

# **AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

ASIA PACIFIC REGION

CIVIL MILITARY COOPERATION

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

19<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016

**New Delhi – 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2016:** The two day International Civil Aviation Organization Asia Pacific Civil Military Cooperation Regional Conference was held on 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Radisson Blu Hotel New Delhi. The conference was attended by 130 delegates from ICAO APAC Office at Bangkok, Regional Sub Office at Beijing, Civil and Military Representatives from Uganda, Indonesia, Malaysia and India was inaugurated by the Director General Civil Aviation India, Smt. M. Sathiyavathy, IAS and touched upon the robust relationship between the Armed Forces of the Union and State aircraft operators and the Civil Aviation Regulator and ANSP for seven long decades. The Member ANS in his welcome address highlighted the achievements of AAI as an Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) and its distinct role in being a catalyst in Civil Military Cooperation. Shri S. Raheja, Chairman AAI was special guests on the occasion..

The ICAO Asia Pacific RO-ATM, Len Wicks, set the goals and objectives of the conference and he added that India has performed creditably in Civil Military Cooperation and the ICAO APAC Office recognizes the excellent work in progress. He also placed on record ICAO APAC's appreciation of the generic template of the Manual on Flexible Use of Airspace which is showcased by them as a model document for the States in the region.

Shri S. Raheja, in his special address highlighted the fact that several new ATS Routes including Conditional Routes have resulted from the excellent Civil Military Cooperation in this country

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Smt. Sathiyavathy, IAS, Director General Civil Aviation addressing Delegates from ICAO Asia Pacific Civil Military Cooperation & Airports Authority of India in the two day International Civil Aviation Organization Asia Pacific Civil Military Cooperation Regional Conference held on 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Radisson Blu Hotel New Delhi.

### Note to Editor:

#### INTRODUCTION

The Government of India approved the constitution of a National High Level Airspace Policy Body and the implementation of Flexible Use of Airspace in India in March, 2013. The NHLAPB was constituted in October, 2013 with the Secretary CA as the Chairman, Joint Secretary (G/Air), Director General Air Ops from IAF, Asst. Chief of Naval Staff (Air), Joint DGCA (Airspace), Satnav Programme Director ISRO and Member (Air Navigation Services) as Members. A National Airspace Management Advisory Committee (NAMAC) was formed in December 2013 to assist/advise the NHLAPB. The NAMAC members similarly are drawn from IAF, AAI, DGCA, Indian Navy, ISRO, HAL Indian Army, Indian Coast Guard and Senior Pilots from airlines.

A FUA Secretariat has been constituted in AAI, under the Airspace Management Directorate to assist the NHLAPB. A Manual for FUA, India was prepared by a subcommittee of the NAMAC and adopted by the NHLAPB in 2014. A generic template of the FUA Manual has been showcased by ICAO APAC Region for easy adaptation by States in the Region.

Under the ATS Route Optimisation programme several conditional routes have been introduced through restricted airspaces with the cooperation of IAF, Navy and HAL. These routes offer enormous fuel savings and reduction in carbon emissions.

ICAO APAC requested India to host a regional conference at New Delhi India, on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The Regional Officer Air Traffic Management from ICAO APAC Office Bangkok and the ICAO APAC Regional Sub Office at Beijing will be present at the conference. The conference will be attended by international participants from Uganda, Pakistan, China, Malaysia, Afghanistan, IATA Singapore et al and Indian participants from diverse backgrounds and job roles, from Indian Army, Indian Air force, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, DRDO, ISRO, HAL, DGCA and AAI which include Regulators, Pilots, Air Traffic Controllers, CNS Engineers, Flight Operations Officers and Scientists.

ICAO has four major areas of focus. Safety, Efficiency, Capacity and Environment. Most of the initiatives fall under one category or the other or a combination of two areas. Flexible Use of Airspace under Civil Military Cooperation is probably one of the few initiatives which in one stroke contribute to all four areas of focus.

There are more than 15 conditional routes which provide for shorter and direct routing through restricted airspace under the control and jurisdiction of IAF, Navy and HAL, when the airspace is not put to use by military flights, has yielded immense benefits to the traveler by reducing flying times, the airline operators cost reduction in operations due fuel burn reduction and huge environmental benefits to the society at large due reduction in carbon emission. *(A separate document on fuel savings and emission reduction is attached alongwith)*

The Regional Conference will have presentations from the Indian ANSP, IAF, Navy, ICAO, IATA, Airlines and International participants from other countries (States).

The two day conference has a regional favour with a local focus. It will provide a common platform for brainstorming and add to the body of knowledge so that global best practices can be revisited and reengineered to provide more efficient ways to take the implementation of Flexible Use of Airspace and improve Civil Military Cooperation manifold.

### INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The two day ICAO Asia Pacific Civil Military Cooperation, attended by 130 delegates from ICAO APAC Office at Bangkok, Regional Sub Office at Beijing, Civil and Military Representatives from Uganda, Indonesia, Malaysia and India was inaugurated by the Director General Civil Aviation India, Smt. M. Sathiyavathy, IAS on the 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 9 am. The inaugural function was also attended by senior officers from DGCA, DRDO, Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, HAL, AAI and leading airlines. Rear Admiral Philipose George Pynumootil, NM and Shri S. Raheja, Chairman AAI were special guests on the occasion. Mr. AK Dutta, Member (Air Navigation Services) and Mr Len Wicks Regional Officer- ATM ICAO APAC were other dignitaries on the dais.

In her Inaugural Address the Chief Guest, Mrs. Sathiyavathy touched upon the robust relationship between the Armed Forces of the Union and State aircraft operators and the Civil Aviation Regulator and ANSP for seven long decades. The structured approach, she emphasized, improved the efficiency and has helped to enhance mutual trust. She also highlighted GAGAN, GPS Aided Geo Augmentation System, which has catapulted India into an elite league of Nations, which includes USA, Europe and Japan, as the fourth Nation to launch its own Satellite Based Augmentation system or Wide Area Augmentation system, is a game changer and appealed to both civil and military airspace users to harness this technology to further airspace capacity building by achieving greater navigational accuracies. The Civil Military Systems interoperability, she underlined, is a key result area and urged the stakeholders to work in unison towards this goal.

The Member ANS in his welcome address highlighted the achievements of AAI as an Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) and its distinct role in being a catalyst in Civil Military Cooperation. He quoted Ernest Hemingway "*The best way to find out if you*

*can trust somebody is to trust them*" and informed the august audience, as the Convenor of the National High Level Airspace Policy Body (NHLAPB) in 2013, which is chaired by the Secretary Civil Aviation, that after a three year long purposeful journey, there is no doubt that, as the Civil Airspace Service Provider, AAI trusts the military to proactively and reactively do the very best for economic and environmental benefits for Civil Aviation and that they trust AAI to support their critical missions and temporary airspace requirements to the best of abilities.

The Chairman, AAI, Shri S. Raheja, in his special address highlighted the fact that several new ATS Routes including Conditional Routes have resulted from the excellent Civil Military Cooperation in this country. He was delighted to be informed by airline CEOs that many of the initiatives under Civil Military Cooperation and Flexible Use of Airspace have resulted in significant cost reduction for the airlines. He congratulated the AAI Airspace Management and FUA teams and thanked IAF, Indian Navy and HAL for their excellent cooperation in this area. He mentioned emphatically that the benefits that accrue should be viewed not as benefits to individual organizations but as benefits to the nation.

Rear Admiral Philipose George Pynumootil, ACNS (Air) and a member of the NHLAPB, in his special address highlighted that the Indian Navy has been an active player in the Civil Military Cooperation programme and touched upon Navy's contribution to FUA, especially the decision to lower the vertical limit of a restricted airspace, Passage Island, under the control and jurisdiction of the Indian Navy from 40000 feet to 28000 feet, which was a key enabler in the introduction of the RNAV 5 city pair routes between Mumbai and Trivandrum which additionally served all west coast airports including Goa, Mangalore, Calicut, Cochin and Coimbatore, enhancing safety by eliminating opposite direction traffic and enhancing efficiency through Continuous Climb Operations (CCO) and Continuous Descent Operations (CDO). The ACNS (Air) also highlighted Navy's cooperation with AAI, the Indian ANSP, to install an ADS-B in Campbell Bay which is the south-eastern most land mass, in the Indian FIR, which will enhance surveillance capabilities in the Remote Oceanic Airspace.

The ICAO Asia Pacific RO-ATM, Len Wicks, set the goals and objectives of the conference and he added that India has performed creditably in Civil Military

Cooperation and the ICAO APAC Office recognizes the excellent work in progress. He also placed on record ICAO APAC's appreciation of the generic template of the Manual on Flexible Use of Airspace which is showcased by them as a model document for the States in the region.

The Executive Director (ASM) and Convenor of National Airspace Management Advisory Committee proposed the vote of thanks.

## **CONFERENCE**

The day conference had presentations from ICAO Officers and State Civil and Military Experts and a brain storming group exercise on Civil Military Cooperation - the way forward, so that ideas can be generated to be incorporated into ICAO Cir 330 on best practices in CMC.

The presentations from the ICAO expert on ICAO Cir 330 which provides for guidance material on CMC, Asia Pacific Regional implementation status of CMC, Indian Navy's perspective, Indian Air Force's perspective, Indian ANSP's perspective and Indian Airlines user benefits, IATA's perspective on Civil Military Cooperation and expectations from the civil aviation industry, Indian Air Traffic Flow Management, Civil Military Systems interoperability, Temporary Allocation of Airspace, Launch and re-entry of Rockets and Missiles, Regulation for implementation of FUA in India and a range of diverse topics on Civil Military Cooperation provided for a holistic view on the topic.

The brain storming session involved two groups, one with a civil aviation expert as a leader and another with a military aviation expert as team leaders, followed by presentations by select young officers on the future road map, specific to India.

## **CLOSING**

In the Closing session, the ICAO Officers, Len Wicks and Liu Song, I N Murthy, ED ASM, M C Dangi GM (ASM), S Swaminathan FUA Lead, Air CmdeMuthanna Chief Test Pilot from HAL, CaptSaleemZaheer, SVP, Indigo Airlines, Commander Dagar, Indian Navy

and Wing Commander summed up the conference proceedings and their observation on how their groups benefited from the conference and what their perception of the way forward is.

The Teams visited the new and upcoming ATFM facility and the Air Traffic Services facility at IGIA, New Delhi in the post lunch session.

The conference backdrop was designed by KA Balakrishnan a Civil ATCO and Sanish Divakaran, an Indian Navy Sailor, which is a joint design effort in line with the spirit of Civil Military Cooperation.

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