

# GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE



# Conference Programme

16 - 17 December 2025

Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center (RICEC)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Presented by



Co-located with



**GLOBAL**  
AIRPORTS FORUM  
Saudi Airports Exhibition

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DEC 16-17, 2025 ✈️ RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA



## 2025 SPEAKERS



Delip Prasad  
Head of Market MENA,  
Munich Airport  
International  
**Munich Airport**



Dr. Bader Al Aydi,  
Chairman,  
Aviation Department  
**Prince Sultan University**



Eng. Daniyar Tule  
Chief Flight Inspection  
Engineer  
**Samana Special Mission**



Heba Gouda  
Vice President, Global  
Operations  
**American Associations  
of Airport Executives**



Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E.  
**IACE's Airport**  
Management Advisor



Jihad Boueri  
Vice President – Strategy  
& Transformation -  
Middle East & Africa –  
**SITA**



Kevin Bumen, A.A.E.,  
C.A.E. IAAE Chair, Chief  
Financial & Commercial  
Officer  
**San Francisco  
International Airport**



Khurram Qureshi, Project  
Manager, Dubai Air  
Navigation Services  
(dans)  
**Dubai International  
Airport**



Lance Lyttle, IAP, CEO,  
Aviation Authority,  
**Orlando International  
Airport, USA**



Maxim Romanenko, IAP,  
Aviation Expert,  
Consultant and Author,  
**Kazakhstan**



Professor Dr.  
Mohammad Nurunnabi,  
Founding Director -  
Center for Sustainability  
and Climate Aide to the  
President  
**Prince Sultan University**



Susan Warner Dooley,  
A.A.E., IAP, Aviation Chief  
Commercial Officer  
**Port Authority of NY & NJ**



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## MORE CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

Abdelilah Aleidi  
Vice President of Global  
Sales  
**flynas**



Aiman Arab  
Chairman  
**Egyptian Aviation  
Holding Company,**  
Aviation and Air  
Navigation ECAAN



Ali Rashed, Chief, Airport  
Operations

**Bahrain Airport**



Captain Ahmed Al  
Zuhairi, Vice President,  
Safety  
**Riyadh Air**



Chris Jack  
Program Director at  
**Neom Airports**, Charity  
Chair/Trustee, Business  
Coach, AECOM



David Studden  
Global Sales &  
Partnership Manager  
**Etihad Aviation**



Dr. Mashael Al Qahtani  
Nationalization Director,  
**GACA**



Heba Al Kurdi  
Professor  
**King Saud University**



Husain Al Hallaf  
Aviation Safety Professor  
**Prince Sultan  
University**



Julius Norkunas  
CEO  
**Aeroclass.org**



Khalid Al Harthi  
Advisor VP of Strategy  
**GACA**



Majid Khan  
CEO  
**Air Connectivity  
Program Saudi Arabia**



Mohamed Yahya  
Professor, Aviation  
Management at **Prince  
Sultan University**



Mohammed Al Bayoud  
Expert of Advance Air  
Mobility Regulations  
**GACA**



Mohsin Abdul Jawad  
Head of Brand &  
Communication  
**Air Connectivity  
Program Saudi Arabia**



Oliver Weiss  
Chief Operating Officer  
**Fraport - Saudi Arabia**



Syed Mehdi AAE  
VP Airport Planning,  
Strategic  
**Metropolitan Nashville  
Airport Authority**



Metropolitan Nashville  
Airport Authority™

## Speaker photos coming soon

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## AGENDA

Meeting #251111  
(Subject to change)

### Day One: Setting the Stage for Transformation

Tuesday, December 16

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

#### Networking Breakfast

9:00 - 9:15 a.m.

#### Welcome and Overview

Heba Gouda  
Vice President, Global Operations  
American Associations of Airport Executives

Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair Chief Financial and Commercial  
Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

Raed bin Hassan Al-Idrissi  
CEO  
MATARAT

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

#### Overview of Global Aviation Trends, Industry Outlook

9:15 - 9:35 a.m.

#### Keynote Speaker: (TBD)

Prince Sultan University  
PSU Strategic Direction in Enabling the Saudi Aviation Strategy.

9:35 - 9:55 a.m.

#### Keynote Speaker

Aiman Arab **(Confirmed)**  
Chairman  
Egyptian Holding Company, Aviation and Air Navigation ECAAN

*Overview of the launch of Terminal 4 at Cairo International Airport as a  
benchmark airport terminal - Operational Technology vs Operational  
Systems*

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## Keynote Speaker

9:55 - 10:15 a.m.

**Ali Rashed (Confirmed)**  
Chief, Airport Operations  
Bahrain Airport

*ORAT case study for Bahrain Airport*

## Session 1 - AI-and Automation in Smart Airports

*Exploring the role of AI, automation, and digital transformation in airport operations. Industry leaders will discuss innovations driving smarter airports and the future of automated systems.*

### Moderator:

**Maxim Romanenko, IAP (Confirmed)**  
Aviation Expert, Consultant and Author, Kazakhstan

### Speakers:

10:15 - 11:15 a.m.

**Jihad Boueri, Vice President – Strategy & Transformation - Middle East & Africa – SITA (Confirmed)**

**Oliver Weiss (Confirmed)**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Fraport - Saudi Arabia

**Lance Lyttle, IAP (Confirmed)**  
CEO, Aviation Authority  
Orlando International Airport, USA

**Syed Mehdi AAE (Confirmed)**  
VP Airport Planning, Strategic  
Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority

11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

## Networking Break

*(official opening of the Global Airports Forum)*

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## Session 2 - Attracting the Next Generation – AI and Workforce Innovation

*This session will explore the challenges the aviation industry faces in attracting future leaders and younger generations to pursue careers in aviation. With aviation programs struggling to appeal to high school students, panelists will discuss strategies to make the industry more attractive. Topics will include the role of regulators, airlines, airports, and universities in promoting aviation careers, successful workforce development initiatives, and international best practices that can be adapted across regions. Additionally, the session will examine how AI and emerging technologies can support workforce innovation and skills development.*

### Moderator:

Dr. Bader Al Aydi **(Confirmed)**  
Chairman, Aviation Department  
Prince Sultan University

### Speakers:

Maxim Romanenko, IAP **(Confirmed)**  
Aviation Expert, Consultant and Author  
Kazakhstan

Julius Norkunas **(Confirmed)**  
CEO  
Aeroclass.org

Dr. Mashael Al Qahtani **(Confirmed)**  
Nationalization Director  
GACA

David Studden **(Confirmed)**  
Global Sales & Partnership Manager  
Etihad Aviation

11:45 - 12:45 p.m.



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## Session 3 - The Rise of Spaceports in Aviation – Bridging Aerospace and Commercial Airports

*Exploring the integration of spaceports into commercial aviation, addressing regulatory, operational, and business opportunities for airports in the growing space industry.*

12:45 - 1:45 p.m.

### Moderator

Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E (TBC)  
IACE's Airport Management Advisor

### Speakers (TBD)

## Networking Lunch and Visit with GAF Exhibitors

1:45 - 2:45 p.m.

## Session 4 - Airline Industry Trends and Regional Growth

*Post-pandemic recovery, fleet modernization, air cargo expansion, ground handling innovations, and sustainability efforts. How airlines are adapting to the changing aviation landscape.*

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

### Moderator (Confirmed)

Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair (confirmed) Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

### Speakers

Julius Norkunas **(Confirmed)**  
CEO, Aeroclass.org

David R. Fiore, JD, CM (Invited)  
Airport Affairs, Operations & Planning, FedEx Express

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2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

Mohamed Yahya **(Confirmed)**  
Professor, Aviation Management at PSU

Hamdi Osman (Invited)  
Founder and CEO, SolitAir Holding Ltd

Abdelilah Aleidi **(Confirmed)**  
Vice President of Global Sales, Flynas

3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

## **Session 5 - Enhancing Passenger Experience and Operational Readiness**

*This session will focus on innovations and strategies to elevate the passenger experience, including biometric technology, contactless solutions, and future terminal redesigns. Additionally, it will address operational readiness, risk management, and contingency planning for smooth airport operations.*

### **Moderator:**

Lance Lyttle, IAP **(Confirmed)**  
CEO, Aviation Authority  
Orlando International Airport & Orlando Executive Airport , USA

### **Speakers:**

Susan Warner Dooley, A.A.E., IAP **(Confirmed)**  
Aviation Chief Commercial Officer  
Port Authority of NY & NJ

Delip Prasad **(Confirmed)**  
Head of Market MENA  
Munich Airport International, Munich Airport

Chris Jack **(Confirmed)**  
Program Director at Neom Airports, Charity Chair/Trustee, Business Coach.  
AECOM

7 - 9 p.m.

## **Official Conference Dinner**

*Hosted by General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA)/MATARAT Holding*



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## Day Two: Shaping the Future: Innovation, Resilience, and Connectivity in Aviation

Wednesday, December 17

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

### Networking Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

### Session 6 - Advanced Air Mobility

*This session will explore the evolution and future of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), with a particular focus on how innovative technologies like electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft are reshaping aviation in line with the highest global standards and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. The session will address challenges related to airspace integration, safety, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure, highlighting how AAM can revolutionize urban mobility, alleviate congestion, and serve as a critical component in sustainable city planning. Through discussions on key initiatives within Saudi Arabia, such as the NEOM project and national airspace development, stakeholders will share insights into sector collaboration needed to unlock the full potential of AAM in both regional and global aviation.*

### Moderator (TBD)

#### Speakers

Khalid Al Harthi **(Confirmed)**  
Advisor VP of Strategy, GACA

Khurram Qureshi **(Confirmed)**  
Project Manager Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans), Dubai International Airport

Mohammed Al Bayoud **(Confirmed)**  
Expert of Advance Air Mobility Regulations, GACA

Heba Al Kurdi **(Confirmed)**  
Professor, King Saud University

Eng. Daniyar Tule **(Confirmed)**  
Chief Flight Inspection Engineer, Samana Special Mission

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## Session 7 - The Future of Aviation in a Sustainable World

*Industry leaders discuss global decarbonization efforts and the role of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), green technologies, and innovations in reducing the aviation industry's carbon footprint.*

### Moderator

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi **(Confirmed)**  
Founding Director - Center for Sustainability and Climate Aide to the President; Chair - Accounting, Prince Sultan University

### Speaker

Mohamed Abubaker Farea (to be invited)  
Regional Director, Middle East Regional Office  
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

## Networking Break with GAF Exhibitors

## Session 8 - The Power of Aviation Connectivity

*Exploring how airports and regions leverage connectivity to drive development. The session will discuss the role of data, international and local airport business models, and the function of hubs in fostering growth.*

### Moderator (TBD)

### Speakers

11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair **(Confirmed)**  
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

Mohsin Abdul Jawad **(Confirmed)**  
Head of Brand & Communication  
Air Connectivity Program Saudi Arabia

Majid Khan **(Confirmed)**  
CEO, Air Connectivity Program Saudi Arabia

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## Speakers

11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Abuliah Aleidi **(Confirmed)**

Vice President, Global Sale, Flynas Airline

Joe Esposito (Invited)

Senior Vice President - Network Planning, Pricing and Revenue Management, Delta Air Lines

## Session 9 - Optimizing Airspace Management: Balancing Growth, Innovation, and Operational Efficiency

*Focus on addressing airspace congestion, integrating new technologies, and enhancing collaboration between stakeholders to ensure efficiency and safety in high-density regions.*

### Moderator (TBD)

#### Speakers:

Husain Al Hallaf **(Confirmed)**

Aviation Safety Professor, PSU

Captain Ahmed Al Zuhairi **(Confirmed)**

Vice President, Safety

Riyadh Air

Ayman Arab (Invited)

The Chairman and CEO of the Egyptian Holding Company – Airports and ANS

Giulio de Carli (Invited)

President, Air Tech Italy

Air Traffic Control Association (TBD)

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

## Conference Adjournment

1:30 - 5 p.m.

## Networking Lunch and visit with Exhibitors