

BEST WISHES FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Worldwide all Air Traffic Controllers celebrate October 20 as the International Day of the Air Traffic Controller. October 20 has a special significance for Air Traffic Controllers all over the world. It is on this day way back in 1961, IFATCA; the International Federation of Controllers was formed in Amsterdam. Today the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) is a respected organization within the aviation world whose opinion is sought on key issues and who participates actively in international forums involving the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), EUROCONTROL, and the European Union among others.

ATC Guild (India) is a Member Association of the Federation and has been actively contributing to its goal of promoting safety, efficiency, and regularity in international air navigation and to assist and advise in the development of safe and orderly systems of air traffic control.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all on this significant day and welcome our colleagues who joined the ATC fraternity recently. You all have every reason to be proud to say that you are a Member of ATC Guild. ATC Guild is a brand name in the aviation community and even outside. Founded at a time, 54 years back, when Air Traffic Controllers were an unknown entity despite putting in heroic efforts to keep the Indian skies safe, ATC Guild (India) is today among the premier associations in aviation, not only in India but across the globe. Wholly comprising of members from the world's most stressful job, ATC Guild (India) is undoubtedly unique among other associations.

Those of us who have seen the modest beginnings of the Guild in the 60s through the turbulent phase in the 90s and at the turn of the millennium to the present day, when the Guild is perceived as one of the important

stakeholders of aviation in India, it has been an exhilarating journey. The Guild is an example of zeal, enthusiasm and most importantly, endurance that an association of professionals can display to achieve its goal of not only safeguarding and improving the lot of its members but also to contribute substantially to raise the standards of its profession to hitherto unachievable heights.

ATC Guild (India) has contributed to many developments that assisted both flight-crews and air traffic controllers to conduct air transport safer and more efficiently. Air Space optimization, restructuring of routes, development of automated systems and softwares to optimize the airport and airspace utilization are only a few which, I dare say, would not have taken place had the Guild not taken up cudgels on behalf of safe skies.

Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (India) today is carrying out the role of a guardian in the fast developing world of aviation. We are contributing to the economy, saving tonnes of fuel by successfully developing and implementing strategies like the Continuous Descent Operations, optimising the Airport capacity by developing a collaborative decision making system with Airport and Airline Operators. Our contribution through IFATCA to the global aviation community is well acknowledged by the world body.

I would like to use this space to tell the young controllers that you all are in a highly regarded profession, and that you all are privileged to be members of this professional body which is guided by accomplished professionals who were best in their business and who are personification of dedication and integrity. It is my responsibility to make you all realize the level of commitment required to carry on the legacy established over a period of 54 golden years. I also want to reiterate that it was our signature quality of continuous efforts for improving knowledge and developing skills and to

convert them for the best use of the society, that make us stand out in the crowd.

***My warm wishes to all the members of ATC Guild (India),
on 'The International Day of Air Traffic Controller'.***

**D K Behera
General Secretary
ATC Guild (India)**