

Report of the Conference Coordinator

Presented by Jez Pigden

SUMMARY

This report details the work of the Conference Coordinator since the Abu Dhabi conference in 2025.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. I was appointed as Conference Coordinator in June 2021. Abu Dhabi 2025 was the 13th conference I had attended in person since my first in Arusha in 2008. Every year the Organising Committee (OC) is new and learning for the first time the multitude of tasks that need to be carried out to make conference run smoothly. It is to their credit, that every year, despite the lack of experience, they, together with the IFATCA team continue to deliver an excellent event.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. Abu Dhabi 2025

- 2.1.1. Omar Abdouli and his team hosted an excellent conference, with many complimentary comments from delegates. As always, we continue to learn and with their help lessons were identified going forward for future conferences.

2.2. Romania 2026

- 2.2.1. I attended a pre-conference inspection in January 2025, and a follow-up in February 2026 hosted by Cristian Radu and the team from RATCA.
- 2.2.2. Since the Abu Dhabi conference, Cristian and his team have been working hard with the Comms and Industry Partners team and I to put together an effective conference. I want to record my thanks to them for their help and hard work.

2.3. Uganda 2027

2.3.1. I attended a pre-conference inspection in Kampala in February 2024, hosted by Tonny Kepler and Timothy Agaba.

2.4. 2028

2.4.1. There is one expression of interest in hosting the 2028 conference, and they will be elected at this conference. I am looking forward to working with the OC of that country over the coming two years.

2.5. Administration

2.5.1. The Conference Organising Requirements (COR) and annual conference guidelines continue to be a work in progress. This work has continued over the last year, and a new version (4.6) has been issued.

2.5.2. We trialled the use of Conference Checklists at the Abu Dhabi conference and found them very useful. Following feedback, amendments were made. We integrated them into the COR, and we have been using them in the planning, and at this conference.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. Bucharest will be the fourth that I have worked on as Conference Coordinator and the role continues to be hugely rewarding, but also very time consuming! I would like to thank DP, JF Lepage, Communications coordinator, Nicola Ni-Riada for their help and friendship. Additionally, a huge thanks to Industry partners' coordinator Philippe Domogala who is stepping down after around 150 years working on behalf of IFATCA- enjoy your retirement! I'd also like to thank all the volunteers on the organising committees and IFATCA officials for their hard work and help over the last year.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. None

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