

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) called on the governments of Kazakhstan, Central Asia and the Caucasus to utilize air transport as a catalyst for economic growth and development.

“Kazakhstan sits at the crossroads of East and West. And with double-digit growth in air traffic demand across the whole of Central Asia and the Caucasus it is an emerging success story—a Silk Road in the Sky. But turning the long-term potential of the region into reality requires urgent attention to safety and the provision of cost-efficient airport infrastructure,” said Tony Tyler, IATA’s Director General and CEO. Tyler made his remarks in a keynote address to the Central Asia and Caucasus Aviation Day being held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Safety: Tyler highlighted the need to improve safety in the region. In 2011 the air transport industry recorded one accident for every 2.7 million flights using Western-built jet aircraft. In the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), there was one accident for every 940,000 flights—three times worse than the global average.

“Flying should be as safe in Kazakhstan and across Central Asia and the Caucasus as it is anywhere else in the world. Adopting global standards such as the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) and the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) will help. The safety record for the 25 airlines in the CIS on the IOSA registry is five times better than the region’s non-IOSA carriers. I urge governments across Central Asia and the Caucasus to incorporate the IOSA and ISAGO into their oversight programs as have the governments of 11 countries including Turkey, Brazil, Mexico and Egypt,” said Tyler.

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