



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PROFESSOR BRIAN O'KEEFFE, OF AUSTRALIA,
RECIPIENT OF 2004 EDWARD WARNER AWARD**

MONTREAL, 28 September 2004 – The 37th Edward Warner Award, the highest honour in the world of civil aviation, was conferred by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) today on Professor Brian O'Keeffe, in recognition of his eminent contribution to the development of international civil aviation, in particular his leading role in the field of air navigation systems.

The Award was presented by Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the Council of ICAO, during a special ceremony at the Organization's Headquarters. Dr. Kotaite praised Professor O'Keeffe for his spirit of innovation, his leadership and his dedication to the cause of safety and efficiency in air transport.

During a civil aviation career spanning almost 50 years in his native Australia, Professor O'Keeffe also played a key role in the development of future air navigation systems (FANS) worldwide and its successor, the communications, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems concept.

“Thanks to the work of the FANS Committees in the 1980's and to the leadership and tireless efforts of Brian O'Keeffe, the Tenth Air Navigation Conference in 1991 adopted the CNS/ATM systems concept, now part of the ICAO air navigation plans and currently in the implementation phase. These ground-breaking systems will not only enhance aviation safety, but also improve passenger convenience in terms of fewer delays and shorter flight times. The systems also deliver economic and environmental benefits through lower fuel consumption and reduced aircraft engine emissions,” Dr. Kotaite explained.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, Professor O'Keeffe ardently promoted the benefits of CNS/ATM implementation to the aviation sector. He increased awareness of the concept through a regular programme of speaking engagements to States and airlines in Africa, the Americas, Asia/Pacific and Europe. In particular, he was untiring in his efforts to bring CNS/ATM to the Asia and Pacific regions.

“I remember quite well his contagious enthusiasm and great motivation. I especially remember his hard work, sometimes until late at night and I remember the time we spent together exchanging views and discussing how to overcome a number of institutional, technological and operational issues,” Dr. Kotaite recalled.

Since his retirement, Professor O’Keeffe has continued to be active, providing high-level advice on CNS/ATM planning and implementation. In addition, he is Adjunct Professor in Communications Engineering at the University of Canberra and continues to organize annual workshops on CNS/ATM at the Singapore Aviation Academy.

The Edward Warner Award is bestowed, in the form of a gold medal, on an individual or institution, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the safe and orderly development of civil air transport. Edward Warner (U.S.A.) was the first President of the Council of ICAO and served from 1945 to 1957.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 188 Contracting States.