



63rd IFATCA Annual Conference Trip Report

Date and Location

15-19 April 2024
Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel
Singapore

CATCA Attendees

Scott Loder	–	CATCA Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Benoit Vachon	–	CATCA Regional Vice President, St-Laurent
Jerry Brodt	–	CATCA Regional Vice President, Prairie
Fred Cosgrove	–	CATCA Technology Branch
Jean-François Lepage	–	CATCA Montreal ACC Branch



Left to Right - Jean-François Lepage, Fred Cosgrove, Scott Loder, Jerry Brodt, Benoit Vachon.

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Purpose

Every year, the Federation holds the IFATCA Conference, the Annual General Meeting of the Member Associations. Directors and delegates attend to provide direction to the Executive Board and determine the rules and policies of the Federation. The event also provides an opportunity to interact with local aviation dignitaries and specialists, IFATCA's Industry Partners and other Professional Staff Organization representatives.

Two CATCA members, Jerry Brodt and Fred Cosgrove, are members of the IFATCA Constitution and Administration Committee (CAC) and IFATCA Technical and Operational Committee respectively. Both members had research papers to present and defend in the respective conference committees, including development of policy.

Jean-François Lepage serves as IFATCA's liaison to the ICAO Air Navigation Commission (ANC), with IFATCA sponsoring his attendance. In addition to offering updates to the committees, Jean-François is actively involved in the IFATCA executive board activities throughout the conference.

Summary

This summary reflects the perspective of F. Cosgrove only. Due to the simultaneous occurrence of numerous activities and the IFATCA-specific responsibilities of three CATCA members, attendees were frequently divided. This arrangement ensured CATCA's presence and participation in all sessions and activities.

Day 1

Activities involved regional meetings, the official opening ceremony, and two panel discussions.

- The regional meeting for the Americas Region provided updates from each member association with each identifying challenges within their respective state. All reported the same issue with respect to staffing and training new Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCO).
- The opening ceremony was attended by the Singapore Minister of Transport who spoke and provided an emphasis on the need to maintain a strong safety culture. In addition, the minister indicated that the ATCO must always remain a major player in ATC and that any technological developments must remain as "human-in-the-loop".

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- One high level panel spoke about Human Capital, where is the human in the future, which spoke about technology, artificial intelligence, and the impacts on ATCOs. The second high level panel spoke about the mental well-being of ATCOs. Encouraging awareness and how to support people with an emphasis on peer support programs and methods to allow ATCOs to continue to work while managing their mental health.

Day 2

Day two began with IFATCA 2030+ workshops, which broke delegates into groups to consider the future of IFATCA and how the Federation can improve its visibility and strength in the future.

The opening plenary of the conference took place in the afternoon of day two.

Day 3-4

Day three and four had committees A, B, and C sitting, along with a combined committees B and C sitting.

- Committee A is the administrative body of the Federation. Where the changes to the constitution and by-laws are developed and debated. The procedures for the functioning of the day-to-day operations were discussed, as were financial matters and the budget of the Federation.
 - o The CAC sits in this committee session.
 - o J. Brodt presented WP30 – Establishment and Disestablishment of Task Forces and with the CAC group presented WP31 - Member Association Affiliation Application Process and WP32 - Review Working Papers Submission Dates.
- Committee B deals with operational and technical matters. The working papers and other materials developed over the year by the Technical and Operational Committee (TOC) were presented and debated. These discussions produced policies and guidance material for the use of the Member Associations.



- Committee C considers matters of a Legal and Professional nature. As with Committee B, the working papers of the Professional and Legal Committee (PLC) were presented for debate and associated policies determined. Committee C also debated associated policies relating to the IFATCA Training Policy Manual.

- Committees B & C met for a joint session where topics of a broad nature, which cross over both PLC and TOC mandates, were discussed, and the reports of the many international representatives were presented and associated policies were determined.
 - o F. Cosgrove presented, along with PLC member M. Jarc (Slovenia), WP97 – System Based Air Traffic Control License Concept
 - o B. Vachon participated on drafting committee relating to WP98 – Review of Automation Policies.

Detailed Committee meeting minutes, for all four committee sessions, are available.

[Day 5](#)

A wrap-up of committee activities, including the selection of members for standing committees, where Canada was re-elected to hold positions on the CAC and TOC. The standing committees assigned working paper topics, and the final plenary session took place. During the final plenary session, CATCA's Jean-François Lepage was confirmed as the new IFATCA Deputy President.

Opinion

With a representation of over 100 member associations from across the globe, the meetings were thorough and well-balanced. Discussions throughout the conference, both in formal sessions and informal networking, proved to be fruitful and enlightening, revealing the significant challenges some associations face daily.

CATCA's presence on CAC and TOC is highly respected among all member associations. Given our extensive area of responsibility, which is equivalent to seven different countries, our perspective resonates with many other associations. We are recognized as a strong, knowledgeable voice in air traffic control, while also being receptive to the opinions of others.



Congratulations to Jean-François Lepage on being elected IFATCA Deputy President. This achievement is not only a personal success for Jean-François but also reflects positively on CATCA, having a member in such a significant global position.

I believe it is in CATCA's best interest to continue participating in CAC and TOC, and I encourage efforts to engage in as many IFATCA standing committees and roles as possible. IFATCA's influential voice is respected by ICAO and many ANSPs. Active involvement of CATCA members will enable us to lead conversations and shape IFATCA policy, rather than simply following it.

Next Meeting

Over the next year, regional meetings, standing committee meetings, along with IFATCA Executive Board meetings, all involving CATCA members, will occur. The 64th IFATCA Annual Conference is scheduled for 28 April – 2 May 2025 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Prepared by: Fred Cosgrove

Chairperson | CATCA Technology
IFATCA TOC Canada Member Representative
613-558-9289
fred.cosgrove.47@gmail.com