

Report of the President and Chief Executer Officer

Presented by Duncan Auld

SUMMARY

This report covers the activities from the last conference in Jamaica 2023 until annual conference Singapore 2024

In a few weeks from now I will stand before you all in Singapore, not far from where I first did so in Bali 2013 as I was welcomed onto the Executive Board. It was 11 years ago, and over the years I have grown with the Federation, but also the Federation has grown with me. Having been in a leadership position of IFATCA for approx 17% of it's lifetime (or a concerning 28% of my life), I feel that the Federation is part of me, and I feel part of this amazing family.

Just as any family, we have celebrations and we have disagreements, and we have faced some challenges. The unprecedented impact of the COVID pandemic on aviation and on our profession presented us with a test like never before. It was at this time that the greatest strengths of the Federation were revealed. Although physically divided, our collective spirit forged through the isolation and we worked together to bring ourselves internally and externally through the challenges of the pandemic together. The camaraderie and unity was no less evident at our first post-pandemic annual gathering last year in Jamaica. It was breathtaking to see the enthusiasm as old friends reunite and the team spirit forged ideas and strategies for the future.

If you recall after COVID, we had put some priority into boosting the regional and implementation activities to get people back together again. We had been trialling some other initiatives and task forces to adapt to new ways of working and align with the needs of the members. So following this, over the past year we have focused on communication, internal management, and financial stability. This should set a good foundation for discussions this year on the IFATCA 2030 task force and action plans later on. The outcomes from this group will be critical to the future adaptability and relevance of the Federation. It is important that you contribute to the discussions and workshops to ensure your perspective is encompassed in the long term vision of IFATCA.

Over the years I have had many little missions that I wanted to achieve. The 2030 TF is the last project I hope which will set the Federation for the next decade or so. I wanted to make sure that we don't lose sight of our purpose which is to serve our Member Associations and therefore indirectly the air traffic controller professionals in all regions of the world.

After I joined the Executive Board I wanted to refresh the image of the Federation, to a modern and relevant organisation. We developed a new logo and style to coexist with the formal seal bringing a fresh look to the website and bringing more manuals and material accessible to the members area. Following that we developed the ifatca wiki with all the professional and technical material in one place for easy reference, thanks to JF for the time and passion moving it all online. You may have noticed recently a brand new website thanks to Philip, and this will be the foundation for even further initiatives over the coming year bringing the website as a central point of call for all our activities.

Years ago we reviewed the system of voting for TOC and PLC to promote adequate regional representation ensuring our studies and policies take advantage of our global perspectives. We also established task forces on key technical issues such as Drones, Remote Towers, which required specialist expertise, and then we expanded this concept to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and the 2030 teams. This has allowed IFATCA to be more agile and responsive, making sure we can act throughout the year on these critical issues.

The Training Task Force has a special meaning to me as I built the first course in Nairobi in 2015 as a spearhead for a larger program. I see a future where the Federation is the international expert group on ATM and provides our specialist views on all aspects of our industry as the number one, not someone else. Hopefully this presents the opportunity to bring additional income to the Federation allowing us to do more without the burden of additional subscription fees on the membership. Ideally, we would even have the potential to reduce them if the circumstances are appropriate. In any case this will take many years to achieve but we need a long term plan to offset the increasing costs of doing our work.

We have prioritised communication, building an amazing team of passionate individuals who work tirelessly to provide the link between our activities, the membership, and the wider community. I am extremely impressed with the professional image and the non stop work of this group and their leader Nicola.

A longer term strategy, which was delayed due to the pandemic, was to make Conference more focused on the needs of the Membership. While maintaining focus on the necessary administration and policies, the advantage of having our community together in one place presents many more opportunities and we are working hard to adapt the conference format to build on this.

The implementation of regional structures is a prerequisite for build-up of regional activities, and while we have some tweaks to do, the long term goal is more work and development of our people in each region, further strengthening our capacity as a professional body.

Replacing Concur with Expensify helped us simplify the life of our representatives and also get better overview and understanding of the budget controls. This financial work is complex and has taken some time, but I'm confident that we have a good foundation for financial management in the future.

The overall rationale for all these projects was, among other things, to ensure that we are a global Federation that seeks strength from our community and to make sure that we are modern, relevant, and identifiable to our members. I hope you feel this has made a difference.

But this is only the beginning. As we move forward we should consistently evaluate how the Federation functions and serves our needs internally and those of the membership. We should not be afraid to try new things and experiment, some will work some will not. But the constitution and rules must remain paramount, although admittedly they need a tidy up.

Moving forward I leave you in the trusted hands of my friends on the EB. I hope they continue the work i have started, but of course will do so in their own way. Thats the beauty of this, it's not about me, it's about us all together. The 2030 Task Force will continue to develop their roadmap. We should be ever aware of our diversity making sure we have the right mix of people on our teams and projects, but considering always the expertise and what's best in the long term for the Federation. I hope we will continue building more implementation activities putting our policies into the real world as tangible achievements for our members.

Super appreciation as always to my family and friends who have supported me over the years. Especially Rodolfo at home and his patience with all the whatsapp beeps, regular telecons, late night meetings, and travel missions away. As volunteers our family should come first but often doesn't, and their support to our dedication is just as important tonour success as our own commitment.

Thanks as always to my home association in Australia, Civil Air, and the team back there, i miss you greatly. Your consistent support over the years has been heart warming and ever appreciated.

Special recognition to the IFATCA family and especially my friends on the EB, also to the TOC, PLC, FIC, CAC, team ICAO, the Task Forces, Marc and the SESAR crew and all our other volunteers. Of course I must express my appreciation for the support from Tatiana over the years, she is a great friend and also sometimes my second mother, although I speak to her more than my real mother anyway.

Most importantly though to you, our Member Associations and members all over the world, without your membership we would not be a global community. Each member and each association is just important as another, and it is through this diversity and community that gives us strength and influence.

Congratulations to the Singapore MA, who finally have the opportunity to host the conference after several years of challenges surrounding the pandemic. They could have walked away but they didn't, they wanted to have us here and they stood by us again and again. The Singapore government is a world leader in aviation and it is a privilege to be part of the aviation community in this beautiful country.

It has been an amazing experience to be part of this great Federation. While we may not always agree, that's just life, and i know every person i have worked with believes in IFATCA

and puts their time, energy, heart and soul into the success of the Federation and the unity of the family. It am proud of where we are and to stand together with you all and represent our profession. It has been an immense privilege to represent you and I thank you for your trust in me. I hope we can all continue to work together to make IFATCA our Federation of the future, and keep air traffic controllers the future of ATM.

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