

13th Global Humanitarian Aviation Conference

Daily Digest

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Opening ceremony

Facilitator: Sameya Ayesh - Journalist / Google

With an engaging opening ceremony, featuring inspiring speeches and appreciation exchanges, the 13th Global Humanitarian Aviation Conference kicked off its first day in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Guest speakers:

Capt. Samir Sajet, WFP - RASO-Sharjah

Alex Marianelli, WFP Supply Chain Director

Juan Carlos Salazar, ICAO Secretary General

Philippe Martou, WFP Chief of Aviation Service

Capt. Khalid Al Ali, UAE - GCAA, Assistant Director General

Ahmed Jibril, 748 Air services Chairman

H.E. Eng. Sheikh Salem bin Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasimi
member of the Government of Ras Al Khaimah Executive
Council and Chairman of the
department of Civil Aviation Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

Clare Dalton, Head of Mission of ICRC UAE

Key takeaways:

- The unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the crucial role of aviation in addressing global challenges and reaching people in need.
- In a world where every 17 minutes a person dies of hunger, and where needs are expected to grow, practical and long-lasting solutions are key to success in delivering assistance.
- During the pandemic, aviation actors found new ways to keep offering their much-needed services, and innovation should continue guiding humanitarian aviation to improve performance and efficiency.
- Achieving these goals can only be done by enhancing collaboration and communication among all stakeholders: *"if you want to go fast, work alone; but if you want to go far, work together. In the fight against hunger, vulnerabilities and access constraints, the key to success is to work **together**"*

Topic 1: International Cooperation in times of disaster

Speakers:

Bas Van Der Weide - EASA
Mohammad Kushan - FAA
Daniel Juzi - MAF
Johanna Jordaan - ICAO
Mourad Ben Asker - GCAA
Denys Saltanov - WFP

Key takeaways:

- COVID-19 has showed that business continuity requires flexibility and resilience. The aviation sector quickly reacted to the new context and needs to continue working on finding effective solutions that should also pursue improved safety with new approaches such as integrated risk management.
- Innovative techniques for emergency response to be applied in aviation are being developed and include key areas such as information collection and sharing. It is fundamental that innovation is accompanied by the development of new standards and sharing of resources.
- COVID-19 challenged the aviation sector and pushed operators to find solutions to continue meeting humanitarian organizations' requirements to reach those in need. The humanitarian aviation network should be leveraged to get together to improve the delivering of assistance to people in need, including in the hardest-to-reach areas to access those who otherwise feel forgotten.
- The pandemic has showed the importance of enhancing communication flow, providing timely information, and improving response guidance.
- The importance of enhanced coordination and cooperation, bringing all stakeholders together, including public sector, health sector, aviation authorities and NGOs, and bringing related frameworks together, is one the main lessons learnt from COVID-19.
- To that end, leveraging new technologies is crucial to be ready to face future global emergencies that will likely arise, including from communicable diseases and climate change.



Topic 2: Innovation in Humanitarian Aviation

Speakers:

Martin Tuck - TEXTRON

Stefan Koehler - Sahel Aviation Service

Kashif Khaled - IATA

Kaval Shah - PWC

Tarek Ben Omrane - ATR

Luc Hardy - UNOCT

Key takeaways:

- Challenges in humanitarian aviation include airfield accessibility, unpaved and short runways and low visibility. New solutions and technologies are being developed to address these constraints, such as enhanced vision systems.
- During COVID-19, aviation operators showed great flexibility by adapting to the unprecedented context with innovative solutions, including turning passenger aircraft into cargo aircraft to transport much-needed relief and medical items.
- Aviation operators have found ways to handle COVID-19 positive cases and have rapidly developed new operational procedures and guidance.
- Attention to the environment remains fundamental, especially considering that the climate crisis is likely to worsen. The aviation sector is looking at hybrid-electric innovation and developing solutions and programmes that can render the sector more environmentally-friendly, such as more efficient engines and carbon offset programmes.
- New areas of synergies are emerging, such as between state security and aviation security. A programme is being developed to assess threats and develop models to timely inform aviation security.



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