

New Regional Base in *Australia*



Flight Safety Foundation (FSF) has absorbed the Aviation Safety Foundation Australasia (ASFA) into its organizational structure to expand the FSF presence in the Pacific region with the establishment of a regional base in Melbourne, Australia. Consolidating these two groups will bring significant benefits to the aviation industry in the region, including increased access to the Foundation's substantial range of technical programs and expertise.

The Foundation expects to increase its activities within the region, including the establishment of a series of national advisory boards that will feed into an Asia Pacific Advisory Committee. This will provide the industry in the region with direct input into the Foundation's global information gathering network on air safety.

Announcing the arrangement at the Australian International Airshow 2009, FSF President and CEO William R. Voss said, "Our new office in Melbourne is an important part of our mission to spread aviation safety information as widely as possible. It not only puts us in a strong position to spread our safety message to the entire region, but we also can help the Australian aviation community to spread their innovations to their aviation peers around the world."

"This is a part of the world that is growing quickly and we need to have a presence. I'm very pleased that the ASFA board saw this opportunity and realized it would be a win-win for Australia and the rest of the aviation community."

The initial geographical focus of the U.S.-based Foundation's first regional office will be Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. Longer term, the move is seen as a stepping stone to providing support to the industry in the broader Asia Pacific region.

Coordinating the new FSF regional team will be the former executive director of ASFA, Paul Fox. "As the industry comes under increasing financial pressure, it becomes even more important that safety remains uppermost in people's minds," Fox said. "In Australia, the government's recent Aviation Policy Green Paper is to be commended for setting an example in the region by reinforcing safety as the number one priority for the industry. Today's announcement by Flight Safety Foundation creates a stronger independent voice on all matters of aviation safety in the region."

Recent figures from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents 230 airlines comprising 93 percent of scheduled international air traffic, reported the

total number of fatalities from aviation accidents dropped from 692 in 2007 to 502 in 2008. However, the number of accidents increased from 200 in 2007, to 209 in 2008, with fatal accidents up from 20 in 2007, to 23 in 2008.

The Asia Pacific region continues to be the fastest growing passenger market in the world, with the top five quickest growing freight markets having destinations in the region. The Asia Pacific region safety performance last year was better than the global average, where there was one accident per 1.2 million flights. The region's airlines recorded one accident per 1.7 million flights. ➤

Paul Fox

