

## MEDIA RELEASE

16 July 2025

To: The News Editor

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **SINGAPORE HOSTS INAUGURAL ICAO ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM**

*The first-ever regional aviation training symposium aims  
to strengthen regional aviation cooperation and capacity building  
in the Asia Pacific region*

Over 400 aviation leaders, academics, training experts, human resource practitioners, industry partners and youths from the Asia Pacific region and beyond gathered in Singapore for the inaugural International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia Pacific Regional Training Symposium from 16 to 17 July 2025. Jointly organised by ICAO and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), the symposium aimed to strengthen regional aviation training cooperation and capacity building, and was officially opened by Ms Sun Xueling, Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Transport and National Development, and Mr Juan Carlos Salazar, ICAO Secretary General on 16 July 2025 at Suntec Convention Centre.

2 The Symposium is a key initiative under the ICAO Asia Pacific Regional Training Cooperation Framework (RTCF) established in 2024 to enhance cooperation among civil aviation authorities, civil aviation training academies and industry in the Asia Pacific region. Themed "*Enhancing Training Cooperation: Building Human Capital for the Sustainable Development of Civil Aviation*," the symposium serves as a strategic platform for stakeholders to come together, foster partnerships and explore innovative approaches to aviation training, filling a longstanding gap in regional stakeholder collaboration.

3 Over the two days, industry experts and stakeholders gathered to align training programmes with emerging industry needs, strengthen policies to better support the aviation workforce, and implement targeted solutions to bridge the regional skills gap. The symposium also featured cutting-edge advancements in aviation training, including the adoption of artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, and advanced simulation technologies to enhance operational training and training effectiveness.

## **Developing the Next Generation of Aviation Professionals**

### Asia Pacific Training Awards

4 To support the development of the next generation of aviation professionals, Singapore renewed the Singapore-ICAO Developing Countries Training Programme (DCTP). First established in 2001, the Singapore-ICAO DCTP has been continually expanded and renewed over the years to provide training fellowships and scholarships for courses at the Singapore Aviation Academy (SAA). In addition, CAAS launched a new capacity building programme, ***the Asia Pacific Training Awards***, where Singapore will provide 120 training awards for government officials from Civil Aviation Authorities of Asia Pacific States to attend training courses at SAA over the next three years.

### Singapore-ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Scholarship Programme

5 10 young and promising aviation professionals from around the world also received their scholarship certificates for the Singapore-ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) Scholarship Programme. The 10 young aviation professionals – nominated by their respective countries and selected by an evaluation panel – are the first batch of scholars appointed under this programme and will participate in a one-week NGAP Aviation Foundation Programme conducted by the SAA covering topics such as aviation technology and innovation, human capital development, aviation safety, sustainability, and international collaboration. This will

be followed by a two-week training attachment with CAAS. These scholars will return to Singapore the following year to complete the remaining components of the programme. The list of scholars and the countries they are from are provided in Annex A.

6 Launched in 2024, the Singapore-ICAO NGAP Scholarship Programme was established for young aviation professionals of age 35 or below to provide them a broad perspective on key aviation topics. Between 2025 and 2027, a new cohort of scholars will be selected annually for a six-week programme in Singapore, consisting of training at SAA and attachments, to be completed within three years. Each scholar will also be personally mentored by a Senior Fellow from SAA.

#### Asia Pacific Youth for Aviation Programme

7 In support of ICAO's NGAP initiative and to inspire youths to pursue careers in aviation, Singapore will also host the first-ever Asia Pacific Youth for Aviation Programme alongside the Symposium. From 14 to 18 July 2025, 36 youths aged 19 to 28 from 19 States/Administrations across the Asia Pacific region will participate in immersive learning journeys, engage with aviation professionals, and take part in a youth dialogue session with ICAO Secretary General Mr Juan Carlos Salazar and Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS. The youths were selected by their respective countries' civil aviation authorities based on their demonstrated interest in aviation. The programme will help the youth gain a wider awareness about the challenges and opportunities that the region's aviation sector diverse career pathways and future opportunities have. The list of States/Administrations with participants at the Youth for Aviation Programme is in Annex B.

#### **Strengthening commitment to leadership training and development**

8 Singapore and ICAO also signed the Singapore-ICAO MOU on Cooperation in Leadership and Management Training – Annex 5 on Directors-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Programme on Aviation Security. The agreement underscores both parties' commitment to develop high-level leadership in aviation security across the region.

The DGCA Programme on Aviation Security will be delivered in Montreal, Canada during the ICAO 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in Sep / Oct 2025.

9 Mr Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO, said “Singapore’s partnership with ICAO to deliver this symposium has enabled us to bring together the Asia Pacific aviation community to address shared training challenges and opportunities. Through strengthened regional cooperation and innovative capacity building initiatives like our Next Generation of Aviation Professionals Scholarship Programme, we are building the skilled workforce that aviation needs for its sustainable future. The commitment demonstrated by all stakeholders here today gives me great confidence in our success.”

10 Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General of CAAS, said: “Singapore believes strongly in investing in the next generation of aviation professionals and nurturing young talent. We are honoured to work with the International Civil Aviation Organization to host the first-ever regional training symposium. We are involving young people from around the region in the High-Level Aviation Week with government and industry leaders and hope that they will be inspired to contribute to aviation in their respective countries.”

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## **About the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore**

The mission of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) is to grow a safe, vibrant air hub and civil aviation system, making a key contribution to Singapore's success. CAAS' roles are to oversee and promote safety in the aviation industry, develop the air hub and aviation industry, provide air navigation services, provide aviation training for human resource development, and contribute to the development of international civil aviation. For more information, visit [www.caas.gov.sg](http://www.caas.gov.sg).

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**Annex A**

**List of Scholars for the  
Singapore-ICAO Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP)  
Scholarship Programme**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Mr Mynor Emir Manzanero	Air Traffic Controller	Belize Department of Civil Aviation
Ms Lina Marcela Molares Botero	Chief Cabinet Advisor	Civil Aviation Authority of Colombia
Mr Simphiwe Zacheus Maseko	Manager, Airport Operations	Eswatini Civil Aviation Authority
Mr Shashank Shekar	Deputy Director of Operations	Directorate General of Civil Aviation India
Ms Elena Voscoboinic	Head of Department	Civil Aviation Authority of Moldova
Mr Angula Filipus Shekupe	Chief Aviation Security Officer	Namibia Airports Company
Mr Muhammad Asjad	Deputy Director	Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority
Mr Bassan Ahmed Alghamdi	Head of Air Traffic Services	General Authority of Civil Aviation, Saudi Arabia
Mr Vishal Deepak Hiranandani	Director of Regional Office No. 8	Spanish Aviation Safety and Security Agency
Mr Benjamin Christopher Heenan	Future Safety Specialist	United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority

**Annex B****States / Administrations with Participants for Youth for Aviation Programme**

<b>Name</b>	<b>States / Adminstrations</b>
Singye Wangchuk	Bhutan
Tshering Yangden	Bhutan
Millinaire Rith	Cambodia
Bai Yu	China
Xie Da Wei	China
Te Anau Rachel Ngatoko Rani	Cook Islands
Chiara Anne Vunibaka	Fiji
Joseva Ligauli Raiwalui	Fiji
Pun Kit	Hong Kong SAR
Chan Chun Hong	Hong Kong SAR
Mote Mitateti	Kiribati
Teringa	Kiribati
Nisa Xaylin	Lao PDR
Sengathith Chanthavong	Lao PDR
Nur Aliyah binti Md Saad	Malaysia
Nik Muhammad Danish bin Nik Roslan	Malaysia
Hein Htet Aung	Myanmar
Pan Wutt Hmone Kyaw	Myanmar
Lawrence Dagagio	Nauru
Faith Mercy Teimitsi	Nauru
Ksau Anthony Flores Whipps	Palau
Auryn Uriik Benhart	Palau
Su Jee Park	Republic of Korea
Gang Hyun Je	Republic of Korea
Quinnell Tulitau Tanuvasa	Samoa
Ramaleh Lagilagia Me VILIAMU	Samoa
Dylan Sim	Singapore
Fathiah Omar	Singapore
Paeahelotu Apusae Gholomo	Solomon Islands
Alysha Matanga'a Puia	Solomon Islands
Tonkhao Prateeppreecha	Thailand
Aitsaraphong Banthisak	Thailand
Mele Fakaola Vake	Tonga
Falemaka Vili	Tonga
Amoni Matamoana Jr Uhila	Tuvalu
Sakalia Namoto	Tuvalu