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# IFALPA Welcomes Global Aviation Leaders to 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Incheon

## INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) opened its 79<sup>th</sup> annual Conference today in Incheon, South Korea, bringing together aviation professionals from across the globe to strengthen the collective voice of pilots worldwide. Hosted by IFALPA and ALPA Korea, the conference marks a significant moment for the global aviation community, with speakers, workshops, and discussions centered on pilot leadership, safety, and the future of the profession.

This year's conference enjoyed a distinguished lineup of high-level speakers, including Mr. Sung Kyu Maeng, Chairman of the MOLIT Committee of the National Assembly and Mr. Jin-Seok Moon, National Assembly Member and current democratic party leader of the MOLIT Committee, who both addressed the Conference by video.

In person, the Conference was graced with the presence of Mr. Jun Young Bae, National Assembly Member of the Republic of Korea representing the City of Incheon, Mr. Peter K. Yu, Director of General Aviation Safety Policy Bureau Office of Civil Aviation (MOLIT), Mr. Kee Hong Woo, Vice President Korean Air, and Prof. Dr. Hee Young Hurr, President of Korea Aerospace University. These executives and experts provided insights on the future of global aviation and shared their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing the industry both regionally and globally.

In his State of the Federation address, IFALPA President Captain Amornvaj (Ben) Mansumitchai outlined the Federation's accomplishments over the past year and emphasize the importance of pilot leadership at all levels.

"We are at a critical juncture in aviation history, where leadership, engagement, and advocacy are more important than ever. As pilots, we not only lead in the cockpit but also within our associations, our communities, and across the industry," said Captain Mansumitchai. "Our theme this year, **Pilot Leadership: Engage. Activate. Advocate.** underscores the vital role we play in ensuring the safety and professionalism of our industry."

The conference provides a platform for pilots to share experiences and advance aviation safety initiatives. We also recognize the importance of making the profession appealing to younger generations of aviators by providing mentorship opportunities and advocating for policies that ensure a sustainable and rewarding career in aviation.

In his speech, Captain Mansumitchai emphasized the Federation's continued efforts to safeguard flight safety and advocate for pilots in the face of ever-changing challenges. "At IFALPA, we remain resolute in our commitment to protecting the safety and well-being of pilots worldwide," he stated. "Our work on critical issues like Reduced Crew Operations (RCO), Single Pilot Operations (SiPO), and Extended Minimum Crew Operations (EMCO) ensures that safety is never compromised. The human element in aviation is irreplaceable, and we will continue to advocate for the presence of two well-trained, well-rested pilots on the flight deck at all times."

The Federation's ongoing work to address these critical issues, along with its growing engagement with vital stakeholders such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), continues to strengthen global aviation policy.

Captain Mansumitchai also highlighted the importance of collaboration among pilots, regulators, and management in developing, promoting, and implementing Positive Safety Culture. "A Positive Safety Culture is built on transparency, non-punitive reporting, and open communication," he explained. "Together, we must ensure that safety remains the cornerstone of our industry, and that all parties work collaboratively to identify and manage emerging hazards."

IFALPA continues to strengthen its network, representing approximately 145,000 pilots in more than 75 Member Associations worldwide. This year, the Federation is pleased to announce the return of Kuwait as a Member Association and the successful affiliation between ALPA International and the Allied Pilots Association (APA), further strengthening the Global Voice of Pilots.

"We are proud of the growth of our Federation, and I am excited about the future. This expansion allows us to have an even greater impact on aviation policy and advocacy," said Captain Mansumitchai. "Together, we are creating a strong, unified voice that will continue to shape the future of aviation."

With the aviation industry facing new challenges and opportunities, IFALPA remains committed to ensuring that the expertise and perspectives of pilots are central to industry discussions. The Federation's mission continues to be driven by its dedication

to flight safety, professional excellence, and the long-term sustainability of the piloting profession.

"As we engage, activate, and advocate, we are building a safer, stronger, and more sustainable future for aviation. This conference represents a crucial step in reinforcing the leadership role of pilots, and I look forward to the continued success of our Federation in the years to come."

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Note to Editors:

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents more than 145,000 pilots in 75 countries. The mission of IFALPA is to promote the highest level of aviation safety worldwide and to be the global advocate of the piloting profession, providing representation, services, and support to both our members and the aviation industry.

[www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)

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