

## Visit of ICAO Council President to Nepal

President of the ICAO Council Mr. Roberto Kobeh Gonzalez visited Nepal between 4-7 June, 2012 at the invitation of the Minister for Culture Tourism and Civil Aviation (MOCTCA).

During his four- day visit, Mr. Kobeh had meeting with high level of Government of Nepal (GoN) on important issues related to the safety and security of civil aviation. Dr Kobeh called on His Excellency the President of Nepal Dr. Ram Varan Yadav on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012. During his meeting with the H.E. the President, Mr. Kobeh put forth his views regarding the necessity of improvement of the existing civil aviation legal framework in congruence with the ICAO Conventions and Resolutions. He expressed the need to strengthen safety oversight capability of the state's civil aviation regulatory body. H.E. the President in turn appreciated the role of ICAO in the overall development of civil aviation in global level. HE the President also assured Mr. Kobeh of conveying his concerns to the appropriate government level. The same day Mr. Kobeh called on the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal Dr. Baburam Bhattarai and reiterated the need of high level political commitment to improve the civil aviation regulatory system of Nepal. He drew the attention of the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister regarding the separation of service provider function from the state's regulatory organization. He expressed that flexibility, autonomy and self-sustainability of CAAN is essential for the effective safety regulation of civil aviation in Nepal. Rt. Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Bhattarai made firm commitment of GoN in the safety of civil aviation and assured Mr. Kobeh to initiate necessary actions to address concerns raised by him.

Before his meetings with H.E. the President and the Rt. Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Kobeh had met jointly with Minister Mr. Bogati and the Secretary of MOCTCA Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2012. During this meeting, current civil aviation scenario in the world, some important issues to be addressed by Nepal and other relevant matters of mutual interests were discussed. Mr. Kobeh stated that GoN should strengthen CAAN so as to ensure flexibility, autonomy and self-sustainability for the effective safety regulation. Minister Bogati informed Mr. Kobeh about the initiation of GoN to improve existing civil aviation system under the Civil Aviation Capacity Development Project. Mr. Kobeh also met the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai. Mr. Kobeh also attended an interaction programme with airline industry.

Earlier, Mr. Kobeh was welcomed by the Secretary of MOCTCA Dr. Joshi, Director General of CAAN Mr. Manandhar and other high ranking official of Ministry and CAAN on his arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The same day, Mr. Kobeh met Director General of CAAN Mr. Tri Ratna Manandhar at his office. After a short meeting, Mr. Manandhar made a presentation on the Civil Aviation System of

Nepal in the presence of the Secretary of MOCTCA Dr. Joshi and other high ranking official from the ministry and CAAN.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the last day of his visit, Mr. Kobeh awarded Civil Aviation Academy with certificate of affiliation to ICAO TRAIN AIR Programme.

### **Concerns raised by ICAO President**

During high level meeting in Nepal, Mr. Kobeh expressed his concern on following subject matters:

- Need to improve the primary aviation legislation in line with the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) and other international air law instruments ratified by Nepal.
- Need to review its operating regulations to incorporate the relevant SARPs of ICAO Annexes.
- Ratification of the Montreal Convention, 1999.
- Separation of Regulatory and Service Provider functions of CAAN.
- Flexibility, autonomy and self-sustainability of CAAN to strengthen state regulatory system.
- Environment to retain the qualified manpower involved in safety oversight functions of CAAN.
- Close coordination and cooperation between Airline industry and CAAN to enhance aviation safety in Nepal.

### **Nepal's Commitment**

ICAO Council President was assured by the high level of GoN to initiate the following actions for the improvement of Civil Aviation System in Nepal:

- Nepal shall improve existing Civil Aviation legislations in congruence with International Conventions and SARPs of ICAO Annexes.
- Nepal has initiated homework for the separation of regulatory and service provider functions of CAAN
- GoN is committed to strengthen the safety oversight capacity of Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal.
- GoN will support to strengthen CAAN in terms of flexibility, autonomy and self-sustainability.
- Nepal is very serious regarding ICAO USOAP audit and concerted effort is being made for the effective implementation of CAP.
- Nepal will initiate process to access the Montreal Convention 1999.