

The Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore) Commemorates 15 Years

The Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore), or AAIS, is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2003 to promote the development of Singapore as a leading aerospace hub. As it celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, we catch up with its Chief Executive, Mr Sia Kheng Yok, to find out more.



Q: AAIS commemorates its 15th anniversary this year. What are some highlights of this celebration?

A: Since 2016, when we launched a review of our purpose and relevance, we have been steadily repositioning AAIS and aligning our programmes with our new mission and vision. Our emphasis as we enter our 15th year, is not on celebratory events, although we did hold a gala dinner on 21 September 2018. Rather, we are marking this anniversary with a rejuvenated association, one that is better prepared for a future-oriented role.



Mr Sia Kheng Yok, Chief Executive of AAIS

Q: What are the significant milestones that AAIS has achieved on this journey over the past 15 years?

A: Our journey began with 23 members in a small classroom located within the former SIAEC Skills Training Centre at Chai Chee. AAIS commenced operations in 2003, following a market slump after the 9/11 attacks and SARS outbreak. Its role was clear – to be the voice of industry – addressing workforce competencies, business support infrastructure, and future developments.

In the years that followed, the Association promoted industry-government engagement, advocating policies for a conducive business environment. AAIS worked to be a credible voice, commissioning manpower and competitiveness studies, launching the aerospace suppliers² and aviation industry directories, and growing our membership. Concurrently, student outreach also became a key thrust, to ensure a steady supply of skilled manpower for the industry.

Entering AAIS's second decade, new challenges surfaced. New technologies, changes in business models and the maturing of Singapore's economy were disrupting the status quo. In 2016, we unveiled a refreshed mission and vision:

AAIS Mission & Vision

“To Promote the Development of Singapore as a Leading Aerospace Hub, and to be An Innovative Aerospace Community for a Sustainable Future.”

Today, AAIS has relocated to Seletar Aerospace Park, the heart of a thriving and growing industry hub. Here, we are building on past achievements, exploring new avenues for a vibrant and competitive industry, investing in new international partnerships for market access, and developing programmes to catalyse industry transformation.

Q: What is AAIS currently doing to facilitate the industry's transformation?

A: Singapore companies must adopt strategies to improve productivity and maintain a competitive edge. Now that both the Air Transport and Aerospace Transformation Maps have been launched, AAIS is developing initiatives for their implementation, encouraging operational excellence and innovation. These include the Digitalisation Programme and Additive Manufacturing.

Digitalisation Programme

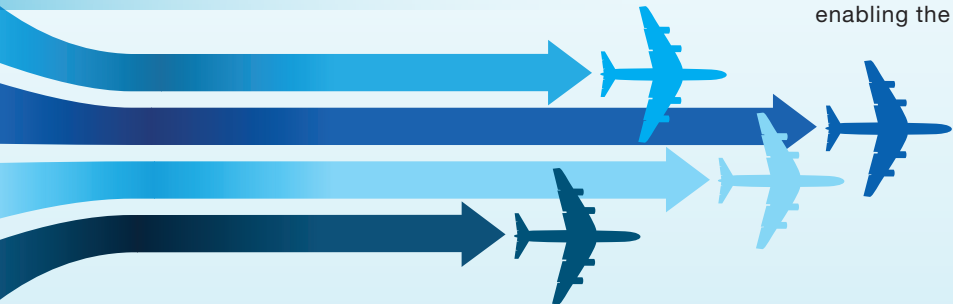
The AAIS Digitalisation Programme aims to facilitate the industry's digital transformation. This includes a partnership with Siemens, a leading digital solutions provider offering guidance to members on their digitalisation roadmaps. There are also Learning Journeys to introduce smart factories like Rockwell Automation and the Model Factory at the Advanced Remanufacturing and Technology Centre.

Additive Manufacturing

Additive Manufacturing (AM) is primed to revolutionise select segments of the manufacturing supply chain and to be the basis for new component repair processes. In July 2018, we called a roundtable to discuss industry collaboration on AM, with the support of our partners, the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster (NAMIC), Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and Workforce Singapore. This culminated in the AAIS-NAMIC Joint Industry Innovation Programme in Additive Manufacturing for Aerospace, which was officially launched at AAIS' 15th Anniversary Gala Dinner ~~on 21 September 2018~~.

Q: What does AAIS aspire to achieve in the next 15 years?

A: I think the three roles we have defined for ourselves – being voice of industry, facilitating business and engendering community – will remain relevant, although what we do may change. Looking ahead, we hope to find better ways of harnessing the collective strength of the aerospace community, enabling the industry to enhance its competitiveness.



Recipients of the AAIS Aviation & Aerospace Luminary Awards 2018 at the 15th Anniversary Gala Dinner – Mr Charles Chong (2nd from left) and Mr Manohar Khatani (4th from left) with Minister for Trade & Industry Mr Chan Chun Sing (3rd from left), AAIS President Mr Philip Quek (5th from left) and AAIS Chief Executive (1st from left)