

# GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE

DEC 16-17, 2025 ✈️ RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA



## AGENDA

Meeting # 251111  
(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*  
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.        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*

9:55-10:15 a.m.

**Keynote Speaker:**

Ali Rashed **(Confirmed)**  
Chief, Airport Operations  
Bahrain Airport  
*ORAT case study for Bahrain Airport*

10:15-11:15 a.m.

**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

Speaker:

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

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

Lance Lyttle, IAP **(Confirmed)**  
Managing Director, Aviation  
Port of Seattle, USA

Marcel Stroop **(invited)**  
Director Business Development  
Royal Schiphol Airport Group

11:15 – 11:45am

**Networking Break** *(official opening of the Saudi Airport Exhibition)*

11:45 -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 **(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. Mashaal Al Qahtani **(Confirmed)**  
Nationalization Director  
GACA

David Newton Studden, **(Confirmed)**  
Global Sales & Partnership Manager, Etihad Aviation Training , Abu-Dhabi Airport

Modi AlKhalaf **(invited)**  
Training Director  
Riyadh Air

12:45- 1:45 pm **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.*

Moderator: TBD

Speakers: Saudi Space Agency (TBD)  
FAA (TBD)

1:45-2:45 pm **Networking Lunch and Visit with SAE 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 (confirmed)**  
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

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

Monica Mejstrikova **(invited)**  
Director GH  
IATA

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

Riyadh Air (TBD)

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)**  
Managing Director, Aviation  
Port of Seattle, USA

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

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

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

Samy Petal **(invited)**  
Vice President, Commercial & CEO of Midway Partnership  
Vantage Group

Christina Apatow **(invited)**  
CEO  
FetchyFox

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 am 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: Adam Goldstein **(to be invited)**  
CEO, Joby Aviation

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

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

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

Marios Sentris **(invited)**  
Head of Aviation EMEA for Europe and Middle East.  
Parsons

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

10-11 am

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

Speaker: Dr. Bader Alaydi, Chairman, Aviation Department, Prince Sultan  
University **(Confirmed)**

Signature Aviation (**invited**)

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

FAA (TBD)

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

11:30- 12:30 pm **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: Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair **(Confirmed)**  
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial  
San Francisco International Airport

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

Joe Esposito **(invited)**  
Senior Vice President - Network Planning, Pricing and Revenue  
Management

Delta Air Lines

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:

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

Speakers:

Husain Al Hallaf **(Confirmed)**  
Aviation Safety Professor  
PSU

Ayman Arab **(invited)**  
Chairman and CEO  
The Egyptian Holding Company – Airports and ANS

Giulio de Carli **(invited)**  
President, Air Tech Italy

Air Traffic Control Association **(TBD)**

1:30 -2:30 p.m.

**Session 10- Health and Well-being in Aviation**

*Strategies for managing public health crises in aviation, drawing lessons from COVID-19 and innovations in health screening technologies to ensure a safer travel experience and workplace.*

Moderator:

TBD

Speakers:

Dr. Hassan Naggadi **(Confirmed)**  
Aviation Medicine Consultant  
GACA

2:30 pm

Conference Adjournment

2:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch and visit with Exhibitors