

Press Release

The 29th IFATCA APRM and International Day of the Air Traffic Controller OCT 2012

20th October 2012 is celebrated as International Day of the Air Traffic Controller all over the world. The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers Associations (IFATCA) was founded on 20th October 1961. This year IFATCA completes 51 years of existence.

Every day, huge numbers of aircraft take to the skies, delivering millions of passengers to their destinations. The advent of air travel has transformed our lives, bringing unrivalled benefits to society and the business world. On any given day, thousands of flights are guided safely through the skies. Whether they are carrying passengers or cargo, flight crews are responsible for their load, and when they fly they rely entirely on the professionalism of air traffic controllers, the systems they use and all the people behind the scenes who make this journey safe, efficient, economical and environment friendly.

Despite an increasingly critical media exposure, often fuelled by wrong economical interpretations, air traffic controllers' worldwide hold on to the highest aims of Safety & Efficiency!

The representative body of the Air Traffic Controllers in India – Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (India) celebrates this day every year by organising a Seminar on an Aviation topic of current interest. The theme of the seminar this year was "Future of Air Navigation Services Structure - Asia Pacific Perspective"

This year the Guild was nominated to conduct the IFATCA's Asia Pacific Regional Meeting at Delhi which was held from 21st to 22nd October at The Lalit, Barakhamba Road. Among 17 Member countries of the Asia Pacific Region of IFATCA, 15 Member Countries participated in this meet. The theme of the Meeting this year was "Growth of ANS in Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges & Opportunities".

The delegates to the IFATCA meeting first participated in the seminar on 20th October and then there were deliberations and discussions on the theme of meeting along with the organisational matters of IFATCA.

The seminar on 20th October was inaugurated by Shri Yashwant Bhawe, Chairman, Aviation Economic Regulatory Authority.

The 29th Asia Pacific Regional Meet of IFATCA was inaugurated by Honourable Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ajit Singh ji.

The seminar had three sessions and the various topics like independent ANS structure, emerging trends and technologies and the future of ATC in Asia Pacific were discussed. eminent speakers from the industry viz. Shri Somanduram, Member ANS, AAI, Shri Amber Dubey, KPMG, Shri Kapil Kaul , CAPA, Shri Hai Eng Chiang, Regional Director, CANSO, Shri N Ganesh, ED (ATM), Shri John Wagstaff, IFATCA led the panel discussions.

The 29th Asia Pacific Regional Meet of IFATCA discussed topics like Challenges and Opportunities for ANS in Asia Pacific Region, New systems and procedures, Cognitive strategies used by ATCOs, ANS initiatives in India, Green Initiatives, Performance Based Navigation, Workforce planning in ANSPs, Just Culture, Aviation System Block

The activity reports of the 17 participating countries in the IFATCA APRM were presented and discussed. Organisational matters like hosting of future APRM and organisational structure were also discussed. The ATCGI hosted many events like cultural evening, Night tour of Delhi, Visit to Taj Mahal, Agra etc.

The meetings were a great success in fostering friendship and fraternal feelings amongst ATCOs of the region and discussions and deliberations will be catalyst for safe, efficient, economical and environment friendly growth of Air Traffic in Asia Pacific Region.