

Notes for
A VOTE OF THANKS

Good morning, bonjour, namaste, sat sri akal & salamalakim!

It is a well-known fact that there exists a close relationship between overall development of a nation and aviation. One supports the other. The expansion of aviation ought to be carried out in an organized manner so that the desired results could be effectively achieved. The scope and nature of this ‘organized manner’ are essentially determined by appropriate policies that ought to be concretized in the form of laws and regulations. The main purpose of the Workshop and the International Conference is to exchange views on the appropriate forms of aviation laws and regulations which could help India to determine its path for the expansion of aviation services and facilities.

As you all know, the organization of such events are generally the result of close cooperation among several institutions and individuals. It is my great pleasure to express, on behalf of the organizers and on my own behalf, a deep appreciation for the support and encouragement provided by such individuals and institutions.

This event is a collaborative effort – a joint venture – mainly of three institutions; they are:

The Airports Authority of India, we are highly appreciative of the leadership, encouragement and extensive support provided by the Authority, especially by Dr. K. Ramalingam – the Chairman, and Mr. S. Bains - Member (Personnel & Administration). I express my thanks to Dr. Ramalingam for sparing some time from his very busy schedule in order to lay down the foundation and to provide the context for deliberations during these five days of the Workshop and the International Conference. The team from the Authority has done an incredible job. I will be failing in my duty if I do not underline a very important role played and the tireless efforts made by Mr. Y.K. Goel, Capt. H.S. Toor and Dr. Shaikh. It has been a real pleasure to work with these very fine and capable gentlemen.

The second partner is the University of Petroleum & Energy Studies, a pioneering institution in India in the field of aviation management led by visionary individuals like Dr. S. J. Chopra, the Chancellor and Dr. Parag Diwan the Vice-Chancellor of the UPES. We are grateful for their support and encouragement. Honestly, I have no word strong enough to

express my gratitude to Prof. K.C. Gandhi who is a Professor at the UPES. He has been a constant supporter and real performer of his responsibilities. It has not been uncommon to receive email replies from him within a few minutes and telephone calls during the week-ends and often late at night.

The third partner is the Institute of Air and Space Law, of McGill University, my own institution. It is said that self-praise is no recommendation. However, I must say that the incredible leadership, timely and proper advice and the freedom in decision-making provided to me by my esteemed colleague and our Director Prof. Paul Dempsey has been indispensable for me to work on this project. Thank you, Paul. At McGill, there has been a team comprised of ever-smiling, never-tiring Ms. Maria D'Amico, Mr. Yaw Nyampong and Mr. Karan Singh. Without their support I would have done very little. Therefore, I sincerely recognize their constant support. I also take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to my other McGill colleagues who are the world's best and the most experienced experts in aviation law and regulations. They are Prof. Michael Milde, Prof. Richard Janda, Dr. Ludwig Weber who traveled for over 36 hours to share their knowledge and experience with you.

In addition to these three institutions, we acknowledge with gratitude the support provided by the Department of Civil Aviation of India.

Another officer of the Government of India, who is not in the audience today but will be joining us tomorrow, is Dr. Nasim Zaidi, the representative of India to the ICAO Council. From my personal perspective, he has been the most indispensable person in the organization of this event. I salute this thorough gentleman, who is incredibly dedicated to the cause of his country and an incredibly capable diplomat.

All this would have been impossible without the financial support of Boeing Corporation, Kingfisher Airlines, Air India, GMR, GVK, Jet Airways, Spice Jet, and Dua Associates. We recognize with gratitude their significant contribution.

Support in the provision of facilities by Radisson Hotel and professional organization services by Showbiz is very much appreciated.

Our sincere thanks to all the delegates who are the reason d'être of this event. This is a unique opportunity to learn from the world's best experts in aviation law and regulations. I promise that you will not be disappointed.

I realize that I missed a few other institutions and individuals who have been supporting us. I wish to be forgiven for not specifically expressing our gratitude.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to add a personal (a bit emotional) note. Through participation in this conference, I feel particularly privileged to be acting as a catalyst between the great nation of my origin and a wonderful country of my adoption. I thank my wife, Bala, who has been a source of constant support and a regular inspector of my sanity.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, thania badh, shukria