



NEWS RELEASE

Aviation & Environment: Impact on Small Islands

IATA DG and CEO addresses key policy-makers and the business community in Mauritius

Giovanni Bisignani, IATA DG & CEO addressed key policy-makers and the business community today and urged Mauritius to take a leading role in air transport liberalisation, efficiency and environmental issues.

"Air Transport brings enormous economic benefits. Nowhere is that more evident than in Mauritius where air transport is the backbone driving the tourism industry. As a result, Mauritius has taken a leadership role in global aviation" said the IATA DG and CEO. The industry, he said, is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis and there is a need for the Istanbul Declaration to be put into action : Labour to understand the need for change, monopoly suppliers to improve efficiencies and governments to regulate monopolies, improve infrastructure and expand commercial freedoms.

The IATA DG & CEO commended Mauritius and Air Mauritius "Mauritius plays above its weight as a leader for international aviation. Sanjay Bhuckory is on our Board, Minister Duval, Permanent Secretary Roy and MK CEO, Manoj Ujoodha actively participated in our Agenda for Freedom Summit last week-end and had a great story to tell about the courageous decision of the Mauritian Government to go for a carefully planned liberalisation which created tough competition but where Air Mauritius emerged as a much stronger player in the global market."

Sanjay Bhuckory, The Air Mauritius Chairman and IATA Governor, in his introductory speech stated "Mr Bisignani needs no introduction. He has earned respect in the global aviation world thanks to his relentless drive and dedication to promote the aviation industry. I can vouch for the fact that Mr Bisignani has indeed revolutionized IATA."

He further added that aviation, the environment, tourism and sustainable development are all part of a very complex equation, where the respective components affect one another, whilst there is a delicate and intricate balance to be struck among them.



"Air Mauritius is mindful of its commercial exigencies and remains utterly vigilant in the face of the present crisis. We make no apology for advocating to be a strong national carrier, because all said and done, it is Air Mauritius that has catalysed the tourism industry through thick and thin." concluded Sanjay Bhuckory.

Manoj R K Ujoodha, G.O.S.K., CEO of Air Mauritius, while doing the vote of thanks, stated that Air Mauritius founding fathers had envisioned a strong national airline supporting the economic development of the country; open enough to allow foreign airlines to be shareholders and therefore designing a unique model of public/private partnership. "Air Mauritius" is the lifeline of the country and is also its life insurance against isolation. A national airline is not a luxury. It is indeed an essence for survival. We are therefore comforted by IATA's pragmatic stand to liberalisation and their support to the careful planned approach of the Mauritian Government."

Manoj R K Ujoodha also said that Air Mauritius had a tough year, as all airlines this year, but that the transformation process initiated two years back, and the continuous search for efficiency gains, had helped mitigate what could have been a deadly blow to the national airline.

He also took on the suggestion of Mr Bisignani and invited a new partnership between Government, trade and business partners, and stakeholders at large, for the "sustainability of an industry we all depend so much upon."

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Air Mauritius is the national carrier of the Republic of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Created in 1967, it currently operates a fleet of five A340-300, two A340-300E, two A319-100, one A330-200 and two ATR72-500. Air Mauritius presently flies to twenty-four destinations in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Indian Ocean.

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