International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) continued in 2003 to promote the safety and efficiency of civil air transport by prescribing standards and recommending practices and procedures for facilitating international civil aviation operations. Its objectives were set forth in annexes to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, adopted in Chicago, United States, in 1944 (the Chicago Convention).

In 2003, domestic and international scheduled traffic of the world’s airlines increased to some 404 billion tonne-kilometres. Overall, passenger traffic increased by just over 1 per cent to some 1,666 billion, and freight carriage increased by almost 10 per cent to about 35 million tonnes. The passenger load factor on scheduled services in 2003 remained at approximately 71 per cent. Air freight increased by almost 5 per cent to 125.2 billion tonne-kilometres, and airmail traffic increased by 1 per cent to 4.6 billion tonne-kilometres. Overall passenger/freight/mail tonne-kilometres increased by almost 2 per cent, while there was little change in international tonne-kilometres.

The Council of ICAO held three regular sessions in 2003. The thirty-fourth ICAO Assembly elected a new Council and, among other things, adopted a resolution to finance aviation security activities of member States.

ICAO observed International Civil Aviation Day (7 December) under the theme “For 60 Years... Setting the Standards for International Civil Aviation”, to mark the creation of ICAO on that day in 1944.

In 2003, ICAO membership remained at 188 countries.

Activities

Air navigation

ICAO continued to update and implement international specifications and regional plans, with particular emphasis on safety, communications, navigation and surveillance/air traffic management (CNS/ATM) systems. The specifications consisted of International Standards and Recommended Practices contained in 18 technical annexes to the 1944 Chicago Convention, and Procedures for Air Navigation Services (PANS).

In 2003, seven air navigation meetings were convened, all in Montreal. The meetings dealt with, among other things, aeronautical telecommunications, airworthiness of aircraft, the safe transport of dangerous goods by air, flight crew licensing and training, standards, and recommended practices relating to aeronautical navigation issues and operational issues.

The Council adopted amendments to 10 technical annexes to the Chicago Convention and approved amendments to three PANS documents.

Other projects that were given special attention in 2003 included accident prevention, investigation and incident data reporting; aviation environmental matters; aerodromes, including licensing/certification; the aeronautical electromagnetic spectrum, with particular regard to ICAO’s position for the International Telecommunication Union’s World Radiocommunication Conference (2003); aeronautical information services; aeronautical meteorology; airworthiness; aviation medicine; bird strikes to aircraft; controlled flight into terrain; flight safety and human factors; operations; personnel licensing and training; safety aspects of aviation security; safety oversight; and the TRAINAIR Programme, which established and maintained training standards.

Air transport

ICAO’s air transport programmes were directed towards economic analysis, policy, forecasting and planning; collection and publication of air transport statistics; airport and route facility management; economic and organizational aspects of CNS/ATM systems coordination; economic aspects of environmental protection; the promotion of greater facilitation in international air transport; and aviation security.

The Fifth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (Montreal, 24-28 March) focused on developing a global framework for ongoing liberalization and adopted a Declaration of Global Principles for Liberalization of International Air Transport.

Significant progress was made in the implementation of the ICAO Aviation Security Plan of Action. The Aviation Security Audit Unit continued the implementation of the Universal Security Audit Programme. Twenty member States were audited by ICAO aviation security.
audit teams. New and emerging threats to civil aviation, such as man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), were the subject of the Aviation Security Panel deliberations. In order to assist States in the development of countermeasures against MANPADS, additional guidance material was developed.

ICAO continued to provide secretariat services to three regional civil aviation bodies—the African Civil Aviation Commission, the European Civil Aviation Conference and the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission.

Legal matters
On 9 June, the Council of ICAO approved the draft participation agreement relating to the global aviation war risk insurance scheme. On 4 November, the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, signed at Montreal on 28 May 1999, entered into force, having been ratified by 30 States. By the end of the year, the Convention had 34 parties.

Technical cooperation
In 2003, the ICAO technical cooperation programme undertook 123 projects in 59 developing countries. The programme, financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), trust funds, management service agreements and the Civil Aviation Purchasing Services, had total expenditures of $105.4 million. Some 86.7 per cent of that amount was provided by Governments to fund their own projects on the basis of cost-sharing with UNDP.

A total of 507 fellowships were awarded in 2003, of which 474 were taken up.

ICAO employed 420 experts from 38 countries, of whom 77 were on assignment under UNDP and 358 on trust fund projects. Equipment purchases in 2003 totalled $82.8 million, compared to $39.16 million in 2002. ICAO had resident missions in 68 countries.

Secretariat
As at 31 December 2003, ICAO employed 794 staff members, including 345 in the Professional and higher categories and 449 in the General Service and related categories.

Budget
Appropriations for the ICAO budget in 2003 were $58,415,389.