

Abu Dhabi's Bid to Host IFATCA 64th Annual Conference

Presented by Emirates Aviation Association

SUMMARY

The Emirates Aviation Association is proud to host the Annual International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Association (IFATCA) Conference in 2025 in Abu Dhabi, UAE's capital. With a dedication to enhancing safety, efficiency, and regularity in global air navigation, this event promises to elevate standards of knowledge and professionalism among Air Traffic Controllers and industry stakeholders. By fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and career enrichment, the conference provides a platform for regional and international partnerships. Hosted in collaboration with key authorities and supported by the Abu Dhabi Convention and Exhibition Bureau, IFATCA 2025 in Abu Dhabi offers a valuable opportunity for mutual benefit and advancement in the aviation sector.

1. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

- i. The Emirates Aviation Association (EAA), established in 1994, has emerged as a prominent force in the UAE's aviation landscape, boasting a diverse membership encompassing professionals, students, and enthusiasts from various industry sectors. Committed to fostering the growth of the UAE's aviation sector, the EAA collaborates closely with governmental bodies, industry stakeholders, and educational institutions to provide essential resources and support.
- ii. Abu Dhabi, the UAE's capital and largest emirate, epitomizes progress and innovation, characterized by its modern skyline, bustling shopping districts, luxurious accommodations, and captivating tourist attractions. Rooted in rich Arabian culture and values, Abu Dhabi radiates warmth and hospitality, exemplifying a spirit of tolerance and inclusivity.
- iii. Zayed International Airport (AUH) stands as a key player in the region's aviation landscape, boasting rapid growth and world-class facilities. With the capacity to serve millions of passengers annually, including the now opened Zayed International Airport, (AUH) continues to enhance the passenger experience with cutting-edge amenities.

1.1. Our objectives of hosting IFATCA 2025 are:

- 1.1.1. Connecting the ATC professionals in Abu Dhabi;
- 1.1.2. Promoting ATC profession and IFATCA in the region;
- 1.1.3. Supporting setting up new MAs to join IFATCA in the region; and
- 1.1.4. Strengthening IFATCA's relationship with UAE Aviation stakeholders
- 1.1.5. Knowledge exchange and best practices for Air Traffic Control Operations

2. ABOUT THE DESTINATION

2.1. Abu Dhabi

- Abu Dhabi: A modern city rich in heritage and hospitality.
- Blend of extraordinary skyscrapers, luxury hotels, and ancient treasures.
- Mega developments shaping the skyline for the future.
- Deeply rooted in Islamic traditions with a liberal attitude towards dress.
- Emirati people known for genuine friendliness and hospitality.
- Preservation of traditional cultural and sporting events.

2.2. INTERNATIONAL ACCESS

2.2.1. **Strategic Location:** UAE's central location serves 66% of the world's population within 8 hours flight time.

2.2.2. **Global Connectivity:** With 8 international airports and 4 carriers, UAE offers easy access worldwide, with over 1,800 flights daily.

2.2.3. Aviation Hub:

- **Four international airports** serve UAE: **Abu Dhabi (1), Dubai (2), Sharjah (1)**.
- Over **119 passenger flights** per week between USA and Abu Dhabi/Dubai.
- Daily direct flights from **400+ destinations globally**.
- Abu Dhabi Airport offers **US Customs and Border Protection facility**.

2.2.4. UAE Airlines:

- **Etihad Airways** and **Emirates Airline** connect to all continents except Antarctica.
- Low-cost carriers **Fly Dubai, Air Arabia and Wizzair** fly to 145+ destinations.

2.2.5. Visa Requirements

All bona fide visitors to the UAE are welcome, with a hassle-free visa process available through various means.

- Travelers must hold passports valid for at least six months from the entry date.
- Over **80 nationalities** receive a **30-day visa stamp free of charge upon arrival**, while other citizens with US visas or Green Cards can obtain a 14-day entry visa upon arrival, extendable once for a similar period, with specific validity requirements.
- Nationals from countries not on the list must arrange visas in advance, particularly for exhibitions or conferences.
- Visas can be processed through UAE-based airlines and travel agents.

2.5.5. Emirates Aviation Associations confirms that no nationalities will be prevented from attending the conference as per IFATCA guidelines.

2.3. CLIMATE:

2.3.1. The UAE climate during the planned dates, the weather isn't overly hot, so this is a great time of year to relax on the beach or explore the city. The average temperature in Abu Dhabi is a warm **23°C, with highs of 38°C** in the peak of the afternoon.

Weather in the Month of May

Temperature: 23°C-38°C / 73°F - 100°F

Rainfall: 10mm

2.4. EXCHANGE RATES AND CREDIT CARDS

2.4.1. The Emirati dirham is the currency of the region. 1 US\$ = 3.678 AED and 1 Euro = 4.1 AED. Master, Visa and major credit cards are widely accepted, and ATMs are easy to find.

2.5. GETTING AROUND – LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

2.5.1. UAE's public transportation is diverse, catering to all budgets and lifestyles. Major airports in Abu Dhabi and well-planned road networks facilitate easy travel. In key hubs like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Sharjah, the transportation system is efficient, clean, and accessible. Taxis are readily available with regulated fares, operating 24/7.

CURRENT TRAVELLING DISTANCE FROM OTHER UAE AIRPORTS TO THE EMIRATE OF ABU DHABI	Abu Dhabi International Airport to Abu Dhabi City - 20 minutes	Taxi: USD \$30.00 Public Transport: USD \$1.20
	Dubai International Airport to Abu Dhabi City - 90 minutes	Taxi: USD \$100.00 Public Transport: USD \$15
	Sharjah International Airport to Abu Dhabi City - 120 minutes	Taxi: USD \$120.00 Public Transport: USD \$15

2.5.2. Abu Dhabi Integrated Transportation System

Buses

- In Abu Dhabi, modern transportation includes a comprehensive bus network with 24/7 service. Passes are available at the airport or main station, with free travel for seniors and People of Determination.

Taxis

- In Abu Dhabi, transportation is convenient with nearly 8,000 taxis, over 80% of which are eco-friendly hybrids. All taxis are metered, accepting cash or card payments, and passengers can request receipts for record-keeping.

CURRENT TRAVELLING DISTANCES WITHIN ABU DHABI CITY LIMITS:

- **By Taxis:** Cost per trip starting from **USD \$5.00**
- **By Public Transport:** Cost per trip – **USD \$0.5 – 1.50 (within City limits)**
- **Uber:** operates in the UAE, covering cities like Dubai and Abu Dhabi, allowing travelers to plan their trips in advance using their app.

- **Careem:** Careem serves as an internet platform for the greater Middle East, pioneering the region's ride-hailing economy.

2.6. VENUE – ADNEC CENTRE ABU DHABI

2.6.1. The proposed venue for the Conference is the **ADNEC Centre Abu Dhabi** a multi-award-winning venue in Abu Dhabi, offering state-of-the-art facilities for exhibitions, conferences, and live events.

- World-class hotels offering a total of **1,800 rooms** on site ranging from **3 star hotels to 5 star hotel directly** connected to the venue or 2 minute walking distance. Largest Conference Hall accommodates **6,000 delegates**. Unparalleled exhibition space (**55,000 sqm**). From **Abu Dhabi International Airport**: 20 minutes to city, 10-20 minutes to attractions. From **Dubai International Airport**: 90 minutes to city. Flexible event halls & conference rooms. **Up to 38 sessions in parallel. Extensive Facilities on-sites:** Pharmacy, ATM, Grocery, Airport Check-in desk. **90%** customer satisfaction rating

2.6.2. Meeting Space Capacity

The Centre will be able to meet the capacity requirements for IFATCA in 2025. The ADNEC Centre has the following :

- Conference Hall B - Opening/Plenary/IFATCA Panel- 500 delegate classroom and 1,100 delegates theatre style.
- Conference Hall A (Part A) – (commission session room A)
- Conference Hall A (Part B & C) (incl AV) – (commission session room B)
- Capital Suite 7 (Incl AV) – (commission session room C)
- Capital Suite 5 (incl AV) - Executive Board Meeting
- Capital Suite, 4, 1, 2, 3 – Regional Meeting 1, 2, 3, 4

2.7. ACCOMMODATION

2.7.1. Abu Dhabi offers a variety of hotels to suit all travelers, including 3-4 star options at the proposed congress venue. Additionally, there are hotels providing good value for money, with some 5-star properties offering competitive rates.

2.7.2. ADNEC On-site Hotels

ADNEC provides convenient accommodation with 2 onsite hotels: 4-star Aloft Abu Dhabi and 5-star ANDAZ Capital Gate. Nearby, within a 2-3 minute walk, are Rotana Complex Hotels including Capital Centre Arjaan, Pearl Rotana, Centro Rotana, and Premier Inn.

Hotels	Total Rooms	Approximate *Hotel Rates Single Occupancy	Approximate *Hotel Rates Double/Twin Occupancy
Andaz Capital Gate	198	USD \$ 250	USD \$ 300
Capital Centre Arjaan (Hotel Apartment)	315	USD \$ 250	USD \$ 300
Aloft Abu Dhabi	408	USD \$ 200	USD \$ 250
Pearl Rotana Capital Centre	315	USD \$ 300	USD \$ 330

Centro Rotana	414	USD \$ 220	USD \$ 250
Premier Inn	242	USD \$ 150	USD \$ 180

- ✓ Hotel prices are **indicative** and are subject to change by 2025. Prices are per room, including of breakfast.
- ✓ Hotel apartments recommended as sharing accommodation for attendees.
- ✓ Prices does include: 5% VAT, AED15.00 destination fee per night, 4% Municipality fee, 6% Tourism fee and 10% Property service charge.
- ✓ Any additional government fees or taxes levied will be applied.
- ✓ Hotels provide complimentary Wi-Fi.

2.8. PROPOSED DATES

2.8.1.

Dates (Main Conference Dates)	Monday 28 th April to Friday 2 nd May 2025
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- ✓ Proposed dates have been reviewed to insure important religious days such as Ramadan, Eid alFitr, Eid al-Adha, are avoided.

3. REGISTRATION FEES

Categories	Early Bird	Regular
Category 1 MA	USD 310.00	USD 360.00
Category 2 MA	USD 280.00	USD 330.00
Category 3 MA	USD 240.00	USD 290.00
IFATCA Officers, Corporate Members, Invited	USD	USD
Advisors, Panel Speakers, Observers	310.00	310.00

- ✓ Registration fees to all categories will be maintained as the IFATCA 2023 fees.

3.1. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

3.1.1. Abu Dhabi Experience

Abu Dhabi, meaning '**Land of the Gazelle' in Arabic**, originated from a tale of an antelope guiding a tribe to fresh water. From its humble beginnings with palm-frond huts, coral buildings, and a ruler's fort, it has evolved into a modern, cosmopolitan capital city. This archipelago offers a blend of ancient history, rich culture, stunning nature, beautiful beaches, luxury amenities, diverse wildlife, family-friendly adventures, top-notch shopping, renowned golf courses, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Visitors can savor **Abu Dhabi's eclectic food scene**, ranging from **Lebanese, Chinese, Indian, Peruvian, French, Portuguese, to Sudanese cuisine**. With bustling fish and town markets, Abu Dhabi offers a culinary paradise for food enthusiasts.

4. BENEFITS FOR IFATCA AND MAS'

- 4.1.1. Possible additional corporate platinum memberships from the region in compliance with IFATCA strategies and priorities;
- 4.1.2. Affordable registration fees with many privileges in return;
- 4.1.3. Busy 5 days full of attractive and beneficial activities in cooperation with other entities;
- 4.1.4. World class infrastructure and meeting facilities; and

5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- 5.1. The Department of Culture and Tourism oversees Abu Dhabi's development into a global destination, emphasizing its rich culture, diverse natural attractions, and unparalleled family entertainment. Their goal is to support Abu Dhabi's transformation into a sustainable world-class destination.

THE ABU DHABI OFFER

The Abu Dhabi Convention Bureau will provide financial support for IFATCA 2025 through the Advantage Abu Dhabi Scheme (AAD). This grant will cover expenses such as travel for speakers, accommodation, venue costs, and cultural activations in Abu Dhabi.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. In conclusion, the IFATCA 2025 Conference in Abu Dhabi, hosted by the Emirates Aviation Association, is poised to elevate standards in global air navigation. Through collaboration and knowledge sharing, the event fosters professionalism among Air Traffic Controllers and industry stakeholders. Supported by key authorities, it offers a platform for regional and international partnerships, driving mutual benefit and advancement in the aviation sector.

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