

ICAO Secretary General Visits CASSOA

Details



Entebbe, Uganda; 29 March 2012: The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Secretary General- Mr. Raymond Benjamin, the ICAO Director of Air Navigation Bureau - Ms Nancy Graham and the Regional Director for ICAO Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAF) Office based in Nairobi - Mr. Meshesha Belayneh, were in Uganda from 26-30 March to attend the 1st Regional Aviation Safety Group meeting and 18th Africa Indian Ocean Planning and Implementation Regional Group meeting that were held at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala at the kind invitation of the Government of Uganda.

As part of their familiarisation of aviation administrations in the region, the ICAO Secretary General (SG), the Director of Air Navigation Bureau and the ESAF Regional Director (RD) paid a courtesy call to EAC CASSOA on 29 March 2012. Accompanying the delegation were officials from the Uganda Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ICAO delegation held talks with the Board Chairperson on the establishment of the Agency, achievements and challenges as well as the future development of CASSOA. The Executive Director briefed the SG on the progress of the programmes of the Agency and the EAC Secretariat being supported by ICAO ESAF.

The programmes include - a study on the legal, organisational and financial frameworks of CASSOA with a view to enhance its mandate; developing frameworks and implementation plan for the establishment of an independent EAC Regional Accident Investigation Agency; and development of a draft Regional Safety Programme for the EAC and development of a plan for the effective implementation of the service providers' Safety Management System (SMS) relevant to the EAC Region.

The Executive Director appreciated the support and collaboration in existence between the Agency and ICAO. He particularly appreciated support in the recently concluded study for the establishment of the Region Centre for Aviation Medicine which was done under the support of ICAO. The Centre is intended to resolve the deficiencies, non-compliances identified during various USOAP audits conducted at the Partner States in the field of aviation medicine.

The Executive Director informed the ICAO SG that following the Study Report, the Board has approved the establishment of the Centre for Aviation Medicine as an organ of EAC-CASSOA in line with the Agency's establishing Protocol. This calls for the review of the mandate of the Agency.

The ICAO Secretary General expressed appreciation for being able to visit the Agency and get first-hand information of the environment in which CASSOA operates in. He reiterated ICAO's support for the region oversight organisations as a means of enhancing safety and compliance to international standards.

The SG offered full support of the ICAO Secretariat to see to it that CASSOA achieves its objectives. To this effect, the SG stated that is why ICAO is supporting the study on the legal, organisational and financial frameworks of CASSOA with a view to enhance its mandate. ICAO looks forward to the outcome of this study which will determine the direction in which the Partner States needs to take for the organisation.