

## **TRAINING OUR FUTURE AVIATION PROFESSIONALS**



Yap Ong Heng, Director-General, CAAS, receiving the TRAINAIR PLUS Full Member certificate from Mr Mohamed Elamiri, Deputy Director, Safety Management and Monitoring, Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO. [From left to right: Mr Yap Ong Heng, Mr Mohamed Elamiri, Capt. Mostafa Hoummady, Chief, Aviation Safety Training section, Air Navigation Bureau, ICAO]

Close to 400 participants gathered in Singapore for the inaugural International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) TRAINAIR PLUS Global Symposium from 25 to 28 September 2012 to discuss aviation's training and human resource development challenges.

Based on the theme of "How to prepare tomorrow's aviation workforce with today's training tools", the symposium provided a platform for the exchange of views on the challenges as well as the latest trends, techniques and best practices in aviation training worldwide.

Addressing the participants at the Symposium through his video message, Raymond Benjamin, ICAO Secretary-General said, "Air transport growth projections, in conjunction with

current challenges posed by the global economy, are driving the aviation community to find new and more efficient solutions to how it improves and expands its aviation training offerings.” He stressed that training “is an essential responsibility as the industry seeks to ensure that sufficient skilled personnel are available to fly and maintain the latest aircraft and operate the critical systems that will keep the skies safe and secure over the coming decades”.

“CAAS has worked with stakeholders to make training and certification for aviation technical professions more seamless. For example, it worked with Singapore tertiary institutions and maintenance, repair and overhaul (or MRO) organisations to recognise practical training received in school as counting towards mandatory training hours for Licenced Aircraft Engineer (LAE) apprenticeship. This has reduced the apprenticeship period by more than a year, making the LAE a more attractive career choice,” highlighted Pang Kin Keong, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport.

Through SAA, it has been playing a leading role to help Singapore meet the challenges of attracting, retaining and training the large number of personnel needed to support the rapid growth of the local aviation industry.