

## **ICAO USAP AUDIT AFFIRMS SINGAPORE'S ROBUST AVIATION SECURITY REGIME**



Through the joint efforts of CAAS, APD and MOT officers, and the close cooperation of many airport stakeholders, Singapore was recognised by ICAO Auditors to possess a robust and effective security regime.

A secure, robust and sustainable aviation security regime at both the national and international levels is essential for the continued growth of the global air transport industry. To this end, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) is committed to ensuring a high standard of aviation security by its Contracting States. Through its Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) which was first launched in 2002, the ICAO has made good progress in improving the levels of compliance by States to the Standards under Annex 17 (Security).

Singapore emerged with a strong report card from the ICAO USAP audit conducted from 8 to 15 November 2012. Having undergone the first cycle of the USAP audits in 2006 and 2008, the recent second cycle audit examined the security oversight roles and responsibilities of the Singapore regulatory body and focussed on areas such as personnel qualification and training, provision of technical and security-critical information to employees, certification and approval obligations, quality control, and the resolution of security concerns.

Singapore was evaluated to have a comprehensive and effective legal framework to handle security-related matters and the city-state's various security programmes – including the National Civil Aviation Security Programme and the National Civil Aviation Quality Control Programme – that were supported by comprehensive security directives. The ICAO Auditor also noted Singapore's efficiency in enhancing its aviation security system through pro-active responses to recommendations or observations made by the Auditors throughout the audit process. Additionally, he acknowledged Singapore to be one of very few states to have an established National Air Transport Facilitation Programme, which demonstrated an efficient and effective manner in which various government bodies collaborate.

The nation's aviation security training oversight system, which incorporates the National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme was evaluated to be highly effective. Other areas for which Singapore received high commendation included: the provision of technical guidance and security-critical measures; overall quality control; and, the nation's highly comprehensive contingency strategy.

The USAP has enabled ICAO to strengthen the cooperative spirit and working relationship among the authorities, stakeholders and agencies in each State. The ICAO USAP audit has transitioned to a continuous monitoring approach. With Singapore's good performance in this audit, it could be placed among States which may be required to only submit relevant documents for audit purposes instead of being subjected to the conventional ground audits.