

# GLOBAL AIRPORTS FORUM— GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE

Dec 16-17, 2025 ✈️ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

IAAE

NICHE  
IDEAS



NCX



## AGENDA

(Subject to change)

### Day 1: Setting the Stage for Transformation

#### Tuesday, December 16

8:30-9 a.m.                      Networking Breakfast

9-9:15 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/AAAE Secretary/Treasurer*  
Chief Financial and Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

Raed bin Hassan Al-Idrissi  
CEO  
MATARAT

#### 9:15- 10:15                      **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.	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Aiman Arab Chairman Egyptian Holding Company Aviation and Air Navigation (EHCAAN) <i>Overview of the launch of Terminal 4 at Cairo International Airport as a benchmark airport terminal - Operational Technology vs. Operational Systems</i>
9:55-10:15 a.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker</b> Ali Rashed Chief, Airport Operations Bahrain Airport <i>ORAT case study for Bahrain Airport</i>
10:15-11:15 a.m.	<b>Session 1: AI and Automation in Smart Airports</b> <i>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.</i>
Moderator:	Maxim Romanenko, IAP Aviation Expert, Consultant and Author Kazakhstan
Speaker:	Jihad Boueri Vice President, Strategy & Transformation - Middle East & Africa SITA  Oliver Weiss Chief Operating Officer Fraport - Saudi Arabia  Lance Lyttle, IAP Chief Executive Officer Greater Orlando Airport Authority  Khaled Hashem President Middle East & Africa Honeywell  Andrija Brstina Head of Process Excellence Abu Dhabi Airports

11:15-11:45 a.m.     **Networking Break** (*official opening of the Global Airports Forum (formerly the Saudi Airport Exhibition)*)

11:45 a.m.-  
12:45 p.m.     **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  
Chairman, Aviation Department  
Prince Sultan University

Speakers:     Maxim Romanenko, IAP  
Aviation Expert, Consultant and Author  
Kazakhstan

Julius Norkunas  
CEO  
Aeroclass.org

Dr. Mashael Al Qahtani  
Nationalization Director  
GACA

David Studden  
Global Sales & Partnership Manager  
Etihad Aviation

Majid Khan  
CEO  
Air Connectivity Program Saudi Arabia

12:45-1:45 p.m.

**Session 3: The Rise of Space ports 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.*

Moderator : Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E., IACE  
Airport Management Advisor

Speakers: Mark VanLoh, A.A.E.  
CEO  
Jacksonville Aviation Authority

Chris Runde  
Vice President  
Introba

Jeff Kloska, A.A.E  
Director  
Colorado Air and Space Port

Don Zoufal  
President/Founder  
CrowZnest Consulting

1:45-2:45 p.m.

**Networking Lunch and Visit with Global Airports Forum Exhibitors**

2:45-3:45 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.*

Moderator: Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair/AAAE Secretary/Treasurer  
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

Speakers: Julius Norkunas  
CEO  
Aeroclass.org

Hamdi Osman  
Founder and CEO  
SolitAir Holding Ltd.

Abdelilah Aleidi  
Vice President of Global Sales  
Flynas (Dubai)

Alan Lim  
Director  
Alton Aviation Consultancy (UAE)

David Fiore, JD, C.M.  
Airport Affairs, Operations & Planning  
FedEx Express

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  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Orlando Airport Authority

Speakers: Susan Warner Dooley, A.A.E., IAP  
Aviation Chief Commercial Officer  
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Delip Prasad  
Head of Market MENA  
Munich Airport International

Chris Jack  
Program Director at Neom Airports

Charity Chair/Trustee, Business Coach  
AECOM

Christina Apatow  
CEO  
FetchyFox

Ali Bora Isbulan  
Deputy CEO  
Plaza Premium Group

Natalie Salinas  
Founder & CEO  
Nth Consulting Group

7-9 p.m.

**Official Conference Dinner**

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

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

**Wednesday, December, 17**

8:30-9 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

9-10 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: Fahad ibne Masood, MRAeS  
Strategic Aviation Leader | Pioneering Regulatory Frameworks for  
UAS, AAM and eVTOL |  
Airport Management  
Sultanate of Oman

Speakers: Khalid Al Harthi  
Advisor Vice President of Strategy  
GACA

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

Mohammed Al Bayoud  
Expert of Advance Air Mobility Regulations  
GACA

Heba Al Kurdi  
Professor  
King Saud University

Eng. Daniyar Tule  
Chief Flight Inspection Engineer  
Samana Special Mission

10-11 a.m. **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: Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi  
Founding Director - Center for Sustainability and Climate  
Aide to the President; Chair - Accounting  
Prince Sultan University

Speaker: Emad Alharbi  
Mobility Decarbonizations Director  
SWD

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

11-11:30 a.m.      **Networking Break with GAF Exhibitors**

11:30 a.m.-  
12:30 p.m.      **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:      Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E., IAAE Chair/AAAE Secretary/Treasurer  
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

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

Mohamed Yahya  
Professor Aviation Management  
PSU

12:30-1:30 p.m.      **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:      Captain Fahad ibne Masood, MRaES  
Strategic Aviation Leader | Pioneering Regulatory Frameworks for UAS, AAM & eVTOL | Faculty – Aviation Management, Airport Management Business & Economics  
Sultanate of Oman

Speakers:      Aiman Arab  
Chairman  
Egyptian Holding Company Airports and Air Navigation (EHCAAN)



Dr. Ahmed Al Zuhairi  
Vice President, Safety  
Riyadh Air

Joseph Alesia  
Executive Director, Head of Advanced Air Mobility  
NEOM

Giulio de Carli  
President  
Air Tech Italy

1:30 p.m. Conference Adjournment

1:30-5 p.m. Networking Lunch and visit with Exhibitors