



Attendees at Aviation Safety Forum 2022 showed their shared commitment to uphold safety standards and strengthen safety culture.

SPOTLIGHT

Building Collective Resilience in Aviation

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After a two-year hiatus, the Aviation Safety Forum returned on 7 March 2022 with 200 industry leaders and safety practitioners from the aviation community in attendance. Adopting an aviation safety focus, the Forum mapped the way forward for safe air travel revival, marking the cusp of air travel recovery.

Soaring Safely Together

In his opening remarks, Mr Han Kok Juan, Director-General CAAS, inspired much optimism with his sharing of how the aviation industry had bounced back strongly in past crises and the robust outlook ahead.

Besides citing reasons such as returning confidence for air travel, technological advancements, positive economic and air travel projections in Asia and the community's proactive response to climate change concerns, Mr Han highlighted three important safeguards – strong safety regime, strong safety culture and strong safety leadership – for emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and ramping up operations. Relating the interconnectedness of our

aviation ecosystem, he called on the industry – in individual and organisational capacities – to “uphold the highest safety standards as we work together to rebuild and reclaim Singapore’s position as a global air hub”.

Building on Mr Han’s speech, Mr Dalen Tan, Director (Safety Policy and Planning), CAAS, presented Singapore’s safety objectives, and CAAS’ safety priorities and initiatives that support the industry to emerge stronger safely.

Key Enablers for Effective Safety Leadership

The pandemic has resulted in reduced operational activity and brought about a myriad of challenges in financial and



manpower resources, and staff morale. Senior leaders from International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Airbus, Singapore Airlines (SIA) and ST Engineering shed insights on key enablers for effective safety leadership at the panel discussion moderated by Mr Alan Foo, Senior Director (Safety Regulation Group), CAAS.

The panel expounded the importance for aviation safety advocates to provide clarity and calm in such a crisis, where there were unknown and new risks, to encourage vigilance and appropriate responsive actions. Proactive engagement to strengthen trust with staff and the union and demonstrate accountability, were critical to enable changes. Collaboration and cooperation amongst various stakeholders, including civil aviation authorities, other governmental agencies, airlines and airports, were necessary to bring about collective actions – especially when dealing with uncertainties and varied and diverse needs in safety management

within the Asia Pacific region. Additionally, agility in regulatory frameworks such as providing for exemptions was central to further supporting the industry and upholding public health standards. The panel concluded that as important as navigating the challenging landscape and protecting public health are during the pandemic, aviation safety remains to be the top priority for rebuilding confidence in air travel.

Safety Culture and Resilience for a Safe Restart

The significant role of a strong positive safety culture within an organisation was subsequently reiterated when Mr Blair Cowles, Regional Director of Operations, Safety and Security (Safety and Flight Operations), Asia Pacific, International Air Transport Association (IATA), moderator of the panel discussion on positive safety culture and resilience, shared how a strong positive safety culture can guide its people to choose safety, every time.

The panellists – senior leaders from ALPA-S, Boeing, SATS and SIAEC – echoed his sentiments. By sharing various aspects of a positive safety culture and ways to enhance organisational resilience, the discourse directed a shift from reactive to proactive, and eventually predictive safety management. Notably, lively exchanges on encouraging voluntary reporting through emphasising impact each worker has on safety, appreciating workers who report for intervention through digital modalities, and addressing potential hazards before they escalate, drove home the message of how a positive safety culture is instrumental for a safe restart.



Did You Know?

The “Charter for a Strong and Positive Safety Culture in Singapore” was launched at the Forum. Signed by leaders of 80 aviation organisations, the Charter renews and reinforces the community’s shared commitment to jointly uphold safety standards and strengthen safety culture.