



FACILITATION (FAL) DIVISION — TWELFTH SESSION

Cairo, Egypt, 22 March to 2 April 2004

Agenda Item 1: Developments since the Eleventh Session of the Division

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SAUDI ARABIA IN THE CIVIL AVIATION INDUSTRY AND FACILITATION

(Presented by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to inform the 12th session of the Facilitation Division participants, of the Kingdom's achievements in the civil aviation industry in general and facilitations in particular. This information will be helpful for the participants as a practice of a state with largest and fastest air-transport activity in the Middle East. We are proud of having completed upgrade programs at our airports. Many other things which were merely recommendations, have become a reality since the 11th session of the facilitations division in April 1995.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The total area of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is 2,400,900 square km. This area is equivalent to 1/3 of Europe, with 21,600,000 million population. Due to its peculiar geographic location in between Asia, Africa and Europe; its open market which employs six million expatriate workers; and with the holly Shrines (In Makkah and Madinah). Air-transport becomes vital, not because it is a fast and model means of transport in a large country like Saudi Arabia, but owing to the Saudi government conviction of this sectors' importance and impact on social, commercial, construction, and economic development.

1.2 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has currently a total of 27 civil airports, handling 31,500,000 passengers and more than 470,000 tons of received goods. It has huge development potentials and a promising investment attractions.

¹ Arabic version provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 In Saudi Arabia we have a conviction which others perhaps share us, that the time spent in completing passenger check-in procedures until his arrival at the destination airport, is of great importance for air transport and a focal point of standards and recommendation of ICAO Annex 9.

2.2 Other equally important conviction, is the use of automation in work completion and use of state of the art technologies at our airports to facilitate operations of handling passengers and goods such as machine readable passports, and advanced passenger information (API), to expedite and facilitate travel procedures and shorten the waiting period of passengers and goods at the airport. This has also a positive impact on the safety and security of aviation which we all aspire to achieve.

2.3 The collective efforts and cooperation of the airport authorities such as,(airport administration, passports, customs, health, meteorological and airport security services etc) is an important factor for achieving the objectives of airport administration and civil aviation authority, for attaining high level of operation, reliability and safety and smooth and quick handling of passengers and goods at the airport.

3. RULES, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

3.1 The Presidency of Civil Aviation has been made an independent public body corporate , with financial and administrative self-support to run its activities entirely on commercial basis, this move will motivate civil aviation sector toward development, competition and flexibility so as to be in abreast of the latest developments.

3.2 The Kingdom has prepared a draft law for a new civil aviation system, it is being reviewed by the Shoora Council. Regulations and procedures organizing air-transport, air safety, airworthiness, automation of procedures to facilitate quick flow and exchange of information have also been updated.

4. NEW AIRPORTS ESTABLISHED, CURRENT AIRPORTS DEVELOPED TO MEET THE INCREASE IN AIR-TRAFFIC

4.1 The Kingdom has currently a total of (27) civil airports, three (3) of them are international airports, and two receive international flights seasonally. The Saudi Arabian government has invested more than SR 60 Billion in building airports infrastructure and in providing state of the art equipment. The total cost of the airports maintenance and operation contracts according to the current year budget is SR 1,142,620,000.

4.2 New airports such as Prince Abdullah Bin Abdelaziz Airport at Jazan, Prince Salman Bin Abdelaziz airport at Dawadmi were established, others such as Tabuk, Gassim and Al-Jouf were expanded. Studies for development of Prince Mohammed Bin Abdel Aziz Madina airport and for construction of new airports at Mada'in Saleh (an archeological area), and for development of new airports at Najran, Bisha, Yenbu and Arar have been approved, with a total cost for the construction and development of these airports exceeding (SR 700,000,000).

4.3 Perhaps, the largest construction project for the development of an international airport not merely in the Kingdom but in the Middle East is that of Jeddah King Abdulaziz International Airport (KAIA) with cost exceeding (SR 5) Billion, this includes; building of new passenger terminals, passenger tunnels to aircraft and some accompanying facilities and runway enhancements, besides the approved

development of the foreign airlines and Haj terminals. The process of development to increase airports capacity to meet the increase in air-transport is perpetual due to the government conviction of the importance of this sector.

4.4 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has established a modern air navigation system to serve the crossing and the landing air traffic at the Kingdom airports. Given that the technology of air navigation systems and equipment evolves and develops in a rapid manner, the Kingdom has undertaken to upgrade the air navigation system in line with these advancements. It allocated more than (SR 550) million to establish air navigation systems at King Fahad International Airport (KFIA) - Dammam, and a new area control center at King Khaled International Airport (KKIA) - Riyadh, develop ATC system at KAIA Approach control center at Prince Mohammed Bin Abdel Aziz Madina airport, ILS systems at certain locations and air traffic controller training labs.

4.5 The Kingdom has approved establishing a PCA supervision committee for facilitation, in which representatives of the concerned airport authorities take part pursuant to ICAO annex (9) recommendation.

5. AVIATION SECURITY

5.1 The Kingdom has prepared and approved a comprehensive security manual for Kingdom airports, it is the leading Middle Eastern country to initiate such an important program with the help of ICAO. The Kingdom also has formed an airport security supervising committee chaired by the President of PCA with the participation of representatives from the concerned airport authorities. The committee has approved setting up of local security committees for each airport with participation of the concerned authorities at the airport pursuant to ICAO recommendations Annex (17) aviation security.

5.2 The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted an ambitious plan to upgrade security equipment at the airports for screening of passengers, carry-on items and goods for the cost of (SR260,000,000). Implementation of the plan will be on phases, with the cost of the first phase which has started totaling (SR36,000,000).

5.3 The Kingdom has drafted the regulated agent guide, the guide was approved and will be put in use soon, this project brings forth two important things; cleanliness of goods and consignments loaded onto the flights (especially the passenger flights) to verify their safety prior to taking them on to aircraft and; quick handling and moving of cargo to aircraft thus decreasing the accumulation and the waiting period at the airport.

5.4 The Kingdom has adopted the use of machine readable passport techniques, this will be commonly used at all airports, land and sea gateways pursuant to ICAO recommendations, Annex 9, Facilitation. The airports have been equipped with passport reading machines. Studies are underway to use imprint technology for issue of Saudi passports and will be used on Saudi nationals and others.

5.5 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is very keen on adopting ICAO recommendations in Annex 9, Facilitation and Annex 17, Aviation Security and other concerned organizations such as world customs organization (WCO) for baggage screening, the airports have been equipped with the state of the art technology equipment, such as X-ray and other control and screening and work automation equipment, that are operated by the customs personnel at the airports to expedite the screening process and at the same time to make sure of the cleanliness of the cargo and goods.

6. SAFETY AND AIRWORTHINESS

6.1 As an authority responsible for civil aviation in the Kingdom, the presidency of Civil Aviation is eager to use the internationally approved standards and specifications on airport operations, airport users and air carriers including the national air carrier, PCA employs experts who conduct inspection visits to verify that flight safety procedures are exercised in air operations and in aircraft utilizing Kingdom airports prior to issuing them required authorizations and licenses.

6.2 An airport certification committee was established pursuant to ICAO and ACI recommendations, the committee is charged with certifying airports in Saudi Arabia and issuing certificates of airport suitability for air navigation, the committee also conducts periodic inspections of airports to verify their compliance with the approved operational standards.

6.3 PCA coordinates at the highest level in safety and airworthiness areas with ICAO, FAA and other concerned organizations to confirm that international standards and specifications are used by airports and by air carriers at Kingdom airports and that aircraft and their crews are in compliance with the approved operational conditions.

6.4 PCA has approved an ambitious plan for development and procurement of airport fire services, equipment and vehicles for (SR 150,000,000). Implementation of the plan will be on phases, with (SR 47,000,000) allocated for phase one.

7. PREVENTIVE HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AT KINGDOM AIRPORTS

7.1 All Kingdom international airports have hospitals while domestic airports have medical care units to meet urgent cases and conduct preventive checks on water and food at the airports pursuant to the recommendations encompassed in Annex 9, section {C} Recommendations (6-51) and (6-53) and the recommendations of World Health Organization.

7.2 The government of Saudi Arabia has provided its international airports and seaports with medical equipment to remotely check the human temperature using ultra red thermal inspection technique, to examine arrivals right away without interrupting flow of passengers, as a means to fight possible spread of infective diseases such as (SARS) and (Avian Flu) pursuant to WHO instructions. The spread of these diseases coincided with the arrival of Omrah and Haj pilgrims and of those expatriates working in the Kingdom from countries where these diseases originated. A number of (3,000,000) passengers were examined within a very short period of time, preventive measure were also taken to prevent the spread of these diseases in the Kingdom, thus the Haj season of this year was free from any contagious diseases.

We would like to stress here, on ICAO member states' cooperation by quickly declaring the infectious cases discovered in their territories so that other states can take the necessary measures to stop the spread of such diseases.

We take a pride in our accomplishment of upgrade and development programs at our airports, and in our adoption of many ICAO recommendations of annexes (9) facilitations and (17) airport security, considering it as a stimulation for us to continue modernization to embrace all means that would secure the smooth flow of passengers and goods at our airports for the sake of arriving at the ultimate sublime target of security and safety of civil aviation in the Kingdom and in the world at large.

8. **ACTION BY THE DIVISION**

8.1 The Division is invited to view the content of this paper.

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