

Seminar in Istanbul focuses on administration of ICAO technical cooperation projects

ICAO Council President Dr. Assad Kotaite was in Istanbul, Turkey from 25 to 30 October for discussions with government leaders on a variety of aviation subjects, and to address a regional seminar on the administration of the ICAO technical cooperation programme (TCP). Hosted by Turkey, the seminar was the third of a series that will be held in six ICAO regions.

In opening the ICAO seminar on 27 October, Turkish Minister of Transport Binali Yildirim underscored the importance of technical cooperation to safety and security. Technical cooperation activities, he said, make it possible to increase flight safety and aviation security to even higher levels than present.

The value of such seminars is "indisputable," the Minister added, by helping to determine what resources are required to fulfill a State's responsibility to implement ICAO standards and recommended practices. In emphasizing the link between a country's economy and the level of aviation safety and security, Mr. Yildirim declared that "investments made for flight safety and aviation security will return as a substantial contribution to a State's economy in the long term."

The ICAO Council President, in his opening address to the seminar, reviewed recent TCP developments and achievements, stating that the Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB) which manages the programme had grown more efficient and effective through restructuring and policy change. The TCB had become "a more dynamic and effective unit, capable of providing support and assistance whenever requested," the President said.

One area where the programme can be particularly effective,



During his stay in Istanbul, Dr. Kotaite met with Binali Yildirim, the Minister of Transport of Turkey (at right), Topa Bilgetin Tokar, the DGCA of Turkey, and other high-level officials.

Dr. Kotaite stressed, is aviation safety. The TCP can, for example, provide assistance with applying measures needed to correct deficiencies identified by ICAO audits of safety oversight systems. It can also provide assistance with efforts to rectify deficiencies uncovered by ICAO security audits, an activity that commenced in November 2002 (see "Audits promote consistent implementation of aviation security measures worldwide," Issue No. 7, 2003).

Dr. Kotaite noted that the TCP administered by ICAO will implement civil aviation projects valued at approximately U.S. \$118 million in 2003, and U.S. \$110 million in 2004.

"With the effective use of these funds, considerable progress is being made worldwide through the execution of technical cooperation projects in the fields of operational safety and airworthiness, air traffic services and the training of personnel," Dr. Kotaite informed the seminar participants.

As one example of the programme's recent accomplishments, the President pointed to advances in the Balkans, and said the TCP had been instrumental in helping to reintegrate Bosnia and Herzegovina into the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and in Eurocontrol. "These are remarkable achievements, undertaken in a complex environment," the Council President stated. "They represent the efforts and the willingness of many persons to find solutions to the complicated issues facing civil aviation development."

The series of technical cooperation seminars are designed to provide participants with a greater understanding of the methods used by ICAO in executing its technical cooperation activities. The first seminar, for participants from the Americas, was held in Montreal in April 2001, and the second, for Africa and the Middle East regions, took place in Cairo in February 2002. The fourth seminar is scheduled to take place in Singapore in January 2004 and will be open to participants from the Asia and Pacific regions.

While in Istanbul, the Council President had meetings with the Minister of Transport of Turkey, the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other high-level civil aviation officials. Also present for the meetings was the Alternate Representative of Turkey to ICAO and the Director of the ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau.

Discussions with government leaders and officials included ICAO safety oversight and aviation security audits, training for Turkish civil aviation personnel, procurement services available from ICAO, and Turkey's adherence to the Danish and Icelandic joint financing agreements (for more information on these cooperative arrangements, see "Joint financing arrangements contribute to operational safety and efficiency," page 20). Also discussed were Turkey's plans to ratify certain international air law instruments. □



An ICAO seminar on the administration of technical cooperation projects held in Istanbul, Turkey from 27 to 30 October 2003 attracted 128 participants. The seminar focused on the development, financing and implementation of ICAO technical cooperation projects in Europe and Central Asia.