ICAO 2013 SAFEST YEAR

ICAO further announced on 17th January that preliminary data confirmed that 2013 was the safest year ever recorded in terms of fatalities for scheduled international air transport operations.

Although the number of fatal accidents involving scheduled commercial operations remained steady at nine during 2013, fatalities themselves were down a significant 53.5% from 2012, dropping to only 173 compared to 372 the previous year. Using 2010 as a baseline, fatalities have fallen by a huge 76% and 2013 represents the third consecutive year in which air transport fatalities have continued to decrease.

ICAO Secretary General, Raymond Benjamin remarked, “These results are no surprise given the level of commitment our sector demonstrates, year-in and year-out, to improving the safety of the global air transport network. Recent years have seen a tremendous increase in the level of co-operation and partnership on aviation safety priorities and we are now seeing the fruits of these efforts borne out by these remarkable 2013 outcomes.”

Using ICAO Regional Aviation Safety Group areas of responsibility as a basis for comparison, the Middle East had no fatal accidents, Africa and the Asia/Pacific each had one, Europe had two, and the Americas saw the highest number with a total of five fatal accidents in 2013. Also of note was that, of the nine total fatal accidents worldwide, seven occurred during the approach or go-around phases of flight.

Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the ICAO Council commented, “Safety is ICAO’s guiding and most fundamental Strategic Objective. ICAO, together with a wide range of partnering organizations who are contributing to our co-operative international safety programmes, will continue to co-ordinate the investment and collaboration needed to ensure that air transport remains the safest means of rapidly moving people and goods worldwide.”