

Reachout No. 33

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates From 25 to 28 January 2009

Hosted by Etihad Airways

1. Introduction

1.1 Etihad Airways hosted the 33th ISASI Reachout Workshop on Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The workshop was opened on 25 January 2009 by Etihad Airways Vice-President Safety, Security and Quality Mr. Mohamed Abubaker Al Farea and Captain John Downey, Head of Corporate Safety, Etihad Airways.

1.2 The workshop was held at golf club facilities in the vicinity of the international airport in Abu Dhabi. The conference room was an excellent workshop venue with comfortable space for the lunch and tea breaks. At the closing ceremony on 28 November 2009, ISASI certificates were presented to 29 participants.

2. Corporate membership plaque for Etihad Airways

2.1 Etihad Airways joined ISASI as corporate member in 2008, but had not been in a position to receive the ISASI Corporate Membership Plaque at the ISASI Annual Seminar in September 2008 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

2.2 On behalf of the ISASI President Frank DelGandio, Caj Frostell (ISASI International Councilor) presented the Etihad Airways ISASI Membership Plaque to Vice-President Mohamed Abubaker Al Farea.

3. Technical content of the workshop

3.1 The instructors for the aircraft accident and incident investigation subjects were Nick Stoss and Caj Frostell. Presentations were provided on:

- International requirements for aircraft accident investigation as contained in ICAO Annex 13;

- National legislation and regulations;

- Planning, organization and readiness for a major investigation. Specific presentations covered the role of an airline in a major accident investigation;

- Accident site procedures and management;

- Investigation methodology;

- Field investigation;

- Off-scene follow-up work;

- Technical investigations;

- Flight operations investigations;

- Crashworthiness; and

- Crisis management (handling the news media and family assistance programmes).

3.2 The programme included several interactive case studies, including:

- A Boeing 737 accident near Athens, Greece involving non-pressurization;
- Video of a Boeing 737 investigation in Panama;
- An Airbus A340 landing overrun in Toronto;
- A DC-10 rejected take-off in Vancouver;
- An Airbus A330 landing the Azores; and
- Several incident investigations.

3.3 The fourth day of the workshop was devoted to what an investigator should know about SMS and risk management, as well as the preparation of the final report, identification of safety deficiencies, and the formulation of safety recommendations.

3.4 The programme included an aeromedical/human factors presentation by Dr. Surendra Sodhi (Chief Medical Officer for Etihad Airways) and a presentation by Mr. Ibrahim Al Addasi (Regulation & Investigation Inspector, General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA)) covering the UAE legislation and regulations for aircraft accident investigation as well as some envisaged future organizational changes.

4. Participants

4.1 The 29 participants from Etihad Airways covered all operational areas, including pilots (involved in company safety management), maintenance and quality engineers, aviation security personnel, and cabin crew. An invitation to the workshop had also been extended to GCAA and ADAC (Abu Dhabi Airport Operator).

4.2 The management of Etihad Airways and the participants were appreciative to ISASI for again bringing the Reachout Workshop Programme to Abu Dhabi.

5. Participant hand-outs and materials

5.1 The ISASI instructors prepared their training material comprising paper handouts and a CD with published manuals and booklets. Each participant received copies of the documents and a CD with considerable background materials for future reference. ISASI membership forms and corporate membership forms were made available to the participants.

5.2 The arrangements at Etihad Airways and in Abu Dhabi were accomplished by Kevin Vandam, Manager Emergency Response Planning, and Ahsan Naseer, Manager Safety Investigation. They were assisted by Francis Cabel, Emergency Response Plan Facilities Manager. The outstanding assistance rendered to the instructors by the above mentioned gentlemen was invaluable in all aspects.

6. Sponsorships

6.1 Instructor travel and accommodation in Abu Dhabi was provided by Etihad Airways. Etihad accommodated the instructors on their direct flights between Toronto and Abu Dhabi.



Etihad Vice-President Mohamed Abubaker Al Farea receiving the ISASI Corporate Membership Plaque



Nick Stoss, ISASI instructor



Etihad Airways personnel at the ISASI Reachout in Abu Dhabi

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