

Global Aviation Issues Conference

Meeting# 261111

November 30- December 1, 2026

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

DRAFT AGENDA

(Subject to change)

Day 1: "Global Strategy, Security & Leadership"

Monday, November 30

9 –10 a.m. Networking Breakfast

10-10:20 a.m. Welcome and Overview

Heba Gouda
Vice President, Global Operations
American Associations of Airport Executives

Jorge Hernandez, *IAAE Chair*
CEO, Aerostar Airports
Puerto Rico

Raed bin Hassan Al-Idrissi
CEO of MATARAT

GACA

10:20 – 10:40 a.m. **Opening Keynote**

Address: **Global Aviation at a Crossroads: Growth collaboration and Leadership-** *Global leaders set the context for aviation in 2026, addressing security risks, sustainability pressure, rapid Middle East growth, and Saudi Arabia's emerging global aviation leadership.*

Speaker: TBD

10:40-11:40 a.m. **Session 1- Rebalancing Global Aviation Governance in a Multipolar World-** *This session examines whether global aviation governance remains fit for purposes amid geopolitical fragmentation and uneven growth, and how emerging markets—particularly the Middle East—can shape future global standards and cooperation.*

Moderator: Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. (TBI)
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial, San Francisco International Airport

Speakers: CEOs or policy lead – Emirates / Qatar Airways / Riyadh Air

11:40 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Networking Coffee Break & Visit with SAE Exhibitors**

12 – 1 p.m. **Session 2- Aviation Cyber Threats - Protecting Critical Infrastructure** - *As aviation becomes increasingly digital and interconnected, cyber threats pose a growing risk to airports, airlines, and air traffic systems. This session will explore the latest strategies for safeguarding critical aviation infrastructure, from threat detection and incident response to regulatory compliance and collaborative defense. Panelists will share insights on emerging cyber risks, resilience best practices, and real-world case studies to help the industry stay one step ahead in protecting passengers, operations, and reputation.*

Moderator: Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E., IACE's (TBC)
Past Chair AAE & Airport Management Advisor

Speakers: Adnan Alghamdi (TBC)
VP Advisor of Security Service
GACA

Hany Bark (TBC)
VP Security, MedAir

1 – 2 p.m. **Session 3- Strategic Transformation Aviation Through AI** - *This session will explore how Artificial Intelligence is driving organizational transformation across the aviation industry, not just technology adoption. Panelists will discuss and deliver case-studies how AI is reshaping master planning, operational decision-making,*

and organizational strategy, while leveraging tools such as digital twins and autonomous systems. The session will also address governance risks, human oversight, and the balance between AI-driven automation and responsible management, highlighting how airports, airlines, and aviation stakeholders can transform their organizations to be more agile, efficient, and future-ready.

Moderator: Susan Warner, A.A.E., I.A.P. *(confirmed)*
SWD Strategic Advisory
Strategic Decision-Making, Business Planning & Managing
Uncertainty for Global Airports

Speakers: Dr. Bader Al Aydi *(confirmed)*
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University
PSU Strategic Direction in Enabling the Saudi Aviation Strategy.

Jihad Boueri *(confirmed)*
Vice President, Strategy & Transformation - Middle East & Africa
SITA

2-3 p.m. **Networking Lunch & Exhibitor Visits**

3-4 p.m. **Session 4- Next-Generation Airport Ecosystems: AAM, Digital Infrastructure, and Future Connectivity-** *Airports are evolving into fully connected ecosystems designed to support the next era of aviation. This session will explore how advanced air mobility (AAM), immersive technologies such as the metaverse, smart digital infrastructure, and integrated connectivity are reshaping airport design, operations, and regional transportation networks. Experts will discuss how airports can prepare for emerging technologies, align infrastructure with future demand, and build flexible, future-ready environments that enhance capacity, efficiency, and passenger movement while supporting long-term growth.*

Moderator: Dr. Bader Al Aydi
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University

Speakers: Solomon Wong
CEO
InterVISTAS Consulting, Colorado

4-5 p.m. **Session 5- The Aviation Workforce of Tomorrow: Talent Strategy for a High-Growth Era** – *As the Middle East and global markets pursue aggressive expansion, the availability of skilled human capital remains the single greatest risk to execution. This session examines the "war for talent" across critical functions—from pilots and ATC to digital architects and sustainability experts. Panelists will explore strategies for attracting Gen Z, nationalizing workforces (localization) effectively, and re-skilling existing teams to thrive alongside the AI and automation technologies discussed earlier in the program.*

Moderator: Maxim Romanenko, ACI & ICAO, IAP
International Airport Professional, Aviation Management Executive

Speakers: Captain Ismael Koshi, (TBC)
CPT, Saudia Academy

Michelle Treanor (TBC)
DAA Dublin Airport
Director, Talent & development

Andrew Tyler-Smith (TBI)
CEO of Red Sea International Airport

Dr. Mody Alkhalaf (TBI)
Director of Talent Development
Riyadh Air

Mohamed Abubaker Farea (TBI)
Director
ICAO

Nesreen Kashgari (TBI)
Director, Talent Acquisition and Human Capital Operations
Saudia Technic

7-9 p.m.

Official Conference Dinner

Hosted by MATART & the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA)

Day 2: Sustainability, Economics & System Performance

Tuesday, December 1

9:30 -10:30 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Session 6- Passenger Expectation and Trust, in the Digital Age -

As passengers increasingly rely on digital tools throughout their journeys, trust has become closely linked to data security, transparency, and reliable communication. This session will explore how airports can meet and exceed passenger expectations by delivering seamless, personalized, and accessible experiences, while maintaining operational resilience. Panelists will discuss strategies for leveraging real-time digital communication, social media, and technology-driven solutions to protect reputation, ensure data privacy, and build long-lasting passenger trust in both routine operations and during disruptions.

Moderator:

TBD

Speakers:

Hesham A. Saeed (TBI)

Vice President of Operations, Ports Projects Management and Development (PPMDC)

11:30a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Session 7- Net-Zero Aviation: From Commitments to Delivery-**

This session will explore practical strategies for achieving net-zero aviation, with a focus on SAF infrastructure, green airports, fleet transition, and digital sustainability tools. Panelists will discuss readiness audits of existing infrastructure, the technical engineering behind strategic SAF storage and blending hubs, and approaches for equitable cost-sharing among airports, airlines, and states. Case studies, including the Riyadh Blending Hub and compliance with EU and UK SAF regulations, will highlight how to move from policy commitments to tangible, operational delivery.

Moderator: Professor Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi *(Confirmed)*
Founding Director - Center for Sustainability and Climate
Aide to the President; Chair - Accounting
Prince Sultan University

Speakers: Prof. Hazariya Mohammed (TBC)
PSU

Maryam Telmesani, (TBI)
Group VP of Sustainability
Saudia Group

Dr. Emad Alharbi (TBI)
Board Member and Treasurer
Saudi Space & Aviation Sciences Association (SSASA)

Alshaima Alshayeb (TBI)
Corporate Sustainability Manager
Matarat Holding
Vivek Sindhamani *(to be invited)*
Head of Sustainable Aviation & Resilience
NACO

Sven Deckers (TBI)
Director - Sustainability, Innovation & Partnerships
Dubai Airports

Robert Boyd (TBI)
Chief, Finevest Hub

12:30-1 p.m. **Networking Break with SAE Exhibitors**

1-2 p.m. **Session 8- Capacity, Airspace, and Operational Planning for Future Aviation Growth** - *This session will examine congestion, airspace complexity, slot reform, civil-military coordination, and collaborative decision-making as global and Middle East aviation expands. Panelists will explore how future traffic growth, including Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), can be integrated into operational planning, addressing efficient capacity management, throughput*

optimization, and coordination with ANSPs, regulators, and other aviation stakeholders to ensure safe, future-ready airspace.

Moderator:

Speakers:

Dr. Captain Ahmed Al Zehairi (TBI)
Vice President, Safety
Riyadh Air

Marzouq Al Ghamdi (TBI)
Senior Instructor of ATM
Air Traffic Control

Joseph Alesia (TBI)
Executive Director
Head of Advanced Air Mobility
NEOM

Khurram Qureshi (TBI)
Head of Portfolio and Stakeholder Management
Dubai Air Navigation Services

Ronald F. Mathieu, C.M., (TBI)
President & CEO
Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

Capt. Nevin Mahmoud Darwish (TBI)
Pilot A330, WIA-ME member
Egypt Air

2- 2:50 p.m.

Session 9- Air Cargo and Aviation's Industrial Future- *The session will explore how airports are evolving into integrated logistics and manufacturing hubs, the role of digitalization and automation in cargo operations, and how growing e-commerce, advanced manufacturing, and geopolitical shifts are reshaping cargo networks. Industry leaders will discuss strategies for building next-generation cargo infrastructure and positioning airports at the center of the global logistics economy.*

Moderator:

Speakers:

David Fiore, JD, C.M., (TBI)
Airport Affairs, Operations & Planning
FedEx Express

UPS –SILZ

2:50 p.m.

Conference Adjournment and visit with Exhibitors