

# ICAO: 50 YEARS OF SAFELY UNITING THE SKIES FOR THIS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS



**A**s you open this very special edition of **FIRST CHOICE** Magazine, chances are that you are in-flight, comfortably seated 33,000 feet in the air, winging your way to your next business or holiday destination aboard one of the over 20 airlines carrying this publication.

Having said that, it probably rarely, if ever, occurs to you that the safety and comfort in which you and more than a billion other passengers will fly this year owe a great deal to the work of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

For from the time you make your first contact with a travel agent or with an airline for a reservation, to the time you clear customs and immigration formalities at the end of your trip, technical standards and recommended practices developed by ICAO and implemented by Member States work to make your journey smooth, and with no hidden surprises.

In essence, this United Nations specialized agency, founded with the signing of the Chicago Convention in 1944, and headquartered in Montréal, Québec, Canada, since 1945, has contributed immeasurably to all facets of the safety, regularity and efficiency of international civil aviation operations for the past half century. A proud record of 50 years of safely uniting the skies!

In this commemorative salute to ICAO, published on the occasion of a World-Wide Air Transport Conference being held in Montréal, November 23-December 6, 1994, we spotlight some of the Organization's major accomplishments to date and its evolving blueprint for civil aviation development in the 21st century.

We profile the major challenges to international civil aviation, encompassing such diverse topics as the environment, unlawful interference, emerging new technology, airport and airspace congestion, and financial and human

resources. These challenges, on a global scale, are complex and enormous. But they are challenges that ICAO and its Member States are determined to meet.

Decisions taken at its Headquarters in Montréal, the aviation capital of the world and home to numerous industry leaders and other international aviation-related organizations, have a profound impact on the lives of most of us, regardless of which continent we live on.

By assuring us of a safe and efficient flight. By reducing nuisances and pollution sources such as aircraft noise and engine emissions. And by safely uniting the skies for another 50 years and beyond. Not only for us, but for our families, and for future generations to come. For it is they who shall inherit the skies.

In selecting a cover for this edition of **FIRST CHOICE** Magazine, the choice of photographs depicting aircraft in flight was virtually unlimited. But none captured the real universality of civil aviation.

And then we met the very special people at Atelier Le Fil d'Ariane. A Montréal non-profit workshop in creative crafts where intellectually delayed young adults, under the direction of Louise Pomminville and her team, create wondrous tapestries. To help give them a greater purpose in life, an occupation and, by their artistic creation, a unique place in society. The cover of this issue represents an existing tapestry entitled "L'aéronautique". What a magnificent symbol to illustrate international civil aviation in this commemorative year! →

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Publisher