong Kong China.

3. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

3.1 The Conference is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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