

IFALPA ANNUAL MEETING 2008

DAY 1 April 17, 2008

We started our journey early in the morning from New York. Flight was from JFK airport, DL481. Flight was smooth and the flight time was 4 hour and fifteen minutes. This being first time flying over GULF OF MEXICO got us all very excited.

About the flight it should be mentioned (view shared by all of us) that it was pretty average service. Passengers were extremmly civilized. The Cabin Crew however still looked agitated and was not entirely pleasant as most of our Cabin Crew is. We were served with one light break fast and then by peanuts with juice. We feel that in comparison our service is much better and we don't give credit to our Cabin Crew which on my opinion have to face very aggressive passengers .Here I would also like to mention that Captain made at least 5 announcements which were very informative and I feel it is here we lag with compared to other carriers.

We reached HOTEL PRESIDENTE INTERCONTINNTAL HOTEL at around 4 pm and after doing the check inn we had to go straight for Registration. The process of registration is very simple. The Credential forms which were given to us in Pakistan were given to IFALPA staff which duly and quickly got us all 3 registered. Registration fee was 320 \$ for chief Delegate and 530\$ for Delegates. We were given few gifts and then we went to our room as the inaugural dinner was at 7 pm and we hardly had any time. Having gotten into my room I quickly made few phone calls so as to locate our lost baggage and I was informed that our baggage was re routed through Frankfurt and we will get it by midnight. Reason I mentioned the lost baggage is that anyone who is attended such conferences in future should have something in hand carry as it becomes very embarrassing if you loose your luggage and has nothing proper to wear as these dinners have proper dress code.

At 7_{pm} we were down and immediately started inter-acting with other IFALPA guest. They were from Bangladesh, Singapore, Egypt, Morocco, Japan, Kuwait and Indonesia. We discussed various issues and I was shocked to know that all of us have almost identical problem and issues. We requested all the member associations to communicate and exchange their

working agreement so that we can all learn from each other. Cards were also exchange. Captain ZVI, Regional Vice-President briefed me about the duties and responsibilities of RVP .He encouraged that PALPA should contest for RVP position.

DAY 2, 18 April 2008,

The day started with a breakfast, which was attended by almost all the Delegates. At 09:00 the **Plenary Session** started which was attended and opened by the Chief Guest Dr Luis Tellaz who is the Minister of Communication and Transportation. He along with the President Capt Carlos Limon and all Regional Executive Vice-Presidents spoke. The emphasis in the introductory speeches was about Pilot facing similar problems all over the world and thus there is a need of a Global Pilot association. The subject of M.P.L., along with shortage of Pilot was also touched. This shortage is usually used to Pilots advantage but in some countries this shortage is being exploited by various CEO and airline management to get extra work done which was an unsafe practice.

Also, the Global problem of CO 2 omission was touched and how anti-aviation bodies are blaming our industry to be responsible for this, which is far from true.

After the Plenary Session we met with Captain Stu Julian EVP Asia Pacific. Issue of better communication within the region and RVP Asia/West came up. We asked me if in his opinion it would be better for our association to contest for the post and he was adamant that we should. It was then decided after informing Capt Imran Usman that we should go ahead as it will in our opinion be of huge benefit to our association and also we will be able to play our rule in the betterment of Pilots in the region.

We submitted our nominations paper, which was seconded by **BANGLADESH ALPA** for which we are truly thankful.

COMMITTEE SESSIONS

Committee Sessions are convened to facilitate presentation and debate of Introductory Papers. All Delegates attended the meeting .It is an open debate and discussion session. Three of us attended the separate committee meetings A/B (F/O Sohail Qureshi), C (F/O Baber Zaheer) and D (Captain Murad Arbab). These meeting basically show the audience the

recommendation made by the committee and develop Draft policy. This was informative and we will be submitting the amendment made and its recommendation. Also what IFALPA expect Member association and resolution to implement these recommendations.

After the meeting, IFALPA had arranged a trip to anthropology Museum, which was followed by Gala Dinner. Here I want to mention that such events are an excellent opportunity to interact with different Delegates. It needs to be mentioned that we gave our assurance to Delegates from Morocco who were seeking our vote as they are planning to host 2010 Annual meeting of IFALPA. There competitors were Canadian who are also hoping to host the event. It was our opinion to give chance to Africa as it would improve IFALPA rule in the region and will also encourage neighboring region to have more interaction with IFALPA.

Day 3, April 19 2008,

Day 3 started with a lovely breakfast and Regional Meeting of Asia Pacific. Executive Vice-President Asia/Pacific presented his report, which was followed by report by report of Regional Vice-Presidents.

This was followed by two election for the post of RVP Asia/West (F/O Baber Zaheer Ahmed) and South Pacific (Captain Ian Getley). Both RVP were elected unopposed.

Election was followed by country report of by each Chief Delegates. F/O Sohail Ahmed Qureshi briefed and updated the house and the EVP about the development with regards to Pakistan and PALPA. He also requested all the association that since PALPA would be seeking their help and guidance as the negotiation would start with management in coming months. EVP Captain Stu Julian offered to be available for any help PALPA would need in future.

RUNWAY SAFETY SEMINAR

At 2 pm, the Seminar for Runway Safety started and it was attended by all the 3 Delegates. This was very informative. It was addressed by a number of speaker including Airbus, Boeing and EMAS (Engineering material Arresting System) representative. They briefed the house about the Runway Incursions and Excursions over the last 10 years and what in their

assessment was the reason and remedies for such accidents/incidences. It was alarming to how many accident / incidence have taken place and all due to little negligence which are surely avoidable. In short it was emphasized that proper Training and better communication was the key to avoid any misshape and all Member Association should play their rule to achieve it.

GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner was attended by all association and in it Awards for presented to Pilots for their outstanding services to IFALPA. Among them were the Ex IFALPA President Captain Denis Dolan and RVP Asia/ East Captain Suresh.

Day 4, 20 April 2008,

Sunday was a off day and Mexican Alpa had arranged a day out. We went to a place called Teotihuacán which means “City where men become gods after they die “and it is one of the best known Archaeological sites around the world. It was a guided tour and the ceremonial centre lay out surprised all of us. We went up the Pyramids which were followed by late lunch at Restaurant *La Gruta*. La Gruta restaurant had created wonderful Mexican dishes and also has the most fascinating and exclusive ambiance. It had a unique and original atmosphere. At around 7 the buses departed back.

GALA DINNER

We were invited by the Newzeland ALPA for a Gala who are hosting the next Annual IFALPA meeting in 2009.

Day 5, 21 April 2008,

As usual, we were invited to breakfast, which was followed by Plenary Session. Here members association votes on all the recommendations made by different committees. Also the issue of MPL, Pilot shortage and soaring fuel prices and their effect on Pilots community was discussed. This was done by showing Member association various graphs and how Members association can join in to help their airlines in achieving the goals. Signing of the Covenant of the federation of new member associations was done.

After the lunch we attended **Industrial Seminar**. The subject was challenges of Globalization and how IFALPA is planning to address the

issue. One thing that needs to be mentioned here is that IFALPA is in the process of developing E-Learning which will enable each Pilot to register him/her self and learn on line and this will dramatically cut cost of training. Airbus representative introduced their plan of instructing the instructors which was also very informative. Member associations were briefed that world needs approx. 16000 pilots yearly for next two decades and we simply don't have enough resources to address the issue. Most airlines are now developing their training programs. Because of shortage of pilots it is feared that large airline will attract pilots from Low Cost carrier by offering them better wages leaving them without pilots. Soaring fuel prices have become an issue with every airlines and it amounts to approx 32% of the total cost of airlines. The projected growth of Middle East is 18 % only which is in lead from all other region in term of traffic growth. It also showed that since 2006 airline all over the world are showing profits although in 2008 the projected growth of profits will be reduced by 2 % owing to high fuel prices. In their opinion the fuel prices is not likely to come down and airlines will have to restructure in order to combat this threat. Airline all over the world are going in to merger n order to cut cost. It was also shown that unaligned airlines share of traffic is now reduced to 37 % which means that it will be difficult for airline to survive in isolation.

This was followed by private meeting between me, Bangladesh Alpa, EVP Stu Julian, RVP Asia/East and Captain Suresh. The purpose was to establish better communication.