

PRESS RELEASE

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Asia Pacific Aviation Security Forum 2008

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Asia Pacific Tackles Key Aviation Security Challenges

The Asia Pacific Aviation Security Forum was held on 28-29 January 2008 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This is the first ever high level security gathering jointly organised by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) and the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

More than 100 representatives drawn from aviation security regulators around the world, including the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), European Commission (EC), the Australian Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Department of Civil Aviation Malaysia (DCA), airlines, airport authorities, and technology experts met for a one-and-a-half day interactive event to exchange views and insights on various issues affecting aviation security.

Topics provoking discussion included the need to create sustainable partnerships; balancing security and facilitation; enhancing cargo security; the deployment of technology and the benefits of sharing internationally agreed best practices in aviation security.

Dato' Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation Malaysia, officiating at the event on behalf of the Minister of Transport Malaysia, remarked in his opening address that, "As a member of the ICAO Council, Malaysia is motivated and ready to play a greater leadership role in shaping the future development of the international civil aviation industry." He added: "Countries must work together with

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common goals and objectives in order to effectively develop and enhance their security systems and standards.”

In his opening remarks, AAPA Director General, Mr. Andrew Herdman, said: “Aviation has an excellent record in terms of safety and security. However, we always look to governments and regulatory agencies to develop and implement regulations in ways that are technologically feasible, operationally efficient and cost effective.

Mr. Herdman added “We need a global approach to security, and look to ICAO for leadership in establishing harmonised standards. Effective security measures need to be based on objective assessments of risk and threat levels, and must balance costs and perceived benefits, with governments accepting their full share of the resultant costs imposed on society. Furthermore, maintaining public understanding and support is an essential ingredient of any secure and sustainable security regime.”

Mr. David B. Shear, Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, noted in his introductory remarks, that the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA) looks to engage with foreign governments and airlines to mutually address security requirements, with the aim of strengthening cooperation in responding effectively to security threats.

Agreeing that security measures need to be practicable and effective for regulators, airlines and the travelling public at large, Mr. Geoffrey Askew, Group General Manager, Qantas Airways Ltd, and current AAPA Security Committee Chairman, commented that: “The goal for global aviation is to ensure that security measures are genuinely effective, that they are consistent worldwide, that they are implemented according to sensible risk assessments and that they do not confuse the travelling public.” Mr. Askew emphasised that all stakeholders must work together to “develop and maintain a strong and pro-active security culture”.

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At the conclusion of the Forum on 29 January 2008, participants agreed that there was a clear need to further strengthen regional and international cooperation in enhancing aviation security, and committed to work actively towards this goal.

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association of major scheduled international airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region. The AAPA permanent secretariat is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with international representation in Brussels and Washington, D.C. Collectively, the 17 AAPA member airlines carry 285 million passengers and 10 million tonnes of cargo representing approximately one-fifth of global passenger traffic and one-third of global air cargo traffic respectively, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

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