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GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE

Conference Programme

16 - 17 December 2025

Riyadh International Convention & Exhibition Center (RICEC)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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GLOBAL AIRPORTS FORUM— GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE



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IDEAS



Dec 16-17, 2025 ✈️ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



AGENDA

(Subject to change)

Day 1: Setting the Stage for Transformation

Tuesday, December 16

9 a.m.-10:15 a.m. Networking Breakfast

10:15 a.m.-11 a.m. **Welcome and Overview**

Introduction: Osama Abdulrahman Al Ansari (Master of Ceremonies)

Welcome Address

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

Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair/AAAE Secretary/Treasurer Chief
Financial and Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial San Francisco
International Airport

Raed bin Hassan Al-Idrissi
CEO,
MATARAT Holding

H.E. Mr. Omar al Hosari
President
General Authority of Civil Aviation Syria

11-11:20 a.m. Overview of Global Aviation Trends, Industry Outlook

10 minutes **Keynote Speaker**

Aiman Arab
Chairman
Egyptian Holding Company Aviation and Air Navigation (EHCAAN) Overview
of Egyptian Airports Development Program

10 minutes **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Bader Al Aydi
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University
PSU Strategic Direction in Enabling the Saudi Aviation Strategy

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11:20-12:20 a.m.

Session 1: AI and Automation in Smart Airports

Exploring the role of AI, automation, and digital transformation in airport operations. Industry leaders will discuss innovations driving smarter airports and the future of automated systems.

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10 minutes

Introduction Presentation (10 minutes)

Ashish Gupta
Chief Marketing Office - Kloudspot
Shaheen AI

Moderator:

Jihad Boueri
Vice President, Strategy & Transformation - Middle East & Africa
SITA

Speakers:

Ashish Gupta
Chief Marketing Office - Kloudspot
AI Shaheen

Abdul Razzak Mikati
Managing Director
Dubai Technology Partners LLC (DTP)

Andrija Brstina
Head of Process Excellence
Abu Dhabi Airports

Nabil Cheqroun
VP-GM, Honeywell Building Automation
Middle East, Turkiye, and Africa
Honeywell

Evgeny Reklings
Global Industry Manager – Airports
SICK Sensor Intelligence

12:20-12:30pm

Networking Break

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12:30-1:30pm

Session 2: Attracting the Next Generation – AI and Workforce Innovation

This session will explore the challenges the aviation industry faces in attracting future leaders and younger generations to pursue careers in aviation. With aviation programs struggling to appeal to high school students, panelists will discuss strategies to make the industry more attractive. Topics will include the role of regulators, airlines, airports, and universities in promoting aviation careers, successful workforce development initiatives, and international best practices that can be adapted across regions. Additionally, the session will examine how AI and emerging technologies can support workforce innovation and skills development.

Moderator:

Bader Al Aydi
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University

Speakers:

Julius Norkunas
CEO
Aeroclass.org

Khaled Alshammary
Training Director
Matarat

Maxim Romanenko,
ACI & ICAO IAP of the Year 2024
Aviation Management Executive

Aleksy Popek
Director of Engineering, Dimark

1:30- 2:30 p.m.

Session 3: Launchpads of the Future - Advancing Spaceports and Security Innovation - addressing Emerging Safety Technologies and Risk Management and Strategic Approaches to Aviation Security - such as aviation cybersecurity, screening innovations, regulatory frameworks and international regulatory coordination

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Moderator:

Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E., IACE
Airport Management Advisor & Past Chair, AAAE

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Speakers:

Aksam Aboasali
Global Aviation Subject Matter Expert
Genetec

David A. Buczek
Senior Representative, AEU
Federal Aviation Administration (Middle East and North Africa)

Adnan Al Ghamdi
Advisor to the VP – Security
GACA

Mikołaj Lis
Deputy Director R&D
DIMARK MANUFACTURE S.A.

Georges Touma
Business Development Snr Manager
SITA

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch and Visit with Global Airports Forum Exhibitors

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3:30-4:30 p.m.

Session 4: Airline Industry Trends and Regional Growth

Post-pandemic recovery, fleet modernization, air cargo expansion, ground handling innovations, and sustainability efforts. How airlines are adapting to the changing aviation landscape.

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Berger

InterVISTAS

3:30-3:40 p.m.

Keynote Speaker (10 minutes)

Solomon Wong
CEO
InterVISTAS Consulting, Colorado

Moderator:

Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair/AAAE Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Financial & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial San Francisco International Airport

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Speakers:

Julius Norkunas
CEO, Aeroclass.org

Hamdi Osman
Founder and CEO
SolitAir Holding Ltd.

Abdelilah Aleidi
Vice President of Global Sales, Flynas

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

Usman Tahir
Principal
Roland Berger Middle East, Dubai

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Session 5: Enhancing Passenger Experience and Operational Readiness

This session will focus on innovations and strategies to elevate the passenger experience, including biometric technology, contactless solutions, and future terminal redesigns. Additionally, it will address operational readiness, risk management, and contingency planning for smooth airport operations.

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Moderator:

Chris Rous
Head of Middle East & Africa, Airports and Border Authorities
Amadeus

Speakers:

Iyad Hindiyeh
Chief Digital Transformation Officer
San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

Ali Bora Isbulan
Deputy CEO, Plaza Premium Group

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Natalie Salinas
Founder & CEO, Nth Consulting Group

Amr Akaybi
Regional General Manager of Projects, Honeywell

Hesham A. Saeed
Vice President of Operations
Ports Projects Management and Development (PPMDC)

Nagy Abu Zeid
Vice President Aviation Sector - MENA Region
Hill International

7-9 p.m.

Official Conference Dinner

Hosted by General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA)/MATARAT Holding

Day Two: Shaping the Future: Innovation, Resilience, and Connectivity in Aviation

Wednesday, December, 17

8:30-9 a.m. Networking Breakfast

9-10 a.m. **Session 6: Advanced Air Mobility** - This session will examine how Advanced Air Mobility, including eVTOL technologies, is reshaping aviation in line with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 through innovation, regulation, and sustainable urban mobility initiative.

Moderator: Husam Al Zahrani
AAM Expert
Cluster 2

Speakers: Steven Derengowski CM, IACE
Director, Innovation
InterVISTAS Consulting, Denver. Co

 Mohammed Rabiah
Director
Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF), Aviation

 Musab Binafif
Senior Commercial Director / Business Development
The Helicopter Company (THC)

 Mohammed Al Bayoud
Expert of Advance Air Mobility Regulations
GACA

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10-11 a.m.

Session 7: The Future of Aviation in a Sustainable World

Industry leaders discuss global decarbonization efforts and the role of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), green technologies, and innovations in reducing the aviation industry's carbon footprint.

Moderator:

Dr. Mohammad Nurunnabi
Founding Director - Center for Sustainability and Climate
Aide to the President; Chair - Accounting, Prince Sultan University

Speakers:

Alshaima Alshayeb
Corporate Sustainability Manager, Matarat Holding

M. P. Rajasekharan
Director, TecBharat Aviation Private Limited / Mar Projects

Abdul Rahman Al Jandali
General Manager, Elite Services

11-11:30 a.m.

Networking Break with GAF Exhibitors

11:30 a.m.-
12:30 p.m.

Session 8: The Power of Aviation Connectivity

Exploring how airports and regions leverage connectivity to drive development. The session will discuss the role of data, international and local airport business models, and the function of hubs in fostering growth.

Moderator:

Kevin Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E. IAAE Chair/AAAE Secretary/Treasurer
Chief Financial and Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial
San Francisco International Airport

Speakers:

Kuba Olejniczak
Manager - Route Network, Poznan Airport

Raffi Kasparian
Managing Director, Alton Aviation Consultancy (Dubai)

Khaled Magbool Alharthi
Advisor Vice President of Strategy, GACA

Majid Al Harbi
Acting Vice President
Air Connectivity Program Saudi Arabia

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12:30-1:30 p.m.

Session 9: Optimizing Airspace Management: Balancing Growth, Innovation, and Operational Efficiency

Focus on addressing airspace congestion, integrating new technologies, and enhancing collaboration between stakeholders to ensure efficiency and safety in high-density regions.

Moderator:

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

Speakers:

Dr. Ahmed Al Zuhairi
Vice President, Safety
Riyadh Air

Joseph Alesia
Executive Director, Head of Advanced Air Mobility
NEOM

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

Marzouq Al Ghamdi
Senior Instructor of ATM, Air Traffic Control
SACA

1:30 p.m.

Conference Adjournment

1:30-5 p.m.

Networking Lunch and visit with Exhibitors

GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE

Join us at the annual **Global Aviation Issues Conference, December 16-17, 2025, in Riyadh, KSA**, where we will delve into the future of aviation and tackle crucial topics ranging from emerging technologies and air cargo to security and workforce issues.

- Engage with experts and thought leaders who are at the forefront of innovation and change in the aviation sector.
- Explore the pivotal role of international cooperation in promoting industry growth.
- Delve into the importance of air cargo in powering global trade and supply chain management.
- Learn how digital transformation, AI, and big data are reshaping aircraft maintenance, operations, and passenger experiences.
- Gain insights into the evolving landscape of aviation security.
- Discuss strategies for building a skilled aviation workforce and promoting diversity within the industry.
- Explore sustainability initiatives aimed at reducing the environmental footprint of aviation; and much more!

For Delegate Registration please visit:

www.globalairportsforum.com/global-aviation-issues-conference/

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