

The Gambia Civil Aviation Authority celebrated International Civil Aviation Day on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015. In observance of the event, a one day football tournament was organized at St. Peter's High School football field in Lamin, Kombo North, on Sunday 6

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December as an awareness campaign. Continuing to pay respect to this important activity, a march past took place within Banjul International Airport from the headquarters of Gambia International Airlines to the Old Terminal Building. As participants converged, Mr. Baboucar Cham, Director Air Transport & Commerce read a statement captured below on behalf of the office of Director General. GCAA participated alongside other institutions like, Air Rep Services, Red Coat, Radville Farms and Bollore Africa Logistics.

### **INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVAITION DAY – DECEMBER 7 2015**

International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated annually on December 7 each year to mark the creation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on that day in 1944.

The purpose of the annual Celebration is to establish and re-enforce worldwide awareness of the importance of International Civil Aviation in the Social and Economic development of States. The role of **ICAO** in promoting the safety, Efficiency and regularity of international air Transport is emphasized in this context.

Pursuant to an ICAO initiative and with the assistance of the Canadian Government, the United Nation General Assembly, in 1996 and by a resolution, officially recognized 7 December as International Civil Aviation Day, and listed it as an official UN Day.

International Civil aviation has a long history of helping to create and preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world highlighting the economic and social contribution of air transport to our global society.

The theme of the celebrations for the year 2015 - 2018, approved by the ICAO Council is ***“Working together to ensure no country is left behind”***

This theme is approved to help maximize opportunities for enhancing global aviation to assist States in implementing ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

We strongly believe that this theme will help to identify and coordinate assistance to States in need so that they could foster sustainable local and regional prosperity and fully benefit from improved global connectivity. A safe, secure and sustainable global aviation system, based on the effective implementation of global standards and policies, will provide nations of the world with efficient access to the global market.

Ladies and gentlemen, the aviation system has a significant impact on the economic development and growth; it impacts tourism and trade, and generate other economic benefits which help eradicate poverty, create jobs and mobilize resources. However despite its economic significance, the aviation system receives limited funds to support its development.

Therefore in order to provide more effective support to aviation development, substantial assistance is required to ensure that States could effectively implement ICAO global aviation standards and policies so that a safe, secure and reliable aviation system which will support sustainable development, and socio-economic prosperity, preserve friendship and understanding among the nations and peoples of the world will be created

In the spirit of continuous improvement aimed at enhancing air transportation even further, our work shall never end. Today, air travel is the wellbeing of our global society, driving international tourism and trade, which in turn generates economic growth, maintain millions of jobs improve living standards and alleviate poverty.

Air transport connects land - locked countries and island states, serving as a lifeline to tap into markets of the world and creating access to essential services like health care in remote areas with non – existence or poor ground transportation networks. During emergencies caused by natural disasters, famine or armed conflicts, air transport provides humanitarian assistance in a timely and expeditious manner.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will agree with me that the profile of aviation demands that the most comprehensive and effective operational systems be developed and employed in a harmonized manner to tackle global problems that requires global solutions

Exceptionally reliable, air transport is as safe, secure and environmentally responsible as it has ever been since the early days of powered flight, inspiring the highest levels of public confidence.

Ladies and gentlemen, our challenge now is a huge one, and the question now is how are we

going to maintain and improve on this remarkable achievement in the face of the consistent growth of air traffic. By the year 2030, the number of passengers on scheduled service will more than double, from the current 2.7 billion passengers' a year, to some 6 billion, while the number of flights will double from 30 million to 60 million a year.

In view of this, we will therefore need to upgrade or build airports and air navigation systems to safely and efficiently accommodate the steady increase in the number of flights and passengers. In addition to this, we will also need to train a lot of aviation professionals to keep up with the increased demand for pilots, mechanics, air traffic controllers and other aviation personnel.

Furthermore, to reduce the accident rate already at an historic low, we will need to strengthen and streamline security measures to make air transport more enjoyable and efficient, while maintaining the highest standards of security

To achieve this, States and industry should therefore be committed to working together in tightening all possible measures to maintain focus on minimizing the adverse effects of aviation on the environment, while simplifying procedures to reduce the burden on both passengers and airlines. .

All of this can and could be done through the time – tested formula of mutual cooperation among government, the industry the general public and other private organizations, so that

## International Civil Aviation Day - Dec 2015

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aviation will always represent “your reliable connection to the world.