SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION
COLLECTIVELY DESIGNING THE FUTURE OF ATM POST COVID-19 WEBINAR

(15-16 JUNE 2020, 07:00 - 09:00 UTC)

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Collectively designing the future of ATM Post COVID-19 Webinar was successfully held on 15-16 June 2020 from 07:00 to 09:00 UTC on both days using MS Teams Live Event Application. The Webinar was organized jointly by the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of UAE and ICAO MID Regional Office.

1.2   The objectives of the Webinar were to share knowledge and experiences amongst webinar participants about pandemic contingency planning & management in the civil aviation industry and to understand the challenges and concerns that the different industry members are having. The revised plans and strategies the industry is undertaking was addressed. The webinar further discussed collectively areas of common interest and priorities. Also, it proposed recommendations to the concerned industry members.

1.3   The Webinar recorded more than 862 participants from 144 organizations which comprised of Civil Aviation Authorities, ANSPs, ATM suppliers, Airlines, Travel agencies, universities and more from around the world.

The Webinar's detailed program is in **Attachment A**. Materials including, Presentations and the Summary of Discussion are available at the link https://www.icao.int/MID/Pages/2020/ATM-Webinar.aspx . The webinar recording is available at https://www.icao.tv/covid-19-webinar-series/videos/webinar-gcaa-live-collectively-designing-the-future-of-atm-post-covid-19-day-1 and Webinar Day2 at https://www.icao.tv/covid-19-webinar-series/videos/webinar-gcaa-live-collectively-designing-the-future-of-atm-post-covid19-day-2

2.   OPENING

2.1   H.E Saif Al-Suwaidi, the Director General of the UAE GCAA, welcomed all participants and thanked them for participation in the Webinar. He highlighted that the webinar will provide quality information, valuable advice and support to participants to provide contribution to the aviation industry at such a challenging time.

2.2   Mr. Al-Suwaidi stated that the webinar was an open and extended platform of knowledge and experience sharing in an atmosphere of transparency and good will. He further indicated that the webinar came at a perfect time as positive indications about air transport system restart have been observed after a shocking and painful pandemic.

2.3   He also invited the aviation industry to work collectively in harmony towards focused priorities, unified strategies and tireless efforts to enable the industry to shine again.

2.4   At the end, Mr. Al-Suwaidi thanked the moderators, panelists and participants and wished them a fruitful discussions and successful webinar.

3.   DISCUSSIONS

First Session: The Strength of 3Cs- Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication

3.1   The panel presented the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Aviation industry; travel and tourism, passengers, traffic and economics as well as the estimated impact for 2020. The panel further presented the impact on International and Regional organizations' priorities and activities.

3.2   The panel underlined the role of effective communication during this crisis to support members in planning, implementation and responding to crisis. In this regard, it was noted that several platforms have been developed to communicate information to the aviation industry in a timely manner such as ICAOMID COVID-19 webpage, ICAO COVID-19 webpage, MID RPTF platform, ACAO webpage, CANSO guidance materials, etc. Furthermore, the panel encouraged the aviation industry to share their challenges and best practices.

3.3   The panel agreed that organizations should join efforts for a smooth and harmonized restart of operations in a safe, secured and sustainable manner. It was highlighted that inter-organizational collaboration is crucial to avoid duplication of efforts, obviate fragmented measures post COVID-19 and support the aviation industry's restart and recovery.

3.4   The panel highlighted that some airlines started to pick up and that the 3Cs between all stakeholders and supply chain players are essential to ensure a smooth restart.

3.5   It was noted that the International and regional organizations in the MID Region (AACO, ACAO, CANSO, IATA, ICAO, States and airlines) took the initiative to establish the high level MID Taskforce, Recovery plan taskforce (RPTF). The RPTF focuses on post COVID-19 crisis recovery and ensure regional implementation of global guidelines.

3.6   The panel underlined the necessity to foster the 3Cs among the industry to assist dealing with the following challenges:

- lack of aeronautical information;
- the need to ensure that the network remains available, emergencies and route alternatives;
- overflight approvals;
- crew restrictions;
- skilled staff availability;
- ATM infrastructure;
- Radio Navigation flight inspection; and
- safety risk management.

3.7   The Report of the council aviation recovery task force (CART) and its take off documents were presented as a success model of the aviation industry's 3Cs. Wide collaboration with States and international and regional organizations have taken place to develop CART recommendation and guidance.

3.8   In the same vein, it was highlighted that ICAO's top priority is to support States in implementing CART recommendations and guidance in a harmonized manner. In this respect, it was highlighted that, the ICAO is developing the 'Global Implementation Roadmap' which will be complemented by Regional Implementation Roadmaps, presenting the activities, mechanisms and tools put in place by ICAO to support, coordinate and monitor States' implementation of the

recommendations and guidance issued by the CART. The ICAO's activities, including implementation support, coordination and monitoring activities, will continue to be performed in partnership with all stakeholders.

3.9   It was highlighted that COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented crisis, and that the aviation community should work collaboratively to build a robust, sustainable, safe and secure aviation system. The panel emphasized that clear communication, international obligations, lessons learned and high-level commitments are the pillars to build resilient aviation.

3.10   The panel encouraged ANSPs to take advantage of the time of low traffic density to undertake various infrastructure maintenance.

3.11   The panel recommended that States include ANSPs in their COVID-19 plans. It was highlighted that the decline in traffic amid COVID-19 caused a huge decline in ANSPs' revenue, the panel urged the aviation industry to show solidarity.

3.12   The panel emphasized that to ensure ANSPs' efficient and safe operation resumption, ANSPs should implement collaborative decision making (CDM). Collaboration and cooperation with adjacent ANSPs is crucial.

Second Session: United to Prevail amid COVID-19: A Cohesive outlook

3.13   The panel discussed different actions that were taken amid COVID-19 pandemic. The deployed actions include, inter-alia:

- reviewing contingency plans on a regular basis;
- resource optimization;
- raising awareness;
- focusing on repatriation flights to minimize impact on the supply chain;
- expanding cargo capacity by granting airline exemptions to carry cargo on passenger compartment;
- strengthening coordination with neighboring ANSPs;
- maintaining ATCOs proficiency by using simulators to manage complex ATS scenarios;
- enhancing some ATS routes on a temporary basis between Oman and UAE;
- ensuring that staff is ready to perform once operations restart;
- forming different committees dealing with different crisis management aspects;
- defining different scenarios/actions to manage the crisis based on the safety risk management methodology.

3.14   The panel advised ANSPs to take advantage of this low traffic period to prepare for the future users' demands. The panel discussed the UAE initiative of refining ANS strategy to optimize resources/costs and enhance existing procedure and strategies.

3.15   In connection with the above, the panel stressed that the safety of staff, crew and customers was the top priority amid the crisis. Moreover, the panel underlined that the main objectives were to minimize disease outbreak through air transport and ensure business continuity.

3.16   The panel discussed different views on measures that should be implemented post COVID-19 era and how to apply the experience gained and lessons learned.

3.17   The panel recommended reviewing regulations to consider economic/operational challenges during such a crisis.

3.18   The panel highlighted the need for Regional ATFM to optimize the network in the Middle East Region.

3.19   The panel reiterated the necessity to collaborate and coordinate at national and regional levels and forming cross-sector platforms. Industry experts should work together to refine existing strategies for the way forward, and to find the most expeditious, efficient and cost effective solutions to take the industry to a new era.

3.20   The panel further underlined the need to create a new version of collaboration; and initiate homogenous projects (joint projects) for cost optimization in consultation with users, using existing ATM systems instead of newly customized ones to reduce costs.

3.21   The panel underlined that technology and human capital are the key investments for the future, technology has enabled aviation industry to maintain effective communication and collaboration amid the crisis. ANSPs should explore the feasibility of new technologies deployment such as remote tower.

Third Session: MID Region Aviation Restart and Recovery

3.22   The panel objective was to discuss how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by air transport and to protect the health of air travellers and aviation personnel while maintaining essential air transport operations and ensuring an orderly return to normal operations in due course.

3.23   It was highlighted that ICAO MID in coordination with the international and regional organizations established the MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF). The objectives of the RPTF are to:

- become a single Regional source of information, Guidance materials and best practices to States and stakeholders;
- support the response to crisis, restart and recovery in the Region & encourage harmonization; and
- support cross-border restart and recovery.

3.24   The panel presented the RPTF composition, main mandate and working arrangement. The RPTF consists of four technical work streams:

- Stream 1: Public Health Requirements/measures and Airport infrastructure
- Stream 2: Operational Safety Measures
- Stream 3: Security and Facilitation
- Stream 4: Air Traffic Management

The panel presented the main key activities and expected deliverables of each stream and how they could contribute to the restart of the aviation industry in the region.

3.25   The panel presented the focus areas of the ANS work stream as follow:

- ATM
  - Operational flexibility, Regional ATFM measures alleviation
  - Route Network operational improvement flight & Fuel efficiency
- Aeronautical information Management;
- ANS Business continuity and recovery;
- Regional Network operations capability; and
- Overflight permissions

3.26   The panel reiterated the need for aviation industry's 3Cs. Furthermore, the panel shared the lessons learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Importance of staff training
- Role of technology and further investment
- The necessity of collaboration

3.27   The panel presented UAE's experience in 4Rs "React-Restart- Recover-Resilience" and Steps taken towards aviation resumptions. It was noted that UAE measures are in line with the CART, WHO and IATA recommendations.

Fourth Session: Technology VS COVID-19

3.28   The last panel was focused towards Technology and its role during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic where a few the globally leading ANS Suppliers discussed various topics and provided insight into the Business and projects side of ATM during and post the COVID–19 Pandemic. The session addressed the topics below:

- Managing Worldwide ATM systems deployment and maintenance during the pandemic.
- The planning and change processes during and post COVID-19 for the recovery and resumption of projects around the world.
- Show the future path of ATM systems and identify where new areas are created and where current ones might change.
- Give a glimpse of what is being prepared for launch by the suppliers in the near future to support their Customers.

3.29   The panel started off by stating the impact of COVID-19 on the business and divided this into three phases namely Initial, Current and Future phases. In the initial phase of the pandemic the suppliers stated that the safety of their personnel and security of their assets took first priority. The challenges during that phase were mainly revolving towards access to their facilities and effects on the supply chain. While during the current and future phases the challenges where more on the products and investment priorities.

3.30   It was stated that technology allowed for many functions to resume almost immediately and some changes to activities that was previously exclusively done with the physical presence of the customers such as Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) and Site Acceptance Tests (SAT). These were conducted successfully via remote access and virtual conferencing applications.

3.31   The panel explained how they maintain their support to safety critical systems such as ATM systems through a combination of local and remote solutions. Local solutions included physical support personnel and the use of support and maintenance training allowing the customers to conduct these activities under the supervision of the suppliers. Remote solutions utilized Remote access to the systems through secure connections.

3.32   Cyber security role was highlighted and all panelists stressed the importance of investing adequately in cyber security through the explanation of the rising threats due to various factors including:

- Increase of personnel stress levels which makes them prone to mistakes leading to cyber security vulnerabilities.
- Lack of personnel's knowledge and awareness of correct cyber security measures.
- Hackers' targeting of critical infrastructure as they are considered as high value targets.

3.33   The dominating factors of recovery planning was shared by the suppliers and it was explained how survival and business continuity came first, followed by re-prioritisation of products and services and reaching to looking for new opportunities using data analysis and think tanks.

3.34   Enhanced communication between the suppliers and their customers proved extremely valuable to the extent that initiatives are being established to keep this communication level in place through digital forums.

3.35   The panel stated that Cooperation and Collaboration is seen to be key for the near and long future investments. This was observed first hand by some suppliers that this collaboration cleared "Grey areas" that could have led to safety implications.

3.36   The Panel shared their view of the future from the technological aspect explaining how it holds many promising innovative technologies such as the revised aviation system architecture where it is seen as a single system of many interlinked systems connecting not only ANSPs but Airlines, Airports, Flight data providers, Meteorological Agencies and many more stakeholders providing the right information to the right recipients at the right time.

3.37   The panel recommended that all aviation stakeholders use the opportunity we have to correctly plan the future of civil aviation and gave an example of having Greener skies as everyone has a role to play to reduce the CO_2 footprint and emissions of the aviation sector.

3.38   One of the evident changes in priorities is Capacity. The panel discussed how capacity is no longer a high priority for the time being; with robustness and cost effectiveness being of a higher priority now. The panel shared that through a Value stream analysis conducted regarding the air transport cycle, it was observed that huge resources are wasted and that costs can be reduced in some areas by as much as 90%.

3.39   The panel gave examples of the different ways they are trying to support their customers, such as:
- Uncoupling Operational Control Rooms and service delivery
- Contingency solutions
- Validation of functionality remotely
- Prioritizing remote technologies and enablers such as virtual centres, remote towers and full IP VCCS.
- Transferring the purchasing models from Capital Expenditure to Operational Expenditure

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Collectively Designing The Future
of ATM Post COVID-19

15 - 16 Jun 2020

07:00 – 09:00 UTC

The Strength of 3C's - Cooperation, Collaboration and Communication

The first session will discuss the importance of the 3Cs amongst a high level Panel of Aviation Leaders through the following topics:

- How the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted the Aviation industry?
- How the 3Cs can better tackle the COVID-19 crisis?
- How aviation stakeholders should exercise the 3Cs to involve all parties in a clear and coordinated manner and to set a common path?

Moderator

Ibrahim Al Jabri
General Manager Airspace
Standards – GACA
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Eng. Abdennebi Manar
Director General
Arab Civil Aviation
Organization

Mohamed Al Bakri
Regional Vice
President Africa &
Middle East, IATA

Mohamed Smaoui
Deputy Regional Director
ICAO MID Office, Cairo

Simon Hocquard
Director General of the Civil
Air Navigation Services
Organisation (CANSO)

United to Prevail amid COVID-19: A cohesive outlook of air traffic operations

A three dimensional cohesive outlook & experience sharing on actions that took place amid the COVID 19 pandemic. Several contingency response plans were activated to tackle emerging challenges, assure operations readiness and maximise efficiency through the discussion of the following topics:

- Actions taken amid COVID-19 Pandemic including Resources optimisation, Identification of essential and efficient priorities, maintaining highest levels of safety and assuring competencies of personnel.
- Dynamic response and coordination including Special Regulatory arrangements to the novel variables and requirements.
- Arrangement of Regional ATFM measures and their adjustments, cancellation and re-activation methodology.
- Continuous measures to ensure readiness for post COVID-19 era.

Moderator

Jehad Faqir
Assistant Regional Director
Safety & Flight Operations,
IATA North Africa & Levant

Ahmed Al Jallaf
Assistant Director General
Air Navigation Services,
U.A.E. GCAA

Hassan Al Hammadi
Divisional SVP
Flight operations
Emirates Airlines

Mubarak Al Ghailani
A/DG of Civil Aviation
Regulations, PACA,
Sultanate of Oman

Ryyan Tarabzoni
CEO & Board Member
Saudi Air Navigation Services

MID Region Aviation Restart and Recovery

The Third session discusses reducing the spread of COVID-19 by air transport and to protect the health of air travellers and air personnel while maintaining essential air transport operations and ensuring an orderly return to normal operations in due course, to this end, a MID Region Recovery Plan Task Force (RPTF) was established by ICAO. The four technical work streams of the RPTF will be discussed:

- Stream 1: Public Health Requirements/measures and Airport infrastructure
- Stream 2: Operational Safety Measures
- Stream 3: Security and Facilitation
- Stream 4: Air Navigation Services/Air Traffic Management

Moderator

Rashad Karaky
Director - Technical, AACO

Fahad Al Anizi
Kuwait Civil Aviation
Security Director (DGCA)

Ismaeil Mohammed Al Blooshi
Assistant Director General
Aviation Safety Affairs Sector
U.A.E. GCAA

Mohamed Chakib
Regional Officer Safety
Implementation,
ICAO, Regional Office, Cairo

Mohamed Iheb,
Regional Officer AGA,
ICAO Regional Office, Cairo

Shannon Caunts
Safety & Flight Operations
Africa & Middle East, IATA

Technology Vs COVID-19: COmmitted to Vision Irrespective of Difficulties

In this technologically orientated session, some of the globally leading ANS Suppliers join a panel to discuss various topics and provide insight into the Business and projects side of ATM during and post the COVID–19 Pandemic. The Final session will address the following topics:

- Managing Worldwide ATM systems deployment and maintenance during the pandemic.
- View the planning and change processes during and post COVID-19 for the recovery and resumption of projects around the world.
- Show the future path of ATM systems and identify where new areas are created and where current ones might change.
- Give a glimpse of what is being prepared for launch by the suppliers in the near future to support their Customers.

Moderator

Hamad Rashid Al Belushi
Air Navigation Services Specialist,
U.A.E. GCAA

Benjamin Binet
VP Strategy Airspace Mobility
Solutions (AMS) - Thales

Jesús Fernández
ATM Director
Indra

Michele Carandente
Regional Director,
EMEA - Aireon

Theodor Zeh
Control Room Consulting Director
FREQUENTIS AG

Ibrahim Al Jabri

General Manager Airspace Standards
General Authority of Civil Aviation
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Mr. Ibrahim Al Jabri has served as General Manger of Airspace Standards at the General Authority of Civil Aviation in Saudi Arabia since November 2017, Managing the Safety Oversight responsibilities for Air Navigation Services. He enjoys over 30 years' experience in Air Navigation services. This include serving as Director of Air Traffic Management at Saudi Air navigation Service (SANS) and lead the transformation program for ATM area in Saudi Arabia (Moving from GACA ANS to SANS) and the certification program of SANS.

Mr. Ibrahim chaired and co-chaired several regional meetings and participated in several Regional and International forums and meetings. He also served as Technical Advisor to the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia in ICAO and attended several meetings of ICAO ANC and Council. In addition to his ATC Diploma and ATM training, Mr. Ibrahim Al Jabri holds a Bachelor's degree of Science in Business Administration and a master's Degree of Business Administration in Aviation "International Aviation MBA" from John Molson School of Business, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada.

Eng. Abdennebi Manar

Director General
Arab Civil Aviation Organization
ACAO

Eng. Abdennabi Manar is the Director General of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO). He is a Civil Aviation Engineer from National School of Civil Aviation of Toulouse - France (ENAC).

Prior to his appointment as DG of ACAO, he held several roles including: Acting Director General of Morocco Civil Aviation Authority, Air Navigation Director, Air Traffic Director, Airport Quality, security and Safety Director, Acting as Air transport Director, Morocco representative at ICAO, ACAC Executive Member, member of Air Navigation Team of the Arab Maghreb Union and President of ACAO Air Navigation Committee.

Mohamed Al Bakri

Regional Vice President
Africa & Middle East
IATA

Muhammad Ali Albakri is IATA's Regional Vice President for Africa and Middle East. Before joining IATA, Albakri served as Executive Vice President for Strategic Projects and Transformation at Saudi Arabian Airlines, Vice President of Information Technology and Chief Financial Officer. Albakri is a member of IATA Strategic Leadership Team and is the Secretary of IATA's Digital Transformation Advisory Council.

Mohamed Smaoui

Deputy Regional Director
ICAO MID Office, Cairo

Mohamed Smaoui is the Deputy Regional Director of the ICAO Middle East Office. He is currently Acting as the Regional Director. He is a Principal Engineer with a Master Degree in Air Navigation Operations from ENAC Toulouse-France.

Mr. Smaoui joined ICAO in 2001 as Regional Officer AIM. In addition to his AIM responsibilities for both the MID and EUR/NAT Regions, he had been in charge of the ATM and safety activities for different periods during his career within the ICAO MID Office. He has been also an ICAO approved ANS Auditor within the USOAP programme since 2006.

He is Tunisian and began his civil aviation career with the ANS Service Provider and Aerodrome Operator of Tunisia (OACA) in 1992, where he held various positions, from the Head of the Future Air Navigation Systems Service (FANS), to Head of the Aeronautical Information Service (AIS), to Head of the Aeronautical Information and Telecommunications Division within the Air Navigation Directorate, where he had been involved in CNS/ATM operations and aerodrome planning and infrastructure projects.

Simon Hocquard

Director General
Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO)

Simon Hocqurad, Director General, CANSO (Civil Air Navigation Services Organization) was appointed on 19 June 2019. In leading and managing CANSO as the global voice of air traffic management, he is responsible for delivering CANSO strategies, expanding worldwide membership, and enhancing CANSO's relationship with its industry prees and stakeholders. Prior to this role, Simon was Deputy Director General of CANSO, where his responsibilities included overseeing all CANSO operations globally to ensure CANSO fulfilled its commitments and deliverables in a timely, efficient and customer/partner focused manner.

Simon previously served at NATS, the UK air navigation service provider. His roles included Operations Director at Swanwick, the largest air traffic control centre in Europe, leading 1,500 people through the successful air traffic management for the 2012 London Olympics and other change programmes; and Director Operations and Strategy NATS, where he was accountable for creating and implementing the business, technical , operational strategies and vision for the entire regulated business.

Simon has significant experience of working with governments and international institutions. He is appointed by the European Commission as Chairman of the Network Management Board, which governs the overall European Air Traffic Network, and drives performance improvement across Europe as well as within EUROCONTROL. He is also a member of the 'Wise persons Group' in Europe, which was established by the European Commission to provide recommendations for the future of European ATM.

Jehad Faqir

Assistant Regional Director Safety & Flight Operations
North Africa & Levant
IATA

Jehad Faqir a Jordanian national brings over 39 years technical experience and professional leadership while working in the aviation industry. He started his carrier at Royal Jordanian Airlines in 1976 where he held numerous managerial positions within the airline encompassing Production, Engineering developments, Technical Planning, Avionics Shops and IT. During that period, he was actively involved with various regional organizations including ICAO, Arab Civil aviation Commission (ACAC), Arab Air Carrier Organization (AACO) where he served as a Vice chairman of AACO Operations Committee and the head of Avionics Subcommittee for several years.

From there, in 2000 his career path took him to IATA Middle East office as Director Safety, operations & Infrastructure with responsibility covering technical & operational aspects of airport and air navigation services, CNS/ATM developments and implementation; as well as matters related to regional flight safety.

- In 2007 he joined ICAO Middle East regional Office as Deputy Regional Director and Technical Team leader.
- In March 2014 he re-joint IATA Africa & Middle East regional office taking responsibility of Safety & Flight Operations Middle East & North Africa.
- He attended numerous training and managerial courses in aviation field and holds a Master of Science degree in Applied Electronics.

Ahmed Al Jallaf

Assistant Director General, Air Navigation Services
U.A.E. General Civil Aviation Authority

Ahmed Al Jallaf is Assistant Director General Air Navigation Services at the General Civil Aviation Authority of UAE since 2011. He was amongst the first UAE nationals to validate as an Air Traffic Controller in 2000. He has represented the UAE in many regional and international meetings and conferences. Ahmed holds a Master's degree in Air Safety Management from City University, London. He has been the recipient of numerous awards over his illustrious career, notable of which is the prestigious Aviation Executive of the Year Award at the Aviation Business Awards in 2018. In 2019, he successfully completed the "Impactful Leaders Program" from the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development (MBRCLD) whose vision is to "Create leaders for tomorrow". His passion for aviation is what drives him to innovate and constantly aim to raise the bar in this field.

Hassan Al Hammadi

Divisional Senior Vice President flight operations
Emirates Airlines

Capt Hassan Al Hammadi started his flying career in 1982 with Gulf Air as a First Officer and then moved to Emirates to become a Captain in 1993. From 1998 he held various managerial roles at Emirates such as Training Manager, Chief Pilot, VP Flight Training and SVP Flight Ops Technical.
In March 2018 he became Divisional Senior Vice President of Flight Operations and as head of department he oversees the safety and efficiency of flight operations, ensuring there are sufficient resources to execute the planned schedule in the most efficient manner.

Mubarak Al Ghailani

Acting Director General of Civil Aviation Regulations
Public Authority of Civil Aviation, Sultanate of Oman

The Acting Director General of Civil Aviation Regulations of the Public Authority for Civil Aviation in the Sultanate of Oman since November 2019.
Has over 20 years of experience in Air navigation services, within which:
• Led the crisis management planning and implementation team of the Air Traffic Control Services.
• The Operational Director of the Air Navigation Services Transformation Program in Oman.

Began career in air traffic control, where he held a number of positions, including Director of Air Traffic Services and Senior Director of Quality and Safety

Ryyan Tarabzoni

CEO & Board Member
Saudi Air Navigation Services, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Ryyan Tarabzoni is the Chief Executive Officer and Board member of the Saudi Air Navigation services company (SANS). Mr. Tarabzoni has more than 20 years of experience in business development and transformation, with expertise in operational excellence, maximizing productivity, building quality assurance and developing supply chain excellence in both public and private sectors.

Prior to SANS, Mr. Tarabzoni was the General Manager in Tasnee Company leading the Downstream Business Unit and the Head of Transformation at Tasnee's Downstream Strategic Business Unit.

He began his career at Saudi Aramco, followed by various positions with Proctor & Gamble leading local and global positions, he also sits on the board of directors of several companies.

Mr. Tarabzoni received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of the Pacific, California, USA, and has completed several executive programs at INSEAD Business School, France, and completed the Certificate of Management Excellence from Harvard Business School, USA.

During his 3 years till present tenure at SANS, Eng. Tarabzoni has overseen the transformation and corporatization of the company, as well as an overall restructure that has led to the streamlining of operations and implementing new business opportunities such as the NEOM airport project.

Rashad Karaky

Director - Technical
Arab Air Carriers Organization, AACO

Rashad joined AACO in 2006 where he currently holds the position of Director Technical. In this capacity, he oversees all issues related to safety, security, facilitation, emergency response, flight operations, airspace infrastructure, and engineering & maintenance. He also collaborates and works closely on the regional and global levels with regulators, airlines, international and regional organizations, and industry stakeholders to promote and foster collaboration between all stakeholders in support of an efficient, effective and sustainable civil aviation sector.

Fahad Al Anizi

Security Director
Kuwait Civil Aviation (DGCA)

Civil Aviation Security Director at Kuwait DGCA. Thirty years of aviation experience, twenty-five of them with the industry; Kuwait airways and Amiri fleet, and five years with the local authority; DGCA.

Graduated as an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer from AST in Scotland, hold both B1/B2 licenses and approved engineer in B-747-200/400/800, A310, A320, A319, A340, and Gulfstream GV/G550. Attended many specialized, technical, and management courses locally and internationally in manufacturers (Boing, Gulfstream, and Airbus). And in universities (Embry riddle and cranfield university).

Started my carrier at the Airline as a trainee Engineer in 1988 and retired in 2013 as a Amiri fleet section Superintendent.

Later Joined Kuwait DGCA Aviation Safety Department in 2014 at Airworthiness Section and worked as Airworthiness inspector, then appointed as head of aerodrome certification and security, while heading the division I also performed the function of Aviation Security Inspector and Aerodrome Inspector.

In 2018 a new Civil Aviation Security department was established and I was promoted as a director same time hold the position of state National Coordinator with the ICAO.

Currently fully engaged with Aviation Security matters and held the chairperson of SECFAL PDG. And at present the chairperson of Regional Aviation Security and facilitation Group RASFG.

Ismaeil Mohammed Al Blooshi

Assistant Director General, Aviation Safety Affairs Sector
 U.A.E. General Civil Aviation Authority

Ismaeil Mohammed Al Blooshi is a licensed aircraft engineer with a Master's Degree in Aviation Management from Coventry University and has graduated from the UAE Government Executive Leadership Program.

He began his career as an aircraft engineer with Emirates in 1990 and joined the General Civil Aviation Authority as Airworthiness Inspector in 2001. He became Chief of Airworthiness prior to his current role as Assistant Director General, Aviation Safety Affairs Sector. His line of responsibility includes planning and control of Safety Affairs functions in Policy, Regulations and Planning, Flight Operations, Airworthiness, Licensing, Air Navigation and Aerodromes.

At the helm of his career with Aviation Safety Affairs, the GCAA has successfully completed the FAA Audit in 2010 and is currently ranked number one (1) in the world after successfully completing the ICAO ICVM.

In addition to his exceptional career with the GCAA, he is also the chair of the ICAO Middle East Regional Aviation Safety Group; he is the Deputy Chair to the ICAO SMP panel and is a member of the GCC Safety Committee, ACAC Safety Committee. He is also part of the GCAA Executive Committee for the implementation of the Federal Strategy.

Mohamed Chakib

Regional Officer, Safety Implementation
 ICAO MID Office, Cairo

With over twenty-six years' experience, Mr. Chakib served at the Royal Moroccan Air Forces and different United Nations international organizations including United Nations Peace keeping Missions, World Food Programme, and ICAO. He successively held the posts of a Senior Air Traffic Controller, Deputy/Chief Aviation Safety, Safety Data analysis and Risk Management Officer, and Regional Safety Implementation Officer. Mr. Chakib holds a Master degree in air transport management from Swinburne University, Melbourne. He is also a SSP & SMS instructor and a former aircraft accident and incident investigator.

Mohamed Iheb Hamdi

Regional Officer, Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA)
ICAO MID Office, Cairo

Mohamed Iheb Hamdi is currently the Regional Officer for Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA) at The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Middle East Office and acting as ICAO Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) focal point. Mr. Hamdi is an ICAO USOAP-CMA Auditor. He was an officer in the Tunisian Air Force before being seconded to the Civil Aviation industry in 2007. His main skills are in the areas of airports planning and design, safety and airside operations, and aerodromes safety management.

Mr. Hamdi has been giving courses since 2010 at the Tunisian Air Force Academy and conducting seminars/workshops on Safety and Airside Operations, Safety Management Systems and Aerodrome Planning and Design (ICAO Annex 14) which some of them were to the benefit of the United Nations and the African Union then he became an Airport Council International (ACI) Instructor delivering ACI's courses in French and English worldwide.

Sharron Caunts

Regional Director Safety & Flight Operations
(Africa & Middle East)
IATA

Sharron has a career in the aviation industry spanning 25 years, working in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. She has had the opportunity to work both for Air Navigation Service Provider and Airline Operator in senior leadership positions before assuming the post of Regional Director Safety & Flight Operations (Africa & Middle East) for IATA in the Summer of 2019. Sharron is based at the IATA Regional Office in Amman, and is responsible for   setting   the strategic direction and annual work program for IATA Safety & Flight Operations for the region.

Hamad Rashid Al Belushi

Air Navigation Services Specialist
UAE General Civil Aviation Authority

Hamad Rashid Al Belushi, Air Navigation Services Specialist at UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) is a prominent figure in Air Navigation Services arena of the GCC and the Middle East. He has more than 25 years of vast experience in managing, designing, testing, training and implementing Communication, Navigation and Surveillance systems as well as ATM processes and procedures.

Originally an Air Traffic Controller (ATC), Hamad progressed steadily in his career through the roles of Quality Control Officer, Air Traffic Service Instructor, ATC Dataset officer, Head of ANS Research and Dataset, Director Air Traffic Management and is the chairman of several task forces and committees including ICAO Middle East Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) Task Force.

Benjamin Binet

VP Strategy Airspace Mobility Solutions (AMS)
Thales

Benjamin Binet is VP of Strategy, Airspace Mobility Solutions at Thales. In this role, Benjamin is in charge of defining the way forward for Thales Air Traffic & Navigation business through products, services, innovation, partnerships, alliances, M&A and Public Affairs.

He joined Thales in 2019 through the acquisition of Gemalto where we held various executive roles from 2003 to 2019 in Marketing, Sales, Product Management and General Management at HQ in France but also in Brazil and in South Africa. Before joining Gemalto, Benjamin spent 9 years in the fast moving consumer goods industry (L'Oreal and Nestlé) and in the first wave of start ups in 1999-2000 around customer relationship management.

Benjamin holds a Master of Business Administration at ESCP-Europe Business School, Paris. Half French and half Belgian, he speaks 4 languages and has built strong multi-cultural skills through his time abroad and his trips. Benjamin holds a Private Pilot Licence and has always been passionate about aviation.

Jesús Fernández

ATM Director
Indra

Jesús Fernández Ocaña is the Indra ATM director for Middle East. He is an Aeronautical Engineer (6 years degree) by Universidad Politecnica de Madrid.

He has worked for Indra for more than 30 years mainly in ATM but also in developing Flight Simulators. In ATM Jesus has been involved in different responsibilities as Programme Director, System Engineer, Software Engineer, etc. His main technical background is operational use of the automation system.

Jesus has lived in Malaysia for 3 years for business development in South East Asia. He also was Deputy Chairman of Malaysian Spanish Chamber of Commerce.

He is married with two daughters and one son.

Michele Carandente

Regional Director, EMEA
Aireon

Michele Carandente is the Aireon Regional Director EMEA. He has held that position since January 2017. Before that he actively participated on the ITU frequency allocation discussions that allowed World Radio Conference 2015 to protect 1090Mhz reception from space for safety of life applications.

Previously he worked at ENAV, the Italian Air Navigation Service Provider, in the International Strategies directorate following future CNS/ATM infrastructures and participate at the creation of Aireon. Before joining ENAV, Michele worked in the UK in maritime business.

He hold a Master Degree in Computer and Networking Engineering, with a specialization in ATC systems and received ATC trainings at ENAV academy.

He is member of the ICAO Surveillance Panel, representing Italy.

Theodor Zeh

Control Room Consulting Director
FREQUENTIS AG

Theodor Zeh is a distinguished expert for Human Performance in Safety Critical Environment. He worked for Air Traffic Management, Blue-light Organizations, Rail and Maritime control rooms since more than 25 years. He was responsible for Controller Working Positions in the EC´s Single European Sky Research Project. Numerous publications carry his name.
Today Theodor is heading the Control Room Consulting department of Frequentis where he and his team analyse and optimise control room processes, HMIs and Environment. With the objective to assure Fit For Purpose systems with ensured User acceptance.