

**EVP Asia Pacific Report  
Presented by EVP ASP Cheryl Chen****SUMMARY**

The report summarizes the work that has been done and is in progress within the Asia Pacific Region from the ASP regional meeting in Macau (20-22 Oct) to the Annual Conference in Romania 2026.

**1. Attended Meetings, Workshops and International Collaboration****1.1 ICAO APAC ANSPs Committee (AAC), Hong Kong, 9-10 Dec**

1.1.1 IFATCA is one of the 3 international organization members (CANSO and IATA) of the APAC ANSP Committee. This Committee carries some critical ANS/ATM modernisation work in this region, therefore, being part of the committee will give IFATCA better access to the progressive work that is critical to ATCs. In the following paragraphs reported solid progress across all four Work Streams, addressing key enablers for future air navigation services, including planning, trajectory-based operations, ATFM, contingency preparedness, and airspace modernisation.

1.1.2 WS1 – Evidence-based regional planning : WS1 completed multiple regional surveys throughout 2025, with outcomes to be shared with the AAC in the near term. These results are expected to support data-driven decision-making and future regional planning initiatives.

1.1.3 WS2 – TBO, ATFM, and performance management advances: WS2 delivered significant outcomes, including milestones under the Asia-Pacific TBO Pathfinder Project (TBO communications material, executive engagement in Hanoi, FF-ICE/R1 lab demonstrations, and a TBO Roadmap endorsed at ATM/SG/13 for inclusion in the APAC Seamless ANS Plan). Progress was also reported on next-generation ATFM, regional collaborative operational mechanisms, and performance management initiatives, including a Regional Data Management Framework, a data-sharing survey, and a Gate-to-Gate Efficiency Study.

1.1.4 WS3 – Global contingency framework development: ICAO Headquarters is developing a Global Contingency Framework, with a dedicated ICAO workshop scheduled for July 2026. IFATCA remains actively engaged in WS3, representing the WS to be part of the CNASO Global Compass

Workgroup for developing a platform to better process the information for ATFM. IFATCA will continue contributing operational and human-centred perspectives to this work.

- 1.1.5 WS4 – Free Route Operations guidance: WS4 is progressing the development of Free Route Operations guidance material, with publication anticipated in Q2 2026. The Guidance Material is now under review and the two members from the regional Team, Umi and Marnie, help provide input to the documents.

## **1.2 APAC ATCO Competency Enhancement and Collaborative Development Workshop in Xi'an by IATA and ATMB**

- 1.2.1 Renz Bulseco has assumed the role of Regional Chair for Training for the Asia Pacific Region, bringing extensive operational and training experience to the position.
- 1.2.2 In his role representing IFATCA, Mr. Bulseco participated in the APAC ATCO Competency Enhancement and Collaborative Development Workshop hosted by ATMB and IATA in Xi'an, China. The four-day event convened ANSPs, airlines, and aviation experts to examine training modernization, operational resilience, and collaborative ATFM. Discussions were framed by China's rapidly expanding ATC environment, characterized by high traffic volumes, a relatively young controller workforce, and a lengthy training pipeline, underscoring the urgency of adapting training systems to growth and technological change.
- 1.2.3 Competency-Based Training and Assessment (CBTA) emerged as a central focus, with participants sharing both progress and challenges, particularly in bridging academic training and operational application. The workshop highlighted emerging tools such as AI-supported training aids, cloud-based simulation, and long-term performance monitoring. Additional sessions addressed fatigue risk management and GNSS interference, emphasizing data-driven and human-centred safety approaches. Overall, the engagement reinforced the shared regional objective of building a resilient, future-ready ATCO training and safety ecosystem across the Asia Pacific Region.

## **1.3 ICAO APAC & EUR/NAT CMAC/FUA WORKSHOP**

- 1.3.1 In September last year, the Asia and Pacific Office of ICAO hosted a regional workshop focused on the implementation of Free Route Airspace (FRA). Over the preceding two years, IFATCA was represented at this forum by EVP EUR Frederic Deleau, who shared Europe's experience and lessons learned from the progressive and mature implementation of FRA across the European region. These contributions provided valuable strategic and operational insights to APAC stakeholders as they explored the feasibility and implications of similar concepts within their own airspace structures.
- 1.3.2 As elements of User Preferred Routes (UPR) have now reached a more mature stage of implementation in parts of the Asia Pacific region, IFATCA's representation evolved accordingly. At the most recent workshop, the APAC regional team was represented by Marnie (New Zealand) and Umi (Indonesia), who presented practical perspectives drawn from local and

sub-regional implementation efforts. Their contributions reflected a shift from conceptual learning toward operational experience-sharing, highlighting region-specific challenges, enablers, and human factors considerations as APAC moves toward more flexible and performance-based airspace concepts.

- 1.3.3 Following the workshop, IFATCA was further invited to participate in the FUA and CMC event, reflecting continued recognition of the Federation's technical expertise and operational perspective. With the formal permission of AirNav Indonesia, Umi represented IFATCA and delivered a highly successful presentation, providing practical insights grounded in regional operational experience. A comprehensive summary of IFATCA's participation and key outcomes from this event can be found in the 2026 February Circular.

#### **1.4 AACO/AAPA/ACI APAC & MID & IFATCA Safety Culture Survey**

- 1.4.1 The Asia Pacific & Middle East Safety Culture Survey is now open, of which Ms. Marnie, the regional chair on safety, is involved from the IFATCA ASP side. This survey is being conducted jointly with the Arab Air Carriers' Organization, the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines, the Airports Council International Asia-Pacific & Middle East, and the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations. It represents a newly revised edition of earlier joint safety culture surveys conducted in 2014/2015 and 2019, and marks IFATCA's first participation in the 2026 edition. The revisions place increased emphasis on positive safety culture elements, with the objective of assessing whether material changes have occurred in the prevailing safety culture across the aviation industry.

- 1.4.2 Safety culture remains a foundational element of effective safety management systems within aviation organizations. The primary objective of this survey is to collect reliable and representative data on safety culture from personnel working in airfield-related environments, including airport operators, airlines, ground handling providers, and aircraft maintenance organizations. All responses will be treated as confidential and analysed by ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East, with results presented exclusively in aggregated form to participating organizations, ensuring that no data is attributable to individual respondents. Through this very first collaboration with ACI within ASP region, we look forward to strengthening the relationship between the two organisations.

#### **1.4.3 ICAO APAC Regional ATFM Ad Hoc Group and ATFM Survey**

- 1.4.4 IFATCA was formally invited by the Chair of the ICAO Regional ATFM Ad Hoc Group to participate in the group's work and to contribute to the development of advanced Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) concepts within the Asia Pacific region. This invitation reflects IFATCA's recognized expertise and its growing role in shaping strategic ATFM discussions at the regional level.

- 1.4.5 In response, IFATCA recommended Rick Taylor from Australia to support the group's activities. Drawing on experience gained through participation in the ICAO ATM Operations Panel, Rick rapidly assumed the co-leader role within the Ad Hoc Group. Key contributions included supporting the design and development of a regional survey aimed at assessing ICAO APAC Member States' ATFM implementation status, identifying common

challenges, and capturing expectations for the future evolution of regional ATFM frameworks.

- 1.4.6 With his role in the Ad Hoc Group, Rick will also represent IFATCA at the upcoming ICAO ATFM SG meeting in April.

## 2. IFATCA events

### 2.1 The 41<sup>st</sup> APRM

- 2.1.1 The 41st IFATCA Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM 2025) took place from 20–22 October 2025 in Macau SAR, hosted by the Macau Air Traffic Controllers Association (MATCA). MATCA previously hosted the 32nd APRM (2015), strengthening Macau’s standing as a premier conference venue.
- 2.1.2 Celebrating its 30th anniversary together with Macau International Airport, MATCA is proud to welcome delegates back to Macau, which last hosted the Regional Meeting in 2015. Themed “All Weather Operations in Aerodrome,” the event focused on resilience, safety, and operational excellence in challenging weather conditions.
- 2.1.3 The program features a wide range of expert panels, live demonstrations, and interactive sessions. Highlights include the Day 1 panel on Operations under All Weather Conditions, with contributions from regional leaders such as Chris Allan (NATs – Hong Kong), Este Ehara Rosli (AIR Lab), Marco Kok from Hong Kong Observatory, and Air Macau, moderated by John Wagstaff. A live MET–ATM collaboration show case by HKCAD (Anfernee) and HK Observatory showcase (Ira), as well as the introduction of a Regional Collaboration Platform by AIR Lab provides good insight into how MET and ATM can work better together to help the release the stress of ATCOs. Day one ends with a interactive panel moderated by IFATCA’s DP Jean Francois LePage, with 2 pilots from Air Macau and Cathay Pacific, and two of member from the regional team Greg and Umi, discussing about common topics that both ATC and Pilots want to know about in operation respectively.
- 2.1.4 Day Two began with a presentation from the International Centre for Aviation Innovation (ICAI), highlighting emerging digital tools such as AI-assisted ATFM and the “Digital ATCO Assistant” concept designed to support—not replace—the controller’s role. Ms. Cheryl Chen shared key takeaways from her recent participation in the ICAO APAC Airspace and Airport Capacity Workshop, emphasizing the importance of capacity modelling, workload assessment, and data-driven decision making for regional ATFM and CDM implementation. Entry Point North provided updates on training programs and their expanding footprint in the region. The Equity, Diversity & Inclusion team presented their ongoing initiatives, followed by reports from member associations across Asia Pacific.
- 2.1.5 On the last day of the meeting, a tutorial on “How IFATCA Works,” delivered by Mr. Renz Bulseco and Mr. Jean-François Lepage, proved especially valuable for new delegates. **The meeting concluded with the announcement of the new regional structure, introducing dedicated regional chair for Safety (Marnie Pomeroy, NZ), regional chair for**

**Operation (Alex Leung, HK), regional chair for Training(Renz Bulseco, PH) and secretariat positions (Greg Okeroa, NZ and Umi Muthiah Indonesia) to better support members and regional projects.**

**2.2 CBTA Workshop in HK**

- 2.2.1 Right after the regional meeting, the IFATCA team moved from Macau to Hong Kong. On 24–25 October 2025, IFATCA, in collaboration with the Hong Kong International Aviation Academy (HKIAA) and supported by the Hong Kong Air Traffic Controllers Association (HKATCA), co-hosted a two-day CBTA workshop for air traffic controllers at the HKIAA campus.
- 2.2.2 The workshop brought together controllers, instructors, and training managers from across the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen understanding of CBTA principles and exchange practical experiences on implementation in diverse operational and regulatory environments.
- 2.2.3 Key discussions addressed the transition from time-based to competency-based training, alignment of CBTA with evolving ATM technologies and procedures, and ensuring the “human-in-the-loop” remains central to safety and performance.
- 2.2.4 Participants shared regional challenges, including resource constraints and local adaptation of CBTA frameworks, resulting in practical insights and actionable takeaways to support progressive implementation at the national and organisational level.
- 2.2.5 Facilitated by JF Lepage, Cheryl Chen, and Renz Bulseco, the workshop underscored IFATCA’s continued leadership in advancing controller competency, professionalism, and safety, while strengthening regional collaboration to support resilient and future-ready air navigation services. Strongly positive feedback from the participants once again show case the maturity of this workshop IFATCA has developed.

**3. Member Association**

**3.1 Japan, JFATC**

- 3.1.1 The Japan Federation of Air Traffic Controllers (JFATC) is hosting the 42nd Asia Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) in Tokyo and is currently in full preparation for the event. The organising team is working closely with IFATCA’s Communications Coordinator, Nicola, to develop and coordinate sponsorship offerings for IFATCA’s industrial partners, ensuring strong industry engagement and support for the meeting.
- 3.1.2 On behalf of IFATCA and JFATC, an official invitation has been extended to the ICAO Asia and Pacific Regional Office to deliver a keynote address on safety culture at the regional meeting, which has been formally accepted. In parallel, preparations are underway for a joint session with IFALPA on the first day of the event, with discussions ongoing to finalise the session scope and logistical details, further strengthening cross-stakeholder collaboration at the regional level.

- 3.1.3 A training workshop right after the APRM is under consideration and further decision and details will be announced to the members in the region.

### **3.2 India, the Guild of ATCs**

- 3.2.1 The India ATC Guild has not yet settled its IFATCA membership fee; the current president and the former ASP regional VP of South West, Saif, declared that the guild is now undergoing presidential election, and will clear up the membership fee after the election.

- 3.2.2 The India ATC Guild published the latest issue of AABHAA, which is an initiative from the women's representatives of the India ATC Guilds, to draw attention to women's rights and empowerment. The issue feature IFATCA PCX and EVP ASP's foreword for the initiative issue in 2025, and ASP's regional secretariat Umi's life story as a female air traffic controller.

### **3.3 PATCA**

- 3.3.1 The Philippines Air Traffic Controllers Association hosted The IFATCA Technical & Operational Committee (TOC) and Professional & Legal Committee (PLC) in-person meetings to finalize working papers for this Annual Conference in Manila. Delegates additionally visited the Philippine Air Traffic Management Centre (ATMC) hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), where they exchanged operational insights with the local Air Traffic Services team and members of the PATCA.

### **3.4 Singapore, ATCA-S**

- 3.4.1 The Executive Board Meeting held in February was organized with the valued support of the Air Traffic Controllers' Association of Singapore on short notice. The Executive Board extends its sincere appreciation to the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), the President, and the members of the local association for their generous assistance in providing meeting facilities and for their warm hospitality throughout the Board's stay in Singapore.

### **3.5 Taiwan, ROCATCA**

- 3.5.1 The ROCATCA 2025 International ATC–Pilot Operational Symposium was held over two days, bringing together air traffic controllers, airline pilots, and aviation professionals from both domestic and international backgrounds. The symposium aimed to strengthen cross-domain understanding and cooperation between cockpit and control room operations, recognizing that effective communication and shared situational awareness are essential to maintaining high levels of flight safety.

- 3.5.2 A key highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Mr. David Perks, IFATCA Liaison Officer to ICAO. His presentation outlined ICAO's current and forthcoming safety priorities, including GNSS interference mitigation, human performance and mental well-being, fatigue and cognitive workload management, training and licensing, and the integration of space operations. The session provided valuable insight into global aviation safety developments and their operational implications.

3.5.3 The symposium also featured in-depth discussions on operational procedures, including the use of standardized phraseology for CLIMB/DESCEND VIA SID/STAR and the implementation of visual approaches. Airline pilots shared operational experiences from different regions, while air traffic controllers discussed traffic management considerations and support strategies. These exchanges enabled participants to better understand each other's operational constraints, workload, and decision-making processes.

3.5.4 In addition to plenary sessions, participants took part in site visits to air traffic control facilities and airline simulation centres. These hands-on activities allowed attendees to observe real-world operations and engage in scenario-based discussions, further reinforcing learning outcomes. Overall, the symposium demonstrated a strong commitment to collaborative safety, international alignment, and continuous improvement in aviation operations through cross-professional dialogue.

#### **4. Future Plan for the Region**

- 4.1 ICAO APAC GANP workshop (March) – Regional Chair of Operation Alex Leung
- 4.2 ICAO APAC ATFM SG meeting (April) – IFATCA Rep Rick Taylor
- 4.3 ACI APAC & MID Conference (May) – EVP Cheryl Chen
- 4.4 CBTA Workshop in Taipei (June)
- 4.5 CANSO APAC Conference and the 6<sup>th</sup> AAC Meeting (July) - EVP Cheryl Chen
- 4.6 Asia Pacific Summit for Aviation Safety (August) - EVP Cheryl Chen
- 4.7 APAC DGCA (Sept) – Regional Chair of Safety Marnie Pomeroy

#### **5. Conclusion**

5.1 Over recent months, the Asia Pacific regional team of International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations has continued to work with strong commitment to ensure that the professional perspectives of air traffic controllers are effectively represented in key regional and global forums. Appreciation is extended to Member Associations and institutional partners for their continued trust and support, which has enabled sustained progress in regional collaboration, the promotion of a positive safety culture, and the strengthening of aviation system resilience across the region.

5.2 As this marks my last term as Executive Vice President Asia Pacific (EVP ASP), it is particularly encouraging to note that a capable and well-balanced regional team has been successfully elected and established to carry the work forward. Special recognition is given to JF for repeated engagement in the region over the past months, including participation in the regional meeting, workshops, TOCPLC activities, and the Executive Board Meeting. Appreciation is also extended to the full Executive Board for its collective

leadership and solidarity in navigating complex challenges, demonstrating strong governance and cohesion during periods of difficulty.

5.3 The growing recognition of IFATCA on the international stage, and the increasingly positive engagement with States and international organizations, reflects the Federation's credibility and the quality of its contributions.

5.4 Finally, sincere appreciation is expressed to my ANSP, ANWS, my home Association, ROCATCA and family, whose consistent support has been instrumental in enabling my continued service to IFATCA at both regional and global levels.

## **6. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

6.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper.