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IAOPA President Addresses ICAO ANC

IAOPA President Craig Fuller addressed the ICAO Air Navigation Commission on May 13, 2009 in Montreal, providing them with an overview of the state of worldwide general aviation and a list of the challenges facing IAOPA affiliates. "General aviation is an important part of the international aviation system, and must be included in the process of developing and regulating that system," said Fuller. "The aviation system includes aircraft, operating parameters, and missions of all types and sizes. Standards and guidelines must reflect those differences. Failure to do so could undermine general aviation and put an end to the many benefits it delivers to individuals and business around the world."

The biggest single threat facing general aviation worldwide he told those gathered is not the global economic slump, rather, "The greatest challenge facing GA ... comes from a fundamental misunderstanding of the value of general aviation, which in turn leads to inappropriate operating and equipment requirements, unreasonable fee structures, and impossible security regulations."

He concluded, "I want to offer my personal pledge, along with that of IAOPA's 480,000 members, to be part of the solution to the challenges we confront today and in the future. We are committed to working with the international community across all segments of aviation to ensure that the world's aviation system functions efficiently and safely for all users."

Fuller noted that, "It was a real pleasure to address this body of technical experts who develop ICAO standards and recommended practices. They reacted well and asked relevant and insightful questions."

Earlier in the day Mr. Fuller met with the ICAO President of Council, Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez, and discussed the needs and desires of the general aviation community. At the end of the meeting Fuller presented president Kobeh with a handsome model of a light general aviation aeroplane for display in the president's office. The president accepted it with pride, noting that most commercial pilots get their start in this type of aircraft.



IAOPA President Fuller presents general aviation aircraft model to ICAO President Kobeh.

AOPA-Saudi Arabia Becomes IAOPA Affiliate Number 68

On May 14, 2009 IAOPA President Craig Fuller sent the following message to Abdullah al-Jawini, Director and President of AOPA-Saudi Arabia: "It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Board of the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations (IAOPA) has approved full membership for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Saudi Arabia (AOPA-Saudi Arabia).... The headquarters' staff and I are looking forward to a prosperous working relationship with you, your staff, and members. I warmly welcome AOPA-Saudi Arabia as IAOPA's 68th affiliate member!"

Other officers include, Ahmad al-Babtain, Vice President and Treasurer, Mustafa Kahn, Secretary and Omar AlHoshan, Spokesperson. The primary mailing address is Al-Khozama Center, First Floor, Office

No. 11, P.O. Box 14166, Riyadh 11424, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Telephone +9661 2191003, Fax +9661 2191004, email: aopasaudi@sac.com.sa and website: www.sac.com.sa. AOPA-Saudi Arabia is also known as the Saudi Aviation Club, comprising 400 members.

AOPA-Italy Elects New Officers

In April the membership of AOPA-Italy elected a new board of directors consisting of Carlo Golda as president and Rinaldo Gaspari as vice president. Mr. Golda is also a well-known law professor and Mr. Gaspari a television director. Mr. Golda is familiar with IAOPA issues, having attended several World Assemblies in the recent past. Massimo Levi, the immediate and long-serving past president will remain on the board as an advisor and administrator.

Canada Backs Off 406 ELTs

Canada's Minister of Transport, John Baird, has overruled his bureaucracy and suspended implementation of a controversial rule that would have required almost all aircraft to have 406 Mhz emergency locator transmitters installed by February of 2011. The rule would have applied to aircraft trying to enter Canada from other countries, as well. Kevin Psutka, president of the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA), said the minister balked at implementing the Transport Canada rule because it didn't include any alternatives to 406 ELTs, despite regulatory language indicating alternative methods of compliance. "There is no technology that exists today that could meet those (alternative) requirements," Psutka said. A new regulation will be drafted to include suitable alternative devices.

COPA, along with IAOPA, has been fighting the mandatory equipage with 406 ELTs for 10 years, arguing that the new ELTs may provide better alerting and initial locating information but their basic design and installation leave much to be desired in terms of operational reliability and overall effectiveness. Psutka advocates new GPS-based systems that leave a continuous trail of position reports in addition to several alerting features.

New AOPA-New Zealand President

AOPA-New Zealand members recently elected Hamish Ross as their new president. Derek Edwards, the outgoing president offered his thanks to the membership and to IAOPA for their support and activities.

Have You Reviewed the Revised IAOPA Policy Manual?

Have questions about what to do about policies and positions to take regarding your regulatory authority's proposed regulations regarding pilot licencing, airspace, operational rules, airworthiness, airports, required equipment and much more? See the newly revised IAOPA Policy Manual at <http://www.iaopa.org/policies-and-positions/policy-manual>.

The International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations represents the interests of more than 480,000 pilots and aircraft owners in 68

countries. Formed in 1962, IAOPA is dedicated to promoting the peaceful uses of general aviation and aerial work worldwide.

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