Aircraft Operator role in Public Health Emergencies
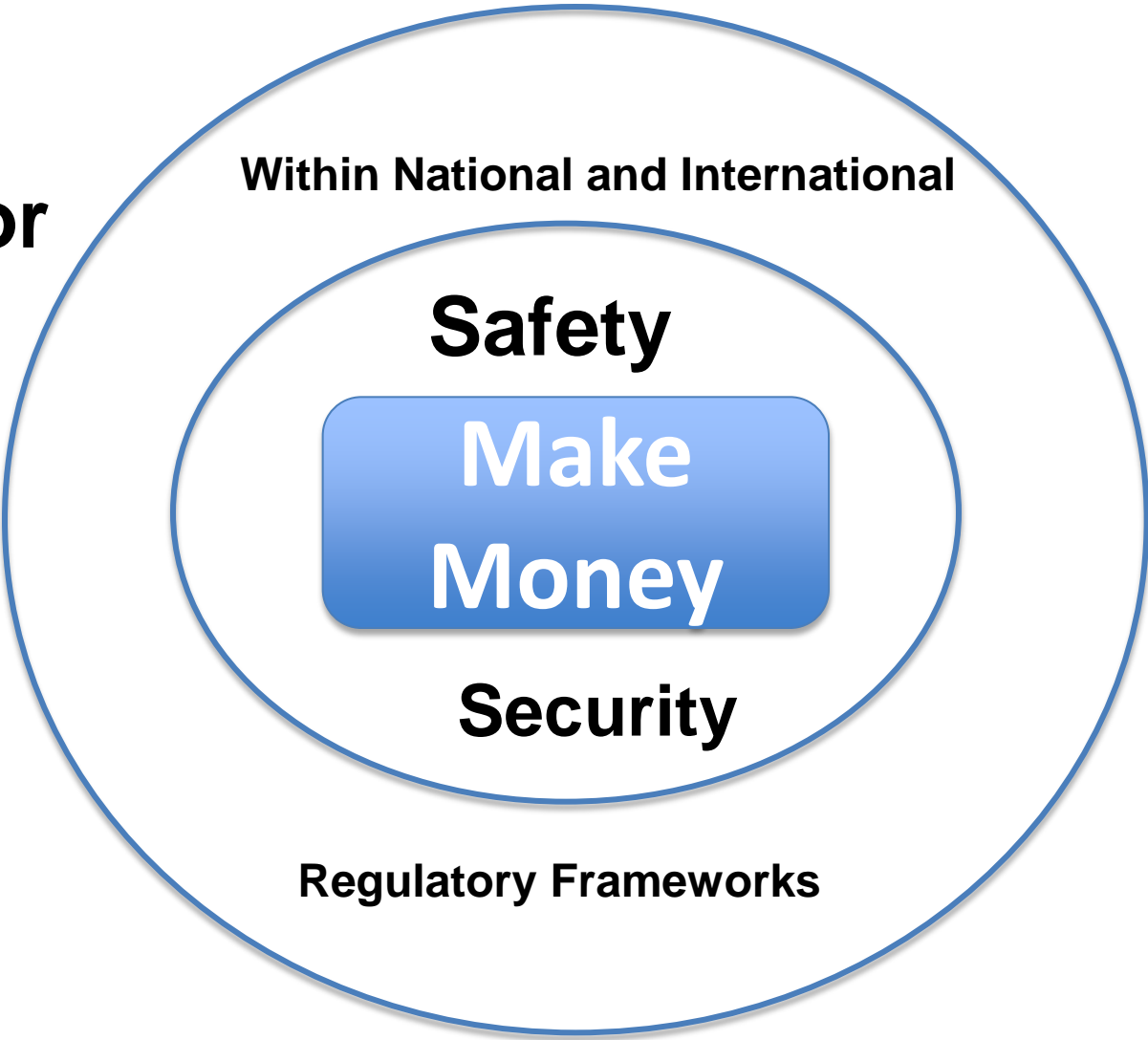
**CAPSCA - MID
29 Feb – 4 Mar 2016
CAIRO, EGYPT**

**Dr Jarnail Singh
Chairman, Civil Aviation Medical Board
CAPSCA Global Technical Advisor**

CAAS
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

Role of Aircraft Operator

Within National and International

Safety

Make Money

Security

Regulatory Frameworks

CAAS

A major area in which aircraft operators

play a big role is…………

Public Health Event/s & Emergencies

Public Health Event/s
&
Emergency Planning

CAAS

National Public Health Emergency Plan

⬇

National Aviation Public Health Emergency Plan

⬇

Airport Public Health Emergency Plan

Where does the Aircraft Operator fit in ?

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Aircraft Operator

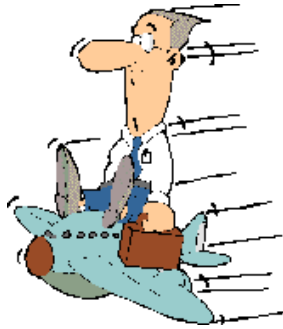**Often the forgotten entity although they play the most critical role**

CAAS

Air Operators

Carry More than 7 million passengers daily

With Long Range Flights

Able to be at the opposite end of the world in less than 24 hours

Passenger/s with communicable or other disease can carry it to the opposite end of the world in less than 24 hours

Response to the threat of a public health event or emergency has to be rapidly put into place

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National Public Health Emergency Plan

National Aviation Public Health Emergency Plan

Airport Public Health Emergency Plan
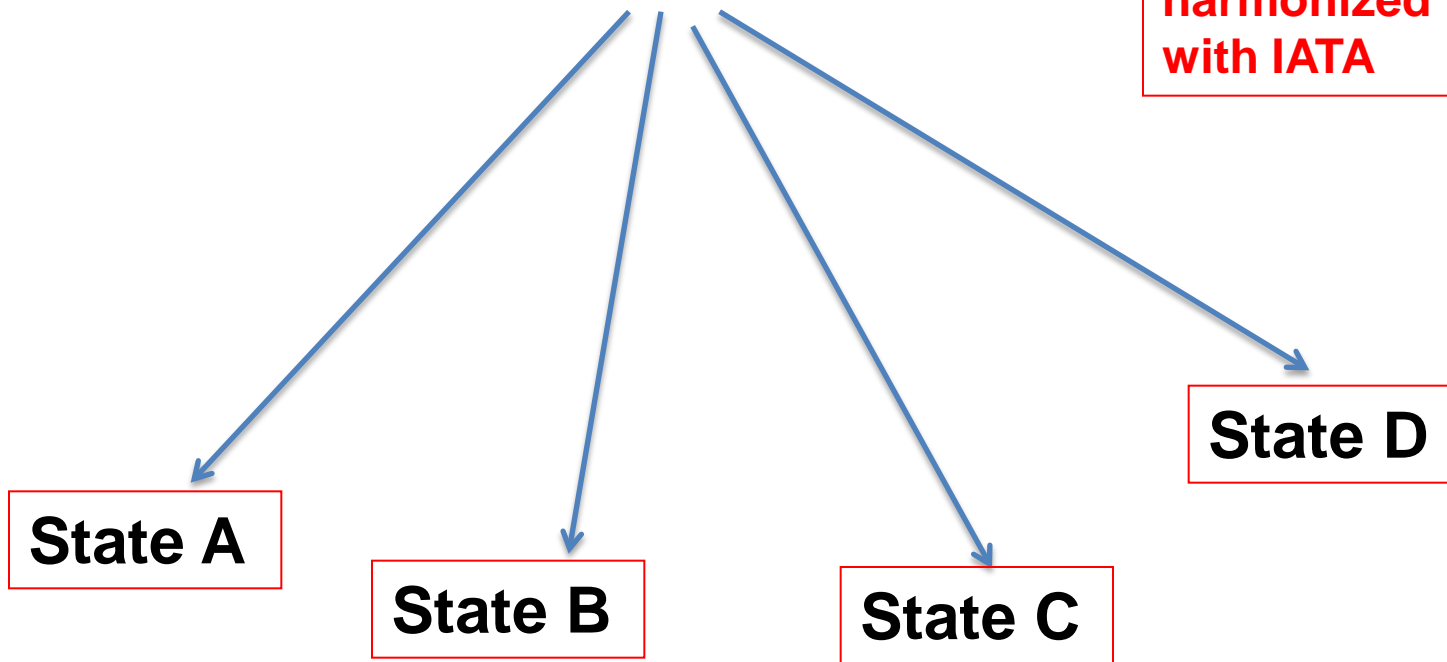
Where does the Aircraft Operator fit in ?

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Chinese Proverb

Tell me and I'll forget; show me and I may remember, involve me and I'll understand

CAAS

Aircraft Operator

State A

State B

State C

State D

Differing requirements – Differing response Logistical issues, training of crew, cost, etc..

Risk Analysis --- Whose job is it??

CAAS

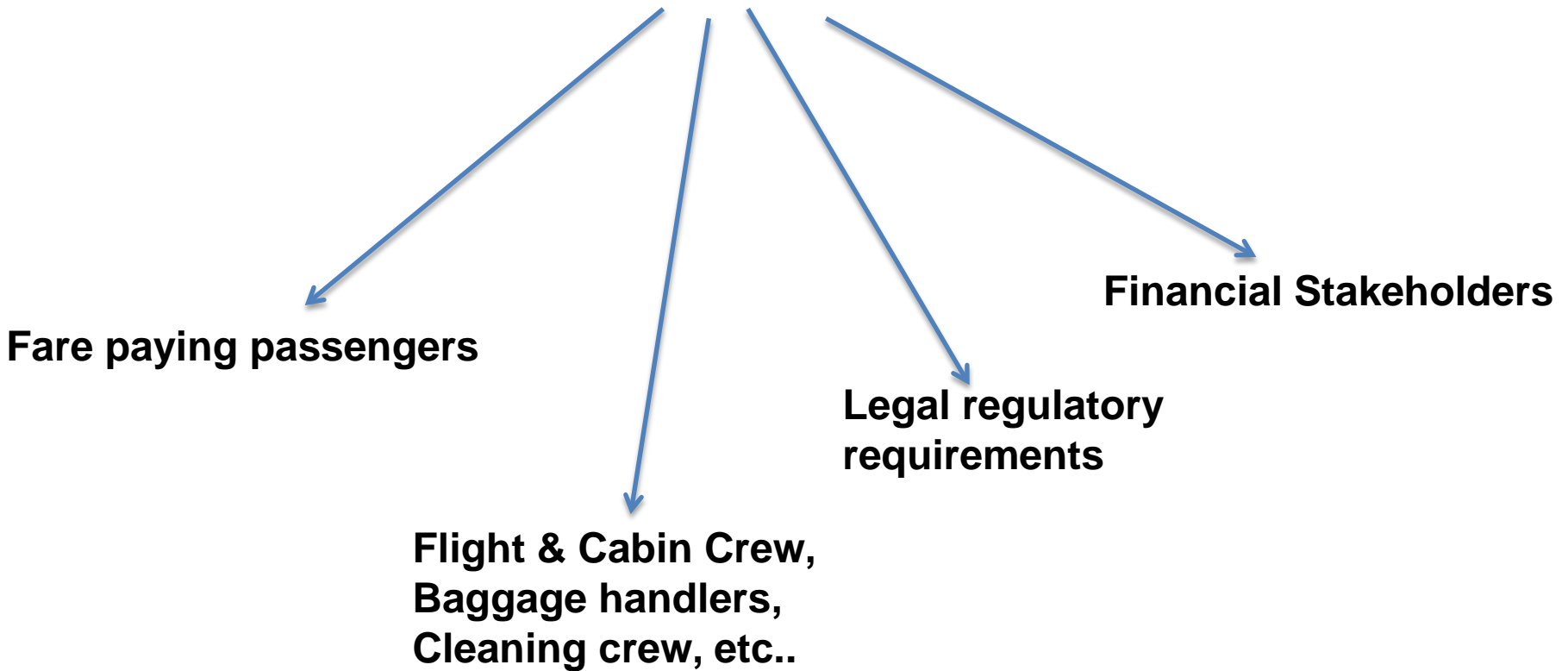# ALL Flights coming into the country

ITALY

MUST be Disinsected

CAAS

Responsibilities of aircraft operator

Fare paying passengers

**Flight & Cabin Crew,
Baggage handlers,
Cleaning crew, etc..**

**Legal regulatory
requirements**

Financial Stakeholders

❖ **Public Health Emergency Plan**
❖ **Business Continuity Plan**

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IATA Guidelines

Cabin Crew
Cleaning Crew
Universal precaution kit

Arriving Aircraft With Suspect Case/s On Board

- Parking position of aircraft

- Measures for suspect case/s

- Measures for other passengers

- Measures for Crew

- Disinfection of aircraft

- Disinsection of aircraft

- Baggage

- Ramp workers

- Others

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Specific Issues

6.4 Parking position of aircraft

The pilot in command (PIC) needs to be advised where to park the aircraft – such information will normally be communicated to the PIC by air traffic control. This may be on a remote stand, or, depending on the situation, on the apron with or without an air bridge attached. It should be noted that parking an aircraft a distance away from the terminal building is likely to delay the public health assessment of the situation, and may make passenger handling more complicated. There is no evidence to suggest that the public health risk is greater if the aircraft is parked adjacent to the terminal, with an air bridge or steps used for disembarkation. In principle, the aircraft arrival should be managed by a system that is as close to routine as possible. The airport plan should, ideally, have a pre-designated parking bay for the aircraft with a suspected case of communicable disease on board.

Aircrew and ground crew need to be advised concerning the opening of aircraft doors, disembarkation and the information to be given to travellers prior to the arrival of the medical team.

Action should be taken to disembark the travellers as soon as possible after the situation has been evaluated and a public health response has been instituted, if needed.

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Key considerations that aircraft operators would like to see

- ➢ **International border health measures should be implemented under the framework of the new International Health Regulations**
- ➢ **Decision on public health measures based on assessed risks**
- ➢ **Public health measures should be evidence-based whenever possible**
- ➢ **Countries should balance the benefits against the costs and potential consequences**
- ➢ **Desirability of harmonization of interventions at international POE**
- ➢ **Planning, coordination, collaboration, cooperation and communication is essential**

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Thank you for your kind attention!

Jarnail Singh

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