

2024 AVIATION SUMMIT

EVENT OVERVIEW

The Philippine aviation industry depicts a dynamic and resilient sector that has weathered several hurdles over the years. Domestic travel has reached pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023, while international travel recovery will occur sometime in 2026. Furthermore, Asia Pacific is seen to lead in traffic growth in the next 20 years. To cater to the growing demand for air travel, the government has already laid the foundation for airport rehabilitation and congestion improvement. The Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) has been privatized and will be operated by a private consortium by September 2024. Nonetheless, headwinds that come with progress need to be addressed to attract more investment and assure long-term economic growth.

Infrastructure development, safety concerns, regulatory framework, and the need for competent human capital, among others, are all pivotal areas that require collective attention to promote continued advancement in the industry. Recognizing Philippine aviation as a main catalyst for trade and investment, overcoming current challenges, and riding on the momentum will require strong interventions from all players in the aviation sector. Likewise, it is imperative for industry stakeholders to align aviation policies with international standards as well as forge partnerships with ancillary sectors.

As we fly forward, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA), in partnership with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), once again joined forces in organizing the **2024 Aviation Summit** with the theme **“Climbing Towards Sustainable, Safe, Smart Philippine Aviation.”** Building on the [gains of the 2023 installment](#), this year's Summit drew deeper awareness of aviation's critical role in Philippine economic progress and pushed for advocacies that promote growth, sustainability, efficiency, and safety within the sector both internationally and domestically.

To catalyze the transformation of the Philippine aviation sector into a frontrunner among Asian counterparts by 2028, a critical imperative emerges: the urgent overhaul of existing laws and regulations. Beyond mere airline operations, the dynamic areas of business and general aviation are poised to play pivotal roles in the country's development trajectory and its support industries. Achieving competitiveness commensurate with regional peers will foster increased investment across aviation education, maintenance and repair organizations, fleet modernization and upgrades, and operational enhancements, all aimed at ensuring the safe and efficient utilization of airspace and physical infrastructures.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS

On 2-3 October 2024, the 2024 Aviation Summit gathered key industry leaders and government officials to chart the future of the Philippine aviation sector, with a focus on sustainability, safety, and innovation. Discussions centered on the development of infrastructure, legislative advancements, and collaborative efforts to elevate the Philippine aviation industry to international standards.

Hosted by the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) and the Asian Business Aviation Association (AsBAA), in partnership with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the event took place at the Manila Ballroom - Marriott Hotel Manila. The two-day Summit brought together key government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, aviation industry leaders, and other prominent resource persons from the academe to address the sector's challenges and explore strategic paths for sustainable aviation growth in the Philippines.

Infrastructure Development and Investment Opportunities

As the Philippine aviation sector aims to position itself on the global stage, key infrastructure developments are underway to enhance the country's connectivity and economic growth. Secretary Jaime Bautista of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) outlined the government's plans to modernize airports and enhance the navigational systems for convenient, accessible, safe, sustainable, and affordable transportation. Landmark projects such as the modernization of Bulacan International Airport and the rehabilitation of Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) are being undertaken in these modernization initiatives to meet global aviation standards by 2028 through the use of public-private partnerships (PPP).

Relatedly, International Air Transport Association (IATA) Area Manager for Southeast Asia Yuli Thompson, noted that the enhancement of physical infrastructure is only a part of the solution and stressed the importance of using modern technology to achieve efficiency to improve the passenger experience. In addition, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary for E-Commerce Group Mary Jean Pacheco outlined the Logistics Services Philippines (LSPH) wherein ten key commitments are set to enhance logistics services that will point towards the Philippines as a regional player in the provision of logistics services.

In his keynote message, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs (SAPIEA) Frederick Go emphasized the government's broader infrastructure vision. It was noted that out of the 186 identified infrastructure flagship projects as of October 2024, 69 are for transportation, and of these, 17 are for airport development. This broad plan of action strives to shift the Philippines from a consumption-oriented to an investment-oriented economy.

From the airline industry, Cebu Pacific Air Chief Executive Officer Mike Szűcs highlighted the need for balanced infrastructure investment across the Philippines to support sustainable economic growth and regional development.

"The Philippines continues to have one of the biggest economic growth rates in Southeast Asia, but it should not solely be about Manila," said Szűcs. "The rest of the country needs attention too, and it is great to see that domestic tourism has become such a big part of stimulating economic growth, building confidence in addressing infrastructure hurdles, and sustaining investment on infrastructure."

"We must do all we can to support agencies and institutions tasked with boosting the Philippine aviation industry," he added.

Policy Framework and Regulatory Environment

The Philippine aviation industry is in transition towards a more standardized and future-ready framework, as the need for substantial policies that will encourage industry development as well as ensure public safety increases. Senator Grace Poe, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, urged for a strategic long-term plan for a national transport policy. The enactment of pending legislative reforms—including amendments to the Civil Aviation Authority Act of 2008, the establishment of a Philippine Transportation Safety Board, and the creation of the Philippine Airports Authority—will further underscore the country's commitment to modernizing its aviation sector and strengthening its position in regional and global markets.

On aviation's impact on European Union (EU)-Philippine relations in particular, Ambassador of the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines Massimo Santoro stated that closer economic links between the Philippines and the EU will enhance transfer and connectivity. With the resumption of talks on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Ambassador Santoro said that the FTA will complement the EU-ASEAN Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement, which will connect 1.1 billion people in 37 countries.

In his presentation, International Business Aviation Council (IBAC) Director General Kurt Edwards explained how proper regulation can help business aviation foster economic development, particularly in connecting remote and inaccessible communities to main commerce hubs. This perspective underlined that optimal regulation of this industry should combine its growth with the accessibility and affordability of services.

Future-proofing PH Aviation

On addressing the talent gap in the aviation industry, Cebu Pacific Air Chief Human Resources Officer Felix Lopez noted that local talent lags in comparison to global employment which has rebounded to 95% of pre-COVID levels. According to Lopez,

industries play a crucial role in influencing and improving academic training in the aviation industry, such as introducing skills-based incentives and effective pipelining strategies to retain locals.

"If private companies and academes align, it will be much easier to tap interns, cadets, and pilots to upskill and be involved in the growth of the Philippine aviation industry. It is imperative to democratize entry training and education for current and future Filipino pilots," said Lopez.

Dr. Marwin Dela Cruz, President of the Philippine State College of Aeronautics (PhilSCA), also added that issues in the curriculum can also be addressed by incorporating fundamental programs in the basic education sector.

"The aviation industry needs to support faculty development as academic institutions, such as the PhilSCA, can address or instigate industry developments. This synergy can produce better pilots, technicians, and technologies to address impending industry gaps," said Dr. Dela Cruz. "We need to intensify these training sessions and expose aviation students early. It should also be reinforced with recalibrated hiring procedures."

Towards Sustainable Aviation

In line with the global aviation industry's commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, experts also discussed the need for innovative technologies and sustainable practices to drive decarbonization.

EU Ambassador to the Philippines Massimo Santoro briefed on how the ASEAN Sustainability Connectivity Package has engendered discourse on sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and comprehensive air programs addressing air management, safety, and environmental concerns.

Ditmar Gorges, Managing Partner at SAF Inc., highlighted the Philippines' potential as a future global production hub for Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), citing its abundant biomass, renewable energy sources, and available land.

"Producing sustainable aviation fuel from plant materials, municipal waste, and agricultural residues will shift the value chain from centralized to decentralized production, offering an opportunity to empower rural communities in the Philippines."

On the side of aircraft manufacturers, Anand Stanley, President at Airbus Asia Pacific, adds that SAF remains the most promising environmentally and economically. "Airbus Asia Pacific has been constantly working on decarbonization over the last 50 years. We have successfully reduced carbon footprint in our operations by 50%," said Stanley.

The Aviation Summit remains one of the biggest flagship advocacy events organized by the ECCP with its Aviation Committee. It currently stands as the largest gathering of the aviation industry in the country.

The inaugural event also featured many esteemed speakers including SAPIEA Sec. Frederick D. Go; DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista; Senator Grace Poe; Philippine Space Agency Director General Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr.; DTI Philippines Usec. Mary Jean Pacheco; DOTr Usec. Bobby Lim; Public-Private Partnership Center Executive Director Cynthia Hernandez; Department of National Defense Assistant Secretary Joselito Ramos; Civil Aeronautics Board Executive Director Atty. Carmelo Arcilla; CAAP Acting Assistant Director General II Captain Florendo Jose C. Aquino III; Airbus Executive Vice President Sales of the Commercial Aircraft Business Mr. Benoît de Saint-Exupéry; Cebu Pacific Air CEO Mr. Mike Szücs; and General Manager Angelito Alvarez of New NAIA Infrastructure Corp., among many others.

NewsWatch Plus Philippines Executive Producer Ms. Lois Calderon hosted the event, while IATA Country Manager for the Philippines Samuel David, ECCP Aviation Committee and AsBAA Philippine Chapter Co-Chairperson Atty. Manolito Manalo, and Philippine Association of Aviation Colleges and Institutions (PAACI) Executive Director Steven Virata served as panel moderators.

The Summit was organized in partnership with the Department of Transportation; Bases Conversion and Development Authority; British Embassy Manila and the German Embassy Manila; Co-Presenters Cebu Pacific Air and AIRBUS; Platinum Partner Philippine Airlines; Bronze Partners Aviation Concepts Technical Services Inc., SITA, and Rotary Fixed Wing Aviation Incorporated; Networking Partners Ocampo & Manalo Law Firm, Lufthansa Lufthansa Technik AG, MedAire, Metrojet, and Wingbox Aviation Inc.; Conference Kit Partner Daher Industrial Services; Advocacy Partner Secure Connections; Session Partner WANZL Harle Hospitality; Booth Partner Berthaphil; Minor Prize Partner AirAsia; Table Top Partners Universal Aviation Philippines, Federal Land, Filinvest; Beverage Partners Le Cellier and Stella Artois; and Media Partners Aviation Updates Philippines, AvGeek Philippines, PortCalls, and Travel and Tour World.

To access the full event program, please visit bit.ly/2024AviationSummitProgram. Check out the event photos [here](#).

2024 AVIATION SUMMIT PROFILE OF ATTENDEES

The 2024 Aviation Summit hosted 300 attendees on Day 1 and 200 attendees on Day 2, also taking into account the venue capacity. The profile of the participants are the following:

- C-level and Corporate Executives
- Senior and Middle Management Professionals

- Industry Associations and Business Groups
- Individual Entrepreneurs and Investors
- Investment Promotion Agencies
- Non-Government Organizations and Civil Society Group
- Government Officials
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Local and International Airline Executives
- Airport Operators
- Aircraft Management Providers
- Aircraft Manufacturers and Suppliers
- Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Providers
- Academics and Researchers
- Advisory and Consultancy Firms
- Aviation Services Providers
- Law Firms
- Investors and Financial Analysts
- Media Representatives
- Insurance and Travel Support Companies
- Logistics Companies
- Energy, Oil, and Power Companies
- IT Providers of Air Transport
- Flight Support and Ground Handling Services

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Speakers, Panelists, and Moderators

- **H.E. Massimo Santoro**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines
- **Hon. Frederick Go**, Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs (SAPIEA), Office of the President
- **Dr. Joel Joseph S. Marciano, Jr.**, Director General, Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA)
- **Hon. Jaime J. Bautista**, Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOTr)
- **Hon. Mary Jean T. Pacheco**, Undersecretary for E-Commerce Group, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
- **Hon. Grace Poe**, Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Senate of the Philippines
- **Hon. Roberto C.O. Lim**, Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports, Department of Transportation (DOTr)
- **Hon. Cynthia Hernandez**, Executive Director, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Center
- **Hon. Joselito B. Ramos**, Assistant Secretary for Logistics, Acquisitions, and Self-Reliant Defense Posture, Department of National Defense
- **Atty. Carmelo L. Arcilla**, Executive Director, Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB)
- **Captain Florendo Jose C. Aquino III**, Acting Assistant Director General II, Flight Standards Inspectorate Service (FSIS), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP)
- **Philipp Dupuis**, Minister Counsellor and Head of the Economic and Trade Section, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines
- **Mike Szücs**, Chief Executive Officer, Cebu Pacific Air
- **Kurt Edwards**, Director General, International Business Aviation Council (IBAC)

- **Atty. Manolito Manalo**, ECCP Aviation Committee and AsBAA Philippine Chapter Co-Chairperson
- **Felix Lopez**, Chief Human Resources Officer, Cebu Pacific Air
- **Yuli Thompson**, Area Manager for Southeast Asia, International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- **Mr. Ditmar Gorges**, Managing Partner, SAFasia Inc.
- **Jessica Yom**, Government Relations Director for RTX, Pratt & Whitney
- **Anand Stanley**, President, Airbus Asia Pacific
- **Dr. Marwin Dela Cruz**, President, Philippine State College of Aeronautics
- **Steven Virata**, Executive Director, Philippine Association of Aviation Colleges and Institutions (PAACI)
- **Angelito A. Alvarez**, General Manager, New NAIA Infrastructure Corp.
- **Ms. Melissa D. Feliciano EnP, MNSA**, Chief Strategist and Urban Planner, Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC)
- **Ilya Gutlin**, Chief Executive Officer, AKiDO Global
- **Hon. Vivian Santos**, Deputy Director General for Operations, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)
- **Edgar Allan Nepomuceno**, Chairperson, Airline Operators Council - Manila
- **Samuel David**, Country Manager for the Philippines, International Air Transport Association
- **Hon. Francisco Ashley Acedillo**, Board Director, Philippine Institute of Cybersecurity Professionals
- **Shevantha Weerasekera**, VP / Senior Advisor Engineering & Fleet Management, Cebu Pacific Air
- **Daniel Cruz**, Lead Expert on Air Traffic Management (ATM) and Air Navigation Services (ANS) - SCOPE APP Project, European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
- **Dr. Maria Cherry Lyn Salazar-Rodolfo**, Lead Convenor, Safe Travel Alliance
- **Dr. William Emmanuel S. Yu**, Network Security Expert, Secure Connections
- **Mr. Benoît de Saint-Exupéry**, Executive Vice President - Sales, Commercial Aircraft, Airbus
- **Ms. Lois Calderon**, News Anchor and Executive Producer, NewsWatch Plus

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

- **Daniel Bell**, Australian Embassy, Manila
- **Tarja Kuokkanen**, Embassy of Finland
- **Matisse Gauthier**, Embassy of France in the Philippines
- **Karen Rosario Dizon**, U.S. Embassy Manila
- **Dr. David Klebs**, Embassy Federal Republic of Germany
- **Anton Lehnen**, Embassy Federal Republic of Germany

Government Representatives

- **Manuel Aquino**, House of Representatives

- **Ephraim Valenzuela**, House of Representatives
- **Ranibai Dilangalen**, Ministry of Transportation and Communication BARMM
- **Razulden Mangelen**, Ministry of Transportation and Communications BARMM
- **Johana Akmad**, Ministry of Transportation and Communications BARMM
- **Carmencita Salik**, Ministry of Transportation and Communications BARMM
- **Ian Dominic Tabañag**, Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD)
- **Joyce Huffton**, Climate Change Commission
- **Erwin Peralta**, BCDA
- **Queennie Bautista**, BCDA
- **Aaron Christian Laroya**, DOTr
- **Jenn Del Rosario**, DOTr
- **Kyle Aquino**, DOTr
- **Michael Eric Castillo**, DOTr
- **Vien Carlo Mendez**, DOTr
- **Junard Cruz**, DOTr
- **Atty. Raymond Mitra**, PDAC
- **Christopher Floyd Querijero**, DOTr
- **Paul Christian Manaois**, DOTr
- **Ed Mangalili**, DOTr
- **Justin Roi Salvador**, DOTr

ECCP and AsBAA Executives

- **Mr. Paulo Duarte**, President, ECCP
- **Jenny Lau**, Chairwoman, AsBAA
- **Mr. Florian Gottein**, Executive Director, ECCP
- **Mr. Max Motschmann**, Board of Governors Member, AsBAA

Partners and Registered Attendees

- | | |
|--|---|
| • 1Aviation Groundhandling Services, Corp. | • AMSL Aero |
| • Aboitiz Infra Capital, Inc. | • Arangkada Philippines |
| • ACDI Multipurpose Cooperative | • Arthur D. Little |
| • ACTSI | • Ascendant Global |
| • ADHETEC | • Asia Pacific Aviation |
| • Aerobay | • Asian Aerospace |
| • AGX EXPRESS PHILS INC | • Asian Air Safari |
| • Air France - KLM Royal Dutch Airlines | • Aviation Concepts Technical Services, Inc |
| • Airbus Helicopters (PH) | • Aviation Financial Adviser |
| • Airspeed Group of Companies | • Aviation Technical School of Cotabato |
| • AIRSPEED INTERNATIONAL CORP | • Aviation Updates Philippines |
| • Alpha Aviation Group Philippines | • BASF Phils. Inc. |

- Berthaphil
- BGB
- Board of Airline Representatives
- Bureau Veritas SA
- CarbonClick
- CAVITEX
- Cebu Pacific
- Collins Aerospace
- DAHER INDUSTRIAL SERVICES INC.
- Daily Tribune
- Delbros Inc.
- dnata, Inc.
- DPR AVIATION COLLEGE
- East2Technology
- Egis Projects Philippines, Inc.
- Fedex
- Fieldtech Asia, Inc.
- First Aviation Academy Inc.
- FlightGlobal
- FMI - Singapore Airshow 2026
- FPT Software Philippines Corp.
- Harle Hospitality
- HCM Nexus Consulting Inc.
- Holy Angel University
- I-AM Consulting
- IATA
- IATAS
- IMPACT
- INAEC Aviation Corporation
- Jet Aviation
- Jet Aviation (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd
- Jet Support Services, Inc (JSSI)
- Konecranes
- LSG INDUSTRIAL
- Lufthansa Consulting
- Lufthansa Consulting GmbH
- Lufthansa Technik Philippines
- Mace
- MedAire
- Metrojet
- Metrojet Engineering Clark
- MHI Investment Holdings, Inc.
- MMC Sportz Asia Inc
- Morning Tide Investment Capital
- PAL
- Perigee Aerospace Inc.
- Petron Corporation
- Philjets Aero Charter Corp
- Pioneer Insurance and Surety Corporation
- PLAZA PREMIUM GROUP
- PortCalls
- PortCalls Asia
- PTC Aviation Training Center
- PTC Holdings
- PTC Holdings Corp.
- RISE
- Rotary Fixedwing Aviation Inc.
- SAAB
- SAFAsia Inc
- Santosdumonde
- SGV & Co.
- Shopping Center Management Corporation
- SIA Engineering (Philippines) Corporation
- Simple Flying
- Sino Jet Management Limited
- SITA
- SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC
- SMS Global Technologies, Inc.
- Teleperformance Philippines
- Travel and Tour World
- Turkish Airlines
- TÜV SÜD PSB Philippines
- Visa
- Visa Worldwide Pte Ltd
- Volo Altus Management S.A.
- WCC Aeronautical and Technological College Inc.
- WCC AVIATION COMPANY INC.
- Wingbox

- World Fuel Services – A World Kinect Company

Media

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • ABS-CBN News | • Malaysian National News Agency | • Simple Flying |
| • BusinessWorld Publishing Corp. | • Philippine Daily Inquirer | • The Nation Group |
| • DWIZ/Aliv Channel 23 | • Philippine Star | • TV5 Network, Inc. |
| • FlightGlobal | • Philippines Reuter News | • Aviation Updates Philippines |
| | | • AvGeek Philippines |
| | | • DOTr – Media |

NUMBER AND PROFILE OF REGISTRANTS FOR THE 2024 AVIATION SUMMIT

The 2024 Aviation Summit hosted **300 attendees on Day 1** and **200 attendees on Day 2**, also taking into account the venue capacity. The profiles of the participants are the following:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • C-level and Corporate Executives | • Aircraft Manufacturers and Suppliers |
| • Senior and Middle Management Professionals | • Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) Providers |
| • Industry Associations and Business Groups | • Academics and Researchers |
| • Individual Entrepreneurs and Investors | • Advisory and Consultancy Firms |
| • Investment Promotion Agencies | • Aviation Services Providers |
| • Non-Government Organizations and Civil Society Groups | • Law Firms |
| • Government Officials | • Investors and Financial Analysts |
| • Members of the Diplomatic Corps | • Media Representatives |
| • Local and International Airline Executives | • Insurance and Travel Support Companies |
| • Airport Operators | • Logistics Companies |
| • Aircraft Management Providers | • Energy, Oil, and Power Companies |
| | • IT Providers of Air Transport |
| | • Flight Support and Ground Handling Services |