



ICAO

UNITING AVIATION

Communiqué

www.icao.int

ICAO HOSTS MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS AT SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC FORUM ON MOROCCAN TRAVEL AND TOURISM POTENTIAL

MONTREAL, 11 February 2014 – The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) welcomed ministers and senior officials from Quebec, Morocco and other ICAO Member States earlier this month for a unique High-Level Economic Forum on Morocco’s growing potential as a travel and tourism hub.

Entitled: *“Morocco: An Engine for Regional and Continental Development”*, the special one-day event was organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco with the support of ICAO.

High-level dignitaries present included: Lahcen Haddad, Minister of Tourism for Morocco, Pascal Bérubé, Quebec Minister of Tourism, Éliane Zakaib, Quebec Minister for Industrial Policy and the Economic Development Bank, Her Excellency Nouzha Chekrouni, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, Raymond Benjamin, ICAO Secretary General and representatives from various States.

The meeting presented the Moroccan economic model and its progress, particularly on recent reforms to governance structures and highlighted business opportunities in the Kingdom in the areas of air transportation and tourism. It also served to strengthen Morocco’s position as a gateway to African markets for western countries.

“This event aims to appeal to Canadian authorities and investors to take advantage of business opportunities in the Kingdom of Morocco in the areas of tourism, aviation and aerospace,” noted Her Excellency Nouzha Chekrouni.

The event was in line with the recent agreements signed between ICAO and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which seek to place renewed focus on the symbiotic relationship of tourism and air transport and the significant economic contributions they make to local, regional and global GDP.

“Enhancing air transport connectivity is directly supportive of ICAO’s policy objectives,” stressed ICAO Secretary General Benjamin in his opening remarks, “as it supports improved market access for businesses and greater tourism destinations for passengers. These priorities were clearly recommended by the 2013 ICAO Sixth Worldwide Air Transport Conference and we will be continuing, through events such as this, ICAO’s Air Services Negotiations (ICAN) events each year, and in many other areas, to liberalize the economic aspects of our sector and foster greater innovation and profitability in air transport.”

“Morocco was very grateful to ICAO for its provision of facilities and logistical support to assist with this important event,” noted Minister of Tourism for Morocco, Lahcen Haddad. “There are many synergies to be exploited in the tourism and transport sectors and we made some valuable inroads at this event into how Morocco can become an even more valuable contributor to Africa’s economic prosperity in the years ahead.”

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, capacity and environmental protection, amongst many other priorities. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 191 Member States.

Contact:

Anthony Philbin
Chief, Communications
aphilbin@icao.int
+1 (514) 954-8220
+1 (438) 402-8886 (mobile)

Sue-Ann Rapattoni
Communications Associate
srapattoni@icao.int
+1 (514) 954-8221
+1 (514) 212-1051 (mobile)