

SHARING ONE COMMON VISION IN AVIATION TRAINING



ICAO and SAA jointly organised the inaugural Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCAs) Course on Aviation Safety in Hong Kong, demonstrating their strong partnership in developing aviation leadership and human capital.

The International Civil Aviation organisations are strong advocates of aviation leadership and human capital development. They share the view that in advancing the field of international civil aviation, a harmonised training platform that will raise the professional competencies of the industry is key. Today, ICAO provides leadership in defining training requirements and competencies to facilitate the harmonisation and implementation of its provisions

Organisation (ICAO) and Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA) share a common vision. Both by the global aviation community. As a leading aviation training institution, SAA has worked hand in hand with ICAO to develop a robust training environment for aviation professionals. In this issue, Bridging Skies shares the collaborative efforts of both organisations in harmonising aviation training activities.

Over the years, ICAO has developed and implemented various training policies and programmes aimed at raising the standards of aviation personnel and ensuring that they possess the necessary competencies to carry out their responsibilities, effectively and efficiently. Highlighting ICAO's role in aviation training, Mr Raymond Benjamin, ICAO's Secretary General said: "ICAO supports its Member States and the aviation industry in their efforts for human resources development in aviation."

In the past, aviation training greatly differed from Member State to Member State, which resulted in a lack of consistency in standards. As such, ICAO's goal is to consolidate and co-

ordinate training onto a single, centralised platform, where high and established standards can be applied globally. Mr Benjamin explained ICAO's approach, saying: "We aim to have ICAO act as the only and single point of contact so Member States can work together as a whole to the same global aviation standards. This is important as it will enable ICAO to effectively and efficiently assist its Member States in achieving and maintaining competency of their aviation personnel, while allowing us to ensure that ICAO provisions are adequately taught." With this in mind, ICAO has been working to change the content and methodology of aviation training by collaborating closely with its Member States and training centres to identify training needs and develop courses to address them.

Creating a robust network of aviation training excellence

To answer the call for global harmonisation, Mr Benjamin established the Global Aviation Training (GAT) Office in January 2014 with the vision of leading human resources development in aviation. As the focal point of contact for all ICAO training-related and qualifications initiatives, it is responsible for the efficient, effective and harmonised co-ordination of all ICAO's aviation training activities.

He explained that ICAO has also developed a new aviation training policy based on four pillars, namely the TRAINAIR PLUS Programme, ICAO-developed aviation training activities, ICAO-recognised aviation training activities and cooperation and partnership agreements. Said Mr Benjamin on the structure of the new policy: "The four pillars constitute how ICAO will harmonise its training activities and ensure the quality of its deliverables. Through these four pillars, ICAO will be able to establish objective criteria for conducting all training processes." ICAO is also in the process of establishing a system of Regional Training Centres of Excellence (RTCEs) in all regions of the world to support the development of its training courses. RTCEs are highly selected training centres which provide their national and regional expertise in terms of subject matter expertise. In addition, these centres translate content in ICAO-produced books and journals into practical applications for use in the working environment through training courses.

As leading training organisations, RTCEs are assessed by the ICAO training unit rigorously. The GAT office actively participates in building competencies for the selected RTCEs so as to ensure the proper transfer of skills to course developers and instructors working for the various centres.

Recognising Singapore as a training centre of excellence

Key to ICAO's success in the aviation training arena was the contributions and support of its Member States and their training institutions. One such nation that stands out for its contributions to the development of global aviation is Singapore and its training arm – SAA. Since its establishment in 1958, SAA has been a strong advocate of aviation leadership and human capital development.

Key highlights for SAA this year include conducting a series of on-site training in seven countries – namely China, Mongolia, Nepal, Peru, Palau, Vanuatu and Oman – in the process

reaching out to over 270 aviation professionals collectively. SAA's flagship Civil Aviation Chief Executives Programme (CACEP), into its 21st run this year, also saw 14 chief executives from around the world gathered at SAA to discuss topical aviation management issues. In addition, SAA also jointly organised the Aviation Security Leadership and Management Seminar in August, where Mr Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez, Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador of ICAO and former President of the Council of ICAO; and Mr John Pistole, Administrator, US Transportation Security Administration, helmed dialogue sessions which addressed evolving aviation security threats and possible solutions.

These initiatives that brought global aviation leaders together have served to boost SAA's reputation as an active international player in aviation training. In recognition of its significant aviation training capabilities, SAA was appointed by ICAO in August as one of the first few RTCEs in the world. With the appointment as a RTCE, SAA will work with ICAO to develop and deliver competency-based training in the authorised areas of Aerodromes, Flight Safety and Safety Management and Security and Facilitation.

Sharing his thoughts on SAA's appointment, Mr Benjamin said: "SAA's modern facilities, experience in the field of aviation training and emphasis on excellence and efficiency will greatly support and enhance its contributions to ICAO's Strategic Objectives. This is a strong foundation for the continued cooperation and partnership between ICAO and SAA."

Developing aviation leadership and human capital

On 21-22 November 2014, ICAO and SAA jointly organised the inaugural Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Course on Aviation Safety in Hong Kong. The idea of conducting such a high-level course for DGs on aviation safety was first mooted by ICAO in 2012, with the objective to provide DGs and senior civil aviation officers with specific knowledge on the international civil aviation safety framework, and also the underlying principles that will aid them in carrying out their responsibilities in ensuring aviation safety. It was envisioned that such a programme would facilitate open sharing amongst DGCA and bring out key principles and issues in effective management of aviation safety.

The course took a look at the international aviation safety framework, including the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, and discussed the challenges and issues faced in implementing the Global Aviation Safety Plan, a safety policy, planning and implementation plan established by ICAO, and the impact of the Plan on the various aviation stakeholders. The first of a series of seven courses on aviation safety to be conducted worldwide over the next few years, the next run of this course will be held on from 31 January through 1 February 2015, ahead of the 2nd ICAO High-level Safety Conference in Montreal, Canada.

The collaboration between ICAO and SAA in organising the course followed the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on cooperation in leadership and management training signed in February this year. Such initiatives demonstrate the strong partnership between ICAO and SAA in developing aviation leadership and human capital. The enhanced

collaboration has provided effective training for aviation professionals around the world, supporting the growth of the aviation industry.