

India Awakens to a new world of aviation with the culmination of the 2nd India Civil Aviation Week Airport and Airline 2008 Expo

New Delhi 20th March 2008: The Indian aviation industry is all set for a massive push forward after the 2nd India Civil Aviation Week Airport and Airline 2008 Expo. Many companies participating announced their support towards the industry and also promised the launch of new technologies and aircrafts that are sure to boost the Indian aviation industry.

Mr. Prem Behl, Chairman Exhibitions India Said "We organized this expo with the goal of providing the Indian aviation industry a platform to share knowledge, information and technology with the rest of the world." He added "we are overwhelmed with the positive responses that have been generated from this expo and the concurrent conference. This event has been truly historical and will go a long way in shaping the Indian aviation industry for the future."

An important trend that emerged from the expo was the shift of focus from Metro cities and large cities to smaller tier 2 and tier 3 cities. This is clearly evident from the announcements made including the 35 non-metro airports across India by AAI and the introduction of light weight aircrafts by GE Aviation meant specifically for connecting smaller cities to the metro areas.

Commenting on the projected aviation boom, Ms. Rubi Arya, Asst. Vice President – HR, Kingfisher Airlines said "the aviation boom in India will largely be driven by economic expansion, increased capacity and price stimulation from fierce competition in the aviation industry." She added "although there are many challenges that face the Indian aviation industry in which manpower tops the list, the industry is very well equipped to handle these pressure points and move on to better and bigger goals."

The Indian aviation industry is projected to grow tremendously in the coming years with passenger traffic projected to grow to 50 million by 2010. The ministry of civil aviation predicts over 40 million passengers and 1.3 million tons of cargo on the international sectors from India. The Indian fleet is also expected to have an increased demand of over 1100 airplanes (935 passengers and 165 freighters).

The AA Expo 2008 was held in order to address these growing demands and with 146 exhibitors from 18 countries, the AA 2008 Expo was undoubtedly one of the biggest expos in the country for the dynamic and fast growing aviation industry.