

June 2025

[Not showing correctly? Click here to view the circular as a webpage](#)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Support, Solidarity, Safety: IFATCA's Professional Mission

It's been just over a month since IFATCA gathered in Abu Dhabi for another outstanding conference. It was truly inspiring to spend the week alongside so many dedicated professionals, all sharing a renewed commitment to advancing our beloved profession and the systems we work tirelessly to keep safe. The remarkable progress we continue to make is a direct result of the efforts of IFATCA representatives, committees, task forces, workgroups, and member associations.



After four rewarding years serving as IFATCA's Executive Vice President for the Americas Region, I was honored to step into the role of Executive Vice President Professional.

The professional agenda of IFATCA is grounded in a simple but powerful truth: aviation safety is inseparable from the wellbeing of the professionals who make it possible. The focus is on the people behind the profession—ensuring that the systems, policies, and practices that support air traffic control are designed with the human element in mind.

In collaboration with the Professional and Legal Committee, more contributions in shaping IFATCA's policies and guidance through research and shared best practices will occur. Training courses/webinars being developed by the Training task force and professional development initiatives like the Speak English program elevate the global standard for how our profession is supported and sustained.

This includes strengthening peer support programs, such as Critical Incident Stress Management, and addressing operational challenges that directly affect safety and quality of life like staffing levels, fatigue, rostering practices, training/licensing and the increasing demands placed on our workforce. These issues are not peripheral—they are central to the safety and resilience of the aviation system.

This professional focus has never been more critical than in times of tragedy.

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) expresses its deepest condolences to the aviation community of India following the tragic accident involving Air India. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims and all those affected by this heartbreaking event.

We also extend our solidarity and support to the air traffic controllers who were on duty and in contact with the flight crew prior to the crash. We understand the profound emotional impact such an event can have, and IFATCA stands ready to assist our colleagues in India in any way we can to help them navigate this difficult time.

This year has been an exceptionally challenging one for the aviation industry. Yet, even in the face of tragedy, we must continue to uphold and promote a positive safety culture—one that encourages openness, support, and learning. It is essential that the investigation into this incident be conducted with objectivity and care, so that the lessons learned can contribute to the continued improvement of safety across the industry.

We remain firm in our belief that through compassion, professionalism, and shared commitment, we can build a safer sky for all.

At its core, this work is about people. The professional agenda is a commitment to ensuring safety through support: valuing the experience, insight, and wellbeing of every air traffic controller around the world. Because when our people are protected, prepared, and supported, the entire system is safer.

Trish Gilbert

Executive Vice President Professional

Condolences to Air India



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS' ASSOCIATIONS

360 St. Jacques, Suite 2002, Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1P5 CANADA
Tel.: +1.514.866.7040, Fax: +1.514.866.7612, Email: office@ifatca.org

12 June 2025

Air India Flight 171

The International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA) expresses its deepest condolences to the aviation community of India following the tragic accident involving Air India. Our thoughts are with the families of the victims, and with all those affected by this heartbreaking event.

We also extend our solidarity and support to the air traffic controllers who were on duty and in contact with the flight crew prior to the crash. We understand the profound emotional impact such an event can have on those involved, and IFATCA stands ready to assist our colleagues in India in any way we can to help them navigate this difficult time.

This year has been an exceptionally challenging one for the aviation industry. Yet, even in the face of tragedy, we must continue to uphold and promote a positive safety culture — one that encourages openness, support, and learning. It is essential that the investigation into this incident be conducted with objectivity and care, so that the lessons learned can contribute to the continued improvement of our global safety level for the aviation industry."

We remain firm in our belief that through compassion, professionalism, and shared commitment, we can build a safer sky for all. IFATCA stands in unity with our colleagues in India, now and always.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Executive Board
International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA)

- 60 Years of Professional Involvement -
IFATCA has been representing air traffic controllers since 1961 in over 130 countries.

Regional News & Activities

Americas

With the successes of the global conference in Abu Dhabi still fresh in our minds, we are now focusing on scheduling the 41st Americas Regional Meeting to be held this

autumn. This year's planning took an unexpected turn, as the original host Member Association encountered domestic challenges which dictated that we pivot to find an alternative location for our meeting. Most graciously, the members of the Asociacion di Controladornan di Trafico Aereo di Aruba (ACTAA) quickly stepped forward and offered to welcome IFATCA Americas in their country.

Planning is moving quite quickly, although there remain many items still to be finalized. We are on track to hold our Regional Meeting from September 30 through October 2, 2025 in Aruba and we are working through the many logistical details that accompany such a meeting. We fully expect to have more information for the Member Associations in the very near future that will include venue and registration details, as well as the outlines for the meeting agenda.



I want to extend our thanks to the members of ACTAA for all of the hard work they are doing to prepare for this meeting, as well as to the members from Trinidad and Tobago (TTACA) for providing valuable insights gained as the host of last year's Regional Meeting, the Americas Region RVPs Ameer, Mario and Dario who are helping with the preparations, and, of course, our previous EVP Americas Trish Gilbert who has been instrumental in making sure the planning goes smoothly. Due to the diligence of all, this upcoming meeting is sure to be a great success.

Andrew LeBovidge



Europe

Looking over the horizon – the future is now!” Bologna, Italy: The Setting of IFATCA ERM 2025

From 14 to 16 October 2025, ANACNA, the Italian Member Association, will proudly host the IFATCA European Regional Meeting, in Bologna. The centrally located Royal Carlton Hotel located just steps from Via dell'Indipendenza, offers attendees easy access to many of Bologna's iconic landmarks and provides the ideal setting for dialogue, innovation, friendship, and collaboration in the field of European air traffic control. Bologna Guglielmo Marconi Airport, will welcome attendees to a city where ancient history meets vibrant modern life.



Bologna offers not only a beautiful setting but also a symbolic place where knowledge, communication, and progress come together.



In early June, IFATCA EVP Europe, Frédéric Deleau, visited the ERM2025 venue and can confidently confirm that, once again, our local Member Association Organising Committee (ANACNA) is working hard to deliver a fruitful, welcoming, and splendid European Regional Meeting. We know how much work goes into hosting a regional meeting and IFATCA thanks ANACNA and its members for their high motivation and dedication towards all our EUR MAs' delegates. The agenda and schedule we will build on the feedback from the regional meeting held on day 2 of the annual conference in Abu Dhabi, and will be shared with our members soon. As always it will be a busy agenda, but engaging and fruitful as well.

We look forward to welcoming all our friends and colleagues for a very special ERM2025! If you have not already registered, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. [Register Here](#)

TOGETHER – FURTHER!

Frédéric Deleau
IFATCA EVP Europe

Africa & Middle East

The EVP for Africa and the Middle East of IFATCA-Mr. Ahmad Abba, participated in the 6th General Assembly of FACAA, hosted in Dakar, Senegal from 20–22 May 2025 by the Senegalese ATC Association (APCCAS). He was joined by Mr. Francis Armah-Mensah, IFATCA RVP for West Africa, and other regional leaders, emphasizing IFATCA's commitment to supporting the welfare and professional growth of air traffic controllers in the ASECNA region. A strong IFATCA presence was noted, with member association heads from Nigeria, Ghana, and The Gambia participating.



The event celebrated the newly elected FACAA leadership, headed by Mr. Sangare Moussa, and reaffirmed the importance of strengthening cooperation through a

renewed Memorandum of Understanding. The assembly was exclusively sponsored by United ATS, represented by Captain Reda El Madbouly, underscoring support for aviation training and development. The assembly served as a crucial platform for fostering regional unity, tackling operational challenges, and driving collaboration in air traffic management across West and Central Africa.

On the sidelines, Mr. Abba visited the ICAO WACAF Regional Office and met with Dr. Diaga Basse of Senegal's Civil Aviation Authority (ANACIM), presenting him with a plaque in appreciation of ANACIM's regulatory excellence

Ahmad Abba

IFATCA EVP Africa & Middle East

Asia Pacific Region

The 2025 IFATCA Annual Conference held in Abu Dhabi has gathered all 19 Member Associations from across the Asia Pacific region. During the sub-regional meeting on the 2nd day of the Conference, the MAs were asked to do a short report no longer than 10 mins to update the latest activities of their associations. The topics from the MAs' report reflected on post-pandemic recovery and look ahead to future priorities. Many countries reported encouraging rebounds in traffic levels, but challenges remain—particularly around staffing, controller retention, and training demands. Sri Lanka, Iran, and the Philippines shared concerns about workforce shortages, while others like Japan, Maldives, and Australia showcased their fatigue management, mental health, and wellbeing programs aimed at supporting frontline professionals.





The meeting also featured a wide exchange of national initiatives—from Taiwan’s emergency response workshops and Nepal’s magazine revival, to Indonesia’s policy collaboration efforts and New Zealand’s technology integration. IFATCA’s global leadership provided updates on structural changes, ongoing participation in EDI promotion and new initiatives on andropause and menopause, and the continued success of the Speak English Program (SEP). Communication and outreach were also emphasized, with social media channels and newsletters serving as key tools to engage members across all levels.

Looking forward, the region is set to maintain its strong momentum. Macau will host the 2025 Asia-Pacific meeting, followed by Japan in 2026, both offering exciting platforms to showcase innovation and culture. As always, the spirit of the meeting was one of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and mutual support—reminding everyone that while each country faces unique challenges, we move forward stronger when we do so together.

<https://aprm2025.org/>

Cheryl Chen
IFATCA EVP Asia Pacific



2025 Regional Meetings

Africa & Middle East

3-5 November

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Americas

30 Sept - 2 Oct

Oranjestad, Aruba

Asia/Pacific

20-22 October

Macau, Macau

<https://aprm2025.org>

Europe

14-16 October

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

<https://erm2025.com>



**Trish Gilbert Honored at NATCA Convention,
Named Executive Vice President Emeritus**



Trish Gilbert Named Executive Vice President Emeritus at 20th Biennial Convention

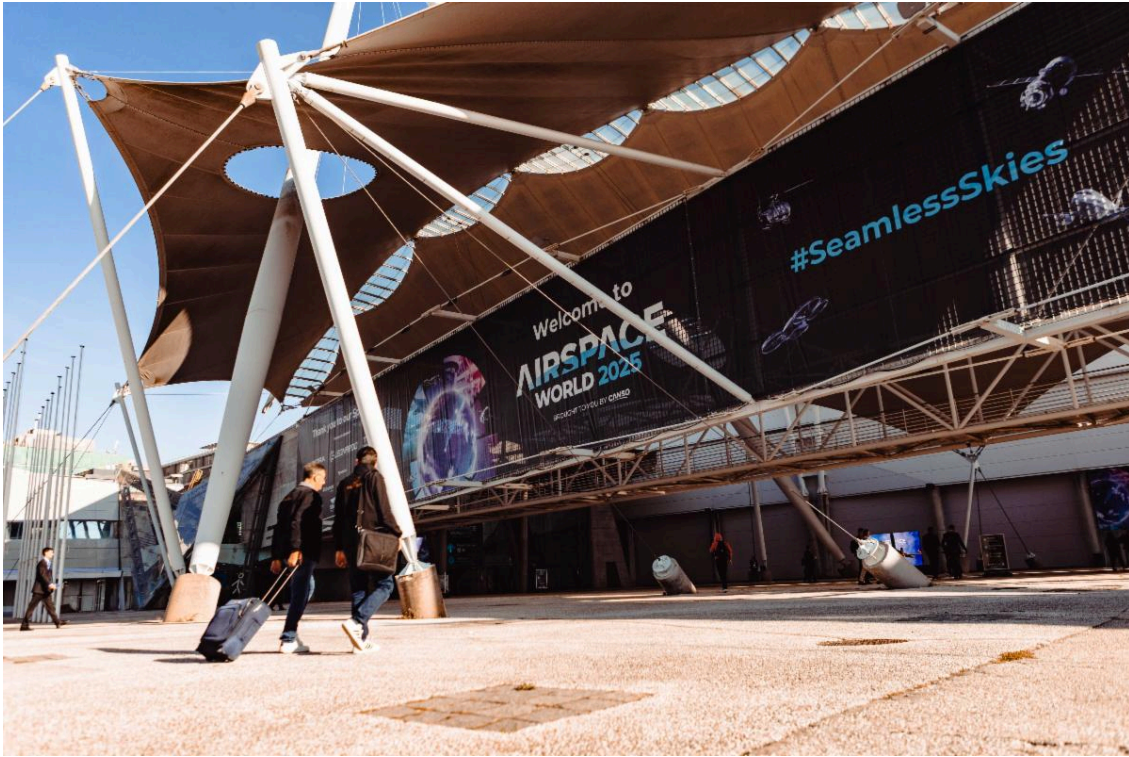
San Francisco | May 11, 2025

During the final day of the 20th Biennial Convention in San Francisco, NATCA delegates unanimously voted to honor Trish Gilbert with the title of Executive Vice President (EVP) Emeritus. Recognizing Gilbert's 12 years of service as the Union's EVP and her continued leadership on the international stage through the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations (IFATCA).

Delegates responded with overwhelming support, rising to speak about how Gilbert's passion, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to activism shaped the Union and inspired their own paths in NATCA. With over 30 years in the aviation industry, including 21 years as a controller at Houston Center, Gilbert has also served on national and international boards and testified before Congress to advocate for safety, labor rights, and diversity in aviation. Her appointments to key roles, including the FAA's Women in Aviation Advisory Board, reflect her influence across the industry.

The EVP Emeritus title reflects Gilbert's lasting contributions to the labor movement and her role in building the foundation for NATCA's strength today. Her legacy as a fierce advocate, dedicated unionist, and mentor to countless NATCAvists will continue to guide the Union for generations to come.

Airspace World 2025: Lisbon

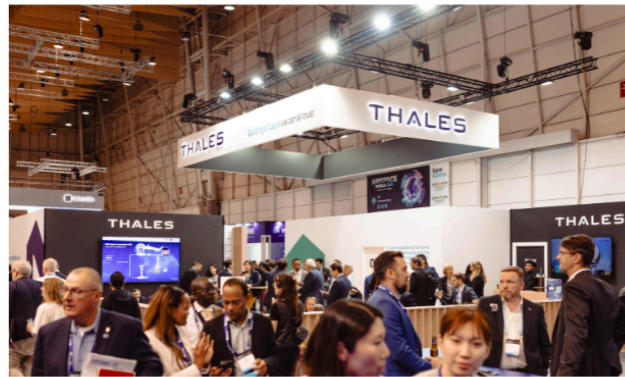


Airspace World 2025

By Philippe Domogala.

Airspace World 2025 in its new location in Feira Internacional de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal, is one of the biggest global aviation events, this year it had over 7,000 visitors and 220 exhibitors from 145 countries. Keen to know what was new in this year's edition?

[**READ MORE HERE**](#)



Photos: Frequentis high density Remote Tower advertisement (top left), Europe for Aviation Stand (top right), AFIS remote tower advertisement (bottom left), Thales stand (bottom right).

IFATCA on Top of the World



IFATCA flag on the top of the world.

Climbing Mount Everest Summit is one of the toughest challenges imaginable. A casual conversation in the ATC unit of Nepal about the increasing flight movement towards Tenzing Hilary Airport, commonly known as LUKLA AIRPORT, the gateway to Mount Everest (8848m), Everest Base Camp and Khumbu Region created a plan to send the IFATCA and Nepal association Flags to the top of the world with the younger brother of Narayan Shrestha (executive committee member, NATCA).

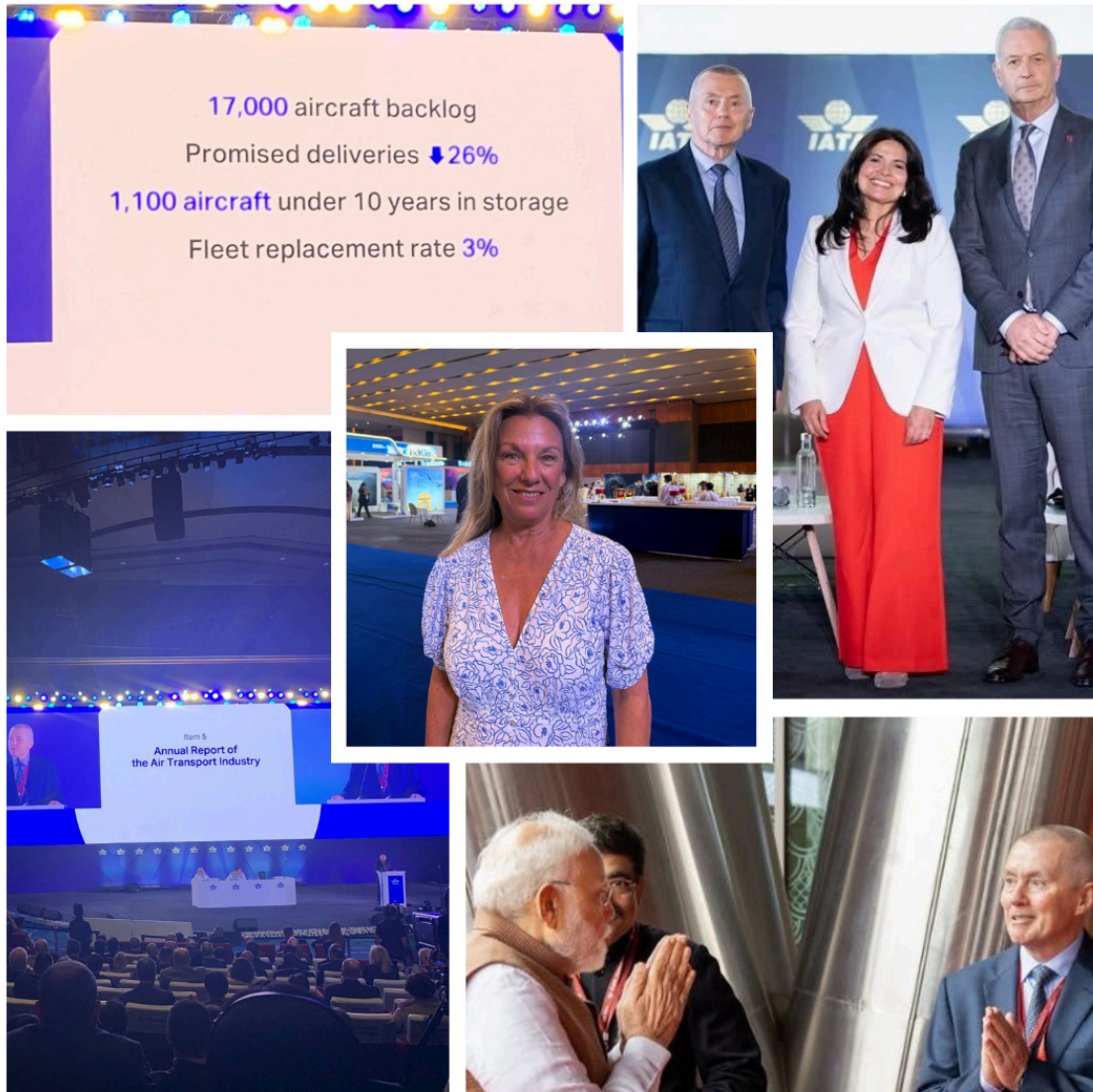
BIKASH GURUNG, Born in Bhotekhola-4, Sankhuwasabha, Nepal has been a Mountainous Trekking Guide for 7 years. He first reached the top on 28 May 2022 with climbers from England. When approached by NATCA Nepal with the plan, he was thrilled to take the NATCA & IFATCA SUMMIT FLAG with him.

Our Flag's journey to the top of the world started on March 21, as Mr. BIKASH GURUNG left for LUKLA. The NATCA committee members were even not sure whether our Flags would reach to the top of Everest or not.

The excitement on 25th April 2025, 3 days before IFATCA 64th Annual Meeting. When Mr. Gurung sent photographs from camp II (6400m).

And now we can proudly share that on the 18th of May 2025, both the IFATCA & NATCA Flags gloriously fluttered at the Top Of The World, on MOUNT EVEREST, a proud and memorable moment for Nepalese Air Traffic Controllers and all Air Traffic Controllers throughout the globe.

International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting & World Air Transport Summit



For the first time, IFATCA was invited to attend International Air Transport Association (IATA) Annual General Meeting and World Air Transport Summit. The meeting, which was held in New Delhi, June 1-3 was visited by India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The CEO of IATA, Willie Walsh invited IFATCA PCX Helena Sjöström Falk to attend - another testimony to IFATCA's increasing importance within the aviation world.

Key takeaways from the meetings:

- Over 1700 participants
- IATA now has 350+ airlines as members. The top three points on the airlines' priority list are: Safer, More Affordable and Sustainable aviation.

The days offered many topics and panels, among others: Taxation, Payment solutions, Conflict Zones, SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel), Diversity & Inclusion.

IFATCA at the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA's) Workshop



IFATCA at the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA's) workshop on mental health Atlanta Georgia, June 1. Andrew LeBovidge (EVP AMA and mental wellbeing task force) presented a short update on the progress that has been made in the ATC world regarding Peer Support programmes and the work that is being done by the IFATCA MWTF.

The workshop was held the day before the AsMA weeklong physicians conference began, and had presentations from a variety of academics, researchers, industry groups, and aviation colleges. IFATCA has been developing very strong relationships in this community and the work we are doing is being noticed.

EDI Task Force



In June 2024, IFATCA launched our first Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) campaign, reaffirming our commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all our members—not only at IFATCA meetings but every day, all year round.

This year, we have featured four air traffic controllers, each representing a different region, who shared their perspectives on what it means to feel safe, seen, valued, and included. Their testimonials exemplify the essence of our organization: our members are IFATCA.

This isn't just another EDI campaign. This is who we are.

6th Annual DATS Workshop



IFATCA President Helena Sjöström Falk presented at the 6th DATS workshop held on May 8-9 2025 in Norrköping, Sweden .

The objective and focus of the workshop was to present, share and discuss the rapid developments within digital ATS. This includes recent research on:

- Quantification of ATCO workload
- Remote operation challenges
- En-route traffic control and management
- Digitalization of ATCCs and virtual centers
- Digitalization's impact on risk and safety assessment

IFATCA was pleased to represent the human element of the innovations!

Global AIM Conference 2025



Executive Vice President Africa Middle East Mr Ahmad Abba was honoured to represent the President and CEO of IFATCA, Ms. Helena Sjöström Falk, at the Global AIM Conference 2025.

IFAIMA Global AIM Conference held in Abuja, Nigeria from 27–29 May 2025. On behalf of IFATCA, he delivered a goodwill message reaffirming our Federation's commitment to collaboration, innovation, and the continuous enhancement of Aeronautical Information Management across the globe.

4th Safer Skies Forum



4th Safer Skies Forum – Marrakech, Morocco – 08-10/04/2025 <https://tc.canada.ca/en/initiatives/safer-skies-initiative>

The Safer Skies Consultative Committee (SSCC), brings together subject-matter experts from states, international organizations, and industry, providing a formal international platform to consolidate discussions on conflict zones in relation to civil aviation. IFATCA is member of that Committee and EVPEUR, Frédéric Deleau is its representative.

This year's theme is Overflying Conflict Zones: Contingency Planning and Mitigation Strategies.

As in previous years, the Forum brought together stakeholders from across the aviation ecosystem to engage in discussions with international delegates and experts, sharing experiences and strategies for effective conflict zone risk management. EVPEUR, Frédéric Deleau, was invited to the high-level round table and was also tasked to moderate a session during the Forum (Session 4) and to participate in Session 7 as speaker.