



Opening remarks by the ICAO Secretary General,
Mr. Raymond Benjamin
on the occasion of the
Inauguration ceremony for the Singapore Aviation Academy
(Singapore, 4 August 2014)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to participate in today's inauguration of the Singapore Aviation Academy as an ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre (ASTC) and as an ICAO Regional Training Centre of Excellence for Aerodromes, Flight Safety and Safety Management and Security and Facilitation. This is a great accomplishment we are celebrating today.

I wish in this regard to express my gratitude to Mr. Yap Ong Heng, Director-General of Civil Aviation, and to Dr. Michael Lim, Director of Singapore Aviation Academy, for their invaluable contribution to these efforts, as well as to all other officials who have contributed to these tremendous achievements.

I would like to begin today by recognizing the Singapore Aviation Academy as a member of the ICAO Aviation Security Training Center (ASTC) Network. Aviation security evolves in a fast-paced environment where threats, vulnerabilities and even the aviation sector itself are in a condition of constant change.

ICAO has long supported States in implementing aviation security measures, as defined by the Standards and Recommended Practices contained in Annex 17—*Security*, to the Chicago Convention. One means by which this support is provided is the dedicated network of ICAO Aviation Security Training Centres – which offers courses in all global regions and in all of ICAO's six official languages.

Ensuring that aviation security professionals possess the necessary competencies to carry out their responsibilities, effectively and efficiently, is a priority for ICAO. Our Aviation Security Training Centres facilitate this by providing the training needed by today's aviation security workforce.

It is a great pleasure for me, therefore, to welcome the Singapore Aviation Academy as an invaluable extension to this important network, especially for the ICAO Asia and Pacific Region.

Second, let me brief you on the ICAO Regional Training Centre of Excellence. As you may already know, ICAO is in the process of establishing a network of Regional Training Centres of Excellence in all regions of the world to support the development of training courses using ICAO provisions. This exclusive programme, which is an integrated part of the ICAO TRAINAIR PLUS Programme, will also benefit selected training organizations by enhancing the scope of their training to better meet civil aviation authorities and aviation industry demand.

This initiative is paramount, as it will support ICAO to effectively and efficiently assist its Member States in achieving and maintaining competency of their aviation personnel, as well as ensuring that ICAO provisions are adequately taught.

The selection of the Regional Training Centres, through the Global Aviation Training Office of ICAO, will ensure the best possible consideration of regional and linguistic aspects. These training centres will be TRAINAIR PLUS-leading Full Members.

The Singapore Aviation Academy's modern facilities, experience in the field of aviation training, and emphasis on excellence and efficiency will greatly support and enhance its contributions to the ICAO Strategic Objectives. This is a strong foundation for continued cooperation and partnership between ICAO and the Singapore Aviation Academy as made evident by the two significant recognitions we are acknowledging today.

In closing, on behalf of ICAO, please extend a warm welcome to the Singapore Aviation Academy as a member of our Aviation Security Training Centre network and now one of the first ICAO Regional Training Centres of Excellence.

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