

SETTING THE BENCHMARK

As a centre of excellence for aviation learning, the Singapore Aviation Academy has extended its reach beyond Singapore's shores to provide a comprehensive range of internationally-recognised training programmes and a platform for the exchange of ideas and knowledge.

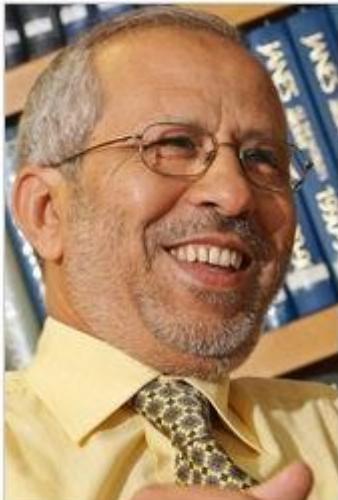
In keeping up with the demands of the ever-changing aviation scene, the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA), the training arm of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), has consistently provided quality training not just for its own country, but also to other States – particularly developing nations – through various specialised, internationally recognised courses. SAA's concerted efforts at promoting civil aviation training have not only helped States in their human capital development, but have also created for itself a stellar reputation as a premier centre of aviation learning.

RISE TO THE TOP

Founded in 1958, the SAA was originally established by CAAS to provide training for Singapore's nascent aviation sector. Implementing intensive training programmes that conformed to ICAO's standards and recommended practices, the academy soon gained a reputation for being able to meet both national and international demands for aviation personnel of all levels and began taking in international students.

With CAAS' active participation in the global civil aviation community, SAA was able to keep a pulse on trends in international aviation and develop programmes that were not easily available elsewhere. The academy's dedication in aviation excellence saw it being conferred the prestigious Edward Warner award by ICAO in 2000 for its contribution to international civil aviation through training.

To date, the academy has seen almost 50,000 participants from 190 countries pass through its four schools – namely the School of Aviation Management, School of Aviation Safety and Security, School of Air Traffic Services and School of Airport Emergency Services. The academy's emphasis on high quality programmes, developed in partnership with internationally reputed partners and delivered with expert instructors, has made SAA the training academy of choice for many.



Mohamed Mezhar, Chief of Infrastructure of Airports, Morocco Civil Aviation Authority (MCAA)

SETTING HIGH STANDARDS

Meeting international standards and requirements is now a priority of many developing countries as the liberalisation of international air transport allows more regional air hubs to flourish. This was the case for Mohamed Mezhar, Chief of Infrastructure of Airports, Morocco Civil Aviation Authority (MCAA). In Singapore to attend a course at the School of Aviation Safety and Security, Mezhar shared how Morocco's air traffic has grown exponentially due to an increase in tourism as well as its position as a regional air hub.

"With the rise in tourism and our government looking to grow tourism numbers beyond the 10 million mark expected in 2010, we need to ensure that all our aerodromes are able to handle the increased traffic," said Mezhar. Having been audited by the ICAO last year, the

MCAA started implementing and enforcing new regulations for Morocco's civil aviation and chose SAA as an ideal training institution to do so.

Says Mezhar, "Before being audited, we applied ICAO methods, but only informally. With the importance of aviation regulation and set procedures being emphasised upon us, we felt the need to improve our aviation systems and be on par with other countries. SAA's courses, focusing on high-level regulation, are ICAO-recognised and will be extremely beneficial for our country's civil aviation safety standards as we open our doors to the world."



Harold Hange, Principal Air Traffic Controller, Civil Aviation Authority (Namibia)

AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

SAA's emphasis on making its programmes relevant for local and international participants has also drawn many to attend its courses. This international focus is what Harold Hange, Principal Air Traffic Controller, Civil Aviation Authority (Namibia), cites as one of the reasons SAA's School of Air Traffic Services courses appealed to Namibian air traffic control officers (ATCOs).

"Only a selected few aviation institutions were able to cater to our needs as they do not just focus on training local personnel," says Hange. And with one of Namibia's major problems being the lack of ATCOs, the growing air hub needed an internationally recognised institution that provided the right focus for its needs.

Hange shares how SAA's international yet customised courses have benefitted Namibia's ATCOs.

"SAA's courses are tailored to the trainee's needs," he says. "Implementing what we have learnt at SAA back home will give us an edge as SAA's programmes are aligned closely with ICAO's standards and comparable with other major aviation academies."

A DYNAMIC APPROACH



Mosese Tamaniceva
Ratucicivi, Airport Fire
Inspector, Fiji Civil Aviation
Authority

SAA's expertise training is not limited to its cutting-edge facilities, but also its hands-on approach and realistic training environment. Mosese Tamaniceva Ratucicivi, Airport Fire Inspector, Fiji Civil Aviation Authority, commended SAA's School of Aviation Emergency Services for the rigorous instruction method for its Fire Safety Course. Right from the start of the course, trainees were taken to the fire training ground to fight a simulated "emergency fire".

Says Ratucicivi, "Being forced to communicate effectively despite not knowing each other is very much like a real fire situation. Such emphasis on the human factor principle – a relatively new aspect of aviation – enabled us to understand airport emergencies better and will help in implementing safety standards and a holistic fire-fighting plan for all our airports."

SAA's interactive teaching approach has also created a platform for Ratucicivi and his peers to share information. "Exchanging ideas and best practices with other international participants have also increased my knowledge of the matter and given me ideas to help improve the overall standards of Fiji," he said.

A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE



Rumchek Sovary, Deputy Director General, State Secretariat of Civil Aviation, Cambodia

SAA has been proactively helping developing countries raise their aviation standards by working with technical assistance agencies such as the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP), to make training available to them through fellowships offered by the Singapore Government. Rumchek Sovary, Deputy Director General, State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA), Cambodia, a beneficiary of an SCP fellowship, shares how such assistance and SAA's experience in practical and management training enabled his country to establish a sound aviation infrastructure. "Since our first course at SAA in 1995, the SSCA has advanced tremendously in its ability to raise the competency of its manpower and implement ICAO-standard procedures. With a new international airport opened to cater to Cambodia's open skies policy and an increase in tourism, we have been able to rely on SAA's expertise in regulatory, management

and operational matters to ensure our airports are safe and efficient," says Sovary.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In a study conducted by Oxford Economics on behalf of the Air Transport Action Group in 2004 and 2008, Aviation's global impact has been pegged at US\$3.5 trillion in 2007, equivalent to 7.5 per cent of the world's GDP. Despite the tribulations in recent years, aviation will continue to grow in importance with air transport being the only widely available international mode of transport. With the rapidly changing aviation landscape, the urgency to prepare sufficient and competent aviation professionals to meet the demand of a sustainable aviation industry cannot be over emphasised. As a major centre of learning for civil aviation, SAA can expect to play an even greater role in providing the highest quality of training, and the sharing of knowledge and experiences, for the advancement of international civil aviation.