

"Having circled the Earth on-board a space vehicle, I saw how marvellous our planet was. People of the world! Let us preserve and improve that beauty, but let us not destroy it."

Cosmonaut Yuri A. Gagarin,
April 12, 1961

As the 21st century approaches, one of the most pressing challenges facing peoples of the Earth is unquestionably that of protecting and preserving the environment and its fragile ecosystems. And in this regard, international aviation, as an undisputed leader in technological and economic development, together with travel and tourism, has a critical role to play in improving the quality of that environment.

In light of this sharply increased concern, ICAO has developed an ambitious program aimed at

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addressing air and noise emission problems. Yet, while industry groups have focused primarily on aircraft noise and engine emissions, to date the operational arena of airport ground activity, and passenger, cargo and mail processing has received relatively little attention.

For in addition to being sources of aircraft noise and emissions,

Some 350 million tonnes of freight have been carried by air over the past half century. That is equivalent to the weight of one million fully loaded jumbo jets, the maximum take-off weight of a Boeing 747 being about 350 tonnes.

airports occupy large areas of land, contribute to air and ground water pollution, produce vast amounts of waste, and consume excess energy.

This according to a recent in-depth report developed under the **Transportation Development Centre Visiting Experts Program** commissioned by the **Canadian Federal Government**. Entitled *The Greening of Aviation*, it strongly recommends the creation of an independent Centre, tentatively called **The International Centre for Aviation and the Environment (I.C.A.E.)**, to be established in Montréal, the international aviation capital of the world.

Such a Centre would deal with environmental issues associated

