

GLOBAL AIRPORTS FORUM— GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE

Dec 16-17, 2025 ✈️ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

IAAE

NICHE
IDEAS



NCX



AGENDA

(Subject to change)

Day 1: Setting the Stage for Transformation

Tuesday, December 16

8:30-9 a.m. Networking Breakfast

9-9:15 a.m. Welcome and Overview

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

9:15- 10:15 **Overview of Global Aviation Trends, Industry Outlook**

9:15-9:35 a.m. **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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|------------------|--|
| 9:35-9:55 a.m. | Keynote Speaker Aiman Arab Chairman Egyptian Holding Company Aviation and Air Navigation (EHCAAN) <i>Overview of the launch of Terminal 4 at Cairo International Airport as a benchmark airport terminal - Operational Technology vs. Operational Systems</i> |
| 9:55-10:15 a.m. | Keynote Speaker Ali Rashed Chief, Airport Operations Bahrain Airport <i>ORAT case study for Bahrain Airport</i> |
| 10:15-11:15 a.m. | Session 1: AI and Automation in Smart Airports <i>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.</i> |
| 10 Minutes | Introduction Presentation Ashish Gupta, Chief Marketing Office- Kloudspot Al Shaheen |
| Moderator: | Iyad Hindiye (TBC) Chief Digital Transformation Officer SFO |
| Speaker: | Jihad Boueri Vice President, Strategy & Transformation - Middle East & Africa SITA Ashish Gupta, Chief Marketing Office- Kloudspot Al Shaheen Oliver Weiss Chief Operating Officer Fraport - Saudi Arabia Khaled Hashem President Middle East & Africa Honeywell |

Andrija Brstina
Head of Process Excellence
Abu Dhabi Airports

11:15-11:45 a.m. **Networking Break** *(official opening of the Global Airports Forum (formerly the Saudi Airport Exhibition))*

11:45 a.m.-
12:45 p.m. **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

Mashaël Al Qahtani
Nationalization Director
GACA

David Studden
Global Sales & Partnership Manager
Etihad Aviation Training, Abu- Dhabi Airport

Majid Khan
CEO
Air Connectivity Program Saudi Arabia

Yolanta Strikitsa (TBC)
Managing Director

Strikitsa

12:45-1:15 p.m.

Session 3:

Moderator:

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

(a)- U.S. TSA briefing - Current Issues and Initiatives

Speaker:

Anthony Q. Monreal (Tony) **(TBC)**
Assistant Administrator Department of Homeland Security
Security Operations/International Operations
TSA

Session 3

1:15- 1:45 pm.

(b)- The Rise of Space ports in Aviation – Bridging Aerospace and Commercial Airports -

Exploring the integration of spaceports into commercial aviation, addressing regulatory, operational, and business opportunities for airports in the growing space industry.

Speakers:

David Buczek
Senior Representative
U.S. FAA, Abu Dhabi

Jeff Kloska, A.A.E **(TBC)**
Director
Colorado Air and Space Port

Chris Runde **(TBC)**
Vice President
Introba

1:45-2:45 p.m.

Networking Lunch and Visit with Global Airports Forum Exhibitors

2:45-3:45 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.

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

Speakers: Julius Norkunas
CEO
Aeroclass.org

Hamdi Osman
Founder and CEO
SolitAir Holding Ltd.

Abdelilah Aleidi
Vice President of Global Sales
Flynas (Dubai)

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

Usman Tahir
Principal
Roland Berger Middle East, Dubai

3:45-4:45 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.

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

Speakers: Susan Warner Dooley, A.A.E., IAP

Aviation Chief Commercial Officer
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Delip Prasad
Head of Market MENA
Munich Airport International

Chris Jack
Program Director at Neom Airports
Charity Chair/Trustee, Business Coach
AECOM

Ali Bora Isbulan
Deputy CEO
Plaza Premium Group

Natalie Salinas
Founder & CEO
Nth Consulting Group

Christina Apatow (TBC)
CEO
FetchyFox

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 explore the evolution and future of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), with a particular focus on how innovative technologies like electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft are reshaping aviation in line with the highest global standards and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. The session will address challenges related to airspace integration, safety, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure, highlighting how AAM can revolutionize urban mobility, alleviate congestion, and serve as a critical component in sustainable city planning. Through discussions on key initiatives within Saudi Arabia, such as the NEOM project and national airspace development, stakeholders will share insights into sector collaboration needed to unlock the full potential of AAM in both regional and global aviation.

Moderator: Mohammed Al Bayoud
Expert of Advance Air Mobility Regulations
GACA

Speakers: Fahad ibne Masood, MRAeS
Strategic Aviation Leader | Pioneering Regulatory Frameworks for
UAS, AAM and eVTOL |
Airport Management
PSU

Khurram Qureshi
Head of Portfolio & Stakeholder Management
Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans)
Dubai International Airport

Eng. Daniyar Tule
Chief Flight Inspection Engineer
Samana Special Mission

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

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

Speaker: Emad Alharbi
Mobility Decarbonizations Director
SWD

Al Waleed Al Omary
Head of Aviation Unit, National Development
Public Investment Fund, Saudi Arabia

Chris Runde **(TBC)**
Vice President
Introba

Patrick Flanagan **(invited)**
CEO
Ferrovial

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 & Commercial Officer | Finance & Commercial
San Francisco International Airport

Speakers: Mohsin Abdul Jawad
Head of Brand & Communication
Air Connectivity Program Saudi Arabia

Khalid Al Harthi
Advisor Vice President of Strategy
GACA

Syed Aftab Gilani
Chief Operator Officer
Islamabad International Airport

Raffi Kasparian
Managing Director
Alton Aviation Consultancy (UAE)

Ashwag Alghamdi
Senior Director, Business Unit Aviation Relations
The Saudi Tourism Authority

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: Captain Fahad ibne Masood, MRAeS
Strategic Aviation Leader | Pioneering Regulatory Frameworks for UAS, AAM & eVTOL | Faculty – Aviation Management, Airport Management Business & Economics
PSU

Speakers: Dr. Ahmed Al Zuhairi
Vice President, Safety
Riyadh Air

Joseph Alesia
Executive Director, Head of Advanced Air Mobility
NEOM

Marcos Costilla
President & CEO
MCACG.US

Giulio de Carli **(invited)**
President

Air Tech Italy

1:30 p.m. Conference Adjournment

1:30-5 p.m. Networking Lunch and visit with Exhibitors