



ISSUE 14

IATA 67TH AGM – ADDRESSING AVIATION’S PRESSING ISSUES

Seven hundred leaders in the aviation world gathered at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore on 6 June to attend the International Air Transport Association’s (IATA) 67th Annual General Meeting (AGM). On the agenda were some of the aviation industry’s most pressing issues, including higher oil prices and aviation security. IATA displayed the “Checkpoint of the Future”, designed to enhance security while reducing queues and intrusive searches at airports using intelligence-driven risk-based measures. Attendees were offered a glimpse of how technology and the use of passenger data already collected by government authorities can help improve the passenger experience and reduce security costs.

Notably, this meeting also saw Giovanni Bisignani, Director General and CEO of IATA for 10 years, hand over the leadership charge of IATA to Tony Tyler. Reviewing the major changes that occurred in the past decade, Bisignani touched on the challenges the international aviation community have faced, such as airlines’ cost-cutting initiatives, loss of jobs, airline closures, climate change and the SARS outbreak, as well as aviation achievements such as the improvement of traveller safety and the discovery of sustainable biofuels to reduce harmful emissions. He also spoke on the evolution of IATA’s role during the course of the decade, how the organisation grew from being a “fireman” responding to various emergencies to an “architect” involved in radically redesigning the industry’s business models to cut costs and increase efficiency. He highlighted that the industry’s centre of gravity is shifting eastwards to Asia and pushed for greater coordinated global efforts in addressing climate change.

Commenting on Singapore hosting the IATA AGM this year, Bisignani said, “Singapore is the perfect place to meet because it is IATA’s home in Asia-Pacific. More importantly, Singapore is a great aviation success story.”

Singapore celebrates 100 years of aviation this year and participants at the meeting were invited to share their personal reflections of Singapore’s aviation achievements. To view the reflections and to find out more about Singapore Aviation Centennial Celebrations, go to www.aviationcentennial.sg.



Minister of Transport and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lui Tuck Yew, ICAO President, Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez and Yap Ong Heng, Director-General, CAAS, at the Singapore Aviation Centennial booth at IATA's 67th AGM, showcasing a centenary of aviation in Singapore.