

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE HONOURABLE RUDRANATH
INDARSINGH, MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
THE ECONOMY AT THE OPENING OF INSIDER THREAT
AWARENESS SEMINAR
JULY 21 - 22, 2015 AT THE MARRIOTT'S HOTEL, PORT OF SPAIN**

My cabinet colleague, Minister of National Security - The Honourable Brigadier General Carlton Alfonso.

Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Grenada - The Honourable Yolande Bain-Horsford.

Minister in the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Guyana - The Honourable Annette Ferguson.

Permanent Secretaries from - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Suriname.

Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority — Mr Kimchand Rampaul.

Chairman of the Caribbean Aviation Safety and Security Oversight System — Mr Nari Williams-Singh

Director General of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority - Mr Ramesh Lutchmedial and other Directors General.

Representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the United States Transportation Security Administration.

Panellist, Moderators and Participants.

Members of the Media, Ladies and Gentlemen

Civil Aviation is one of the greatest contributors to the advancement of modern day society and is the preferred mode of transportation in most parts of the world. Aviation provides a worldwide transportation network that supports global business and tourism, and plays a vital role in facilitating economic growth, particularly in developing countries like the CARICOM states.

Let us look at a few statistics:

- Aviations' global economic impact is estimated at 2.4 trillion US dollars per annum , equivalent to 3.4 % of the Global Gross Domestic Product
- The world's 1,379 airlines operate a fleet of over 25,500 aircraft which serve some 3,864 airports.
- Aviation generates a total of over 58.1 million jobs directly and indirectly
- Aviation transports 2.97 billion passengers annually and 52% of international tourist travel by air
- 40% of world traded goods by value are transported by air

Since the first jet liner flew in 1949, aviation has grown more than seventy fold. This growth is unmatched by any other major form of transport.

Civil aviation has had a dynamic influence on the global economy causing the rapid movement of millions of people and billions of dollars' worth of goods around the globe.

Civil Aviation promotes economic growth providing employment opportunities in spin off industries such as the hospitality business.

Mr. Chairman, aviation also makes a contribution to the improvement of people's lives by contributing to sustainable development, supporting remote communities and widening consumer choice.

Imagine what our world would be like without aviation. We would be unable travel to half way around the globe in less than 24 hours or get same day and next day delivery services of urgent and time sensitive goods.

For us in the Caribbean, aviation plays a key pivotal role in our current economic thrust providing essential transportation linkages between our island states and the key industrial and commercial centers of the world. For some of our island states, aviation is indispensable for tourism where it is a major source of foreign exchange.

However, the success of civil aviation industry is hugely underpinned by the public's confidence in the **safety and security systems** in place to safeguard air transportation from acts of unlawful interference.

Following the tragic terrorist attacks on the United States of America on September 11, 2001 aviation is still under threat. The events a year ago surrounding MS 370 and MS 17 underscores that fact.

The Caribbean is regarded as a "soft target" due to its loose borders. Persons linked to criminal and terrorist organisations penetrate our borders and network with

Insiders – persons working at airports who use their trusted access to engage in nefarious activities which significantly compromise security at our airports and aviation-related facilities.

The threat posed by the Insider is costly and damaging, and creates a significant security challenge for our aviation and national security apparatus, and impacts our capability to effectively safeguard civil aviation.

Intense social, economic, political and environmental pressures at the national and regional levels results in significant financial constraints which impacts on states ability to meet their security obligations under the Chicago Convention.

However, the threat from within our aviation industry must not be allowed to go unabated. Therefore, States must invest in aviation security systems to identify potential insider threats and initiate counter measures.

Examples of such systems include:

- Improvement of border security measures;**
- Upgrading of travel documents to incorporate the latest technologies in biometric security;**

- Implementation of proper background checks of all airport and airline employees;
- Restriction of access to airside areas to only persons whose jobs require their presence to the airside;
- Specialised training of airport security personnel on insider threats;
- Implementation of effective intelligence and surveillance systems; and
- Exchange of security information among states.

There is strength in unity, which is evident by the assembly of such esteemed aviation professionals from the Caribbean, North and South America at this Seminar to deliberate on this very important topic – the **INSIDER THREAT**.

In this collaborative framework, the Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to working with the relevant agencies in Trinidad and Tobago, its CARICOM partners, the United States and other countries; the International Civil Aviation Organisation and other international organisations to promote the highest levels of aviation security in Trinidad and Tobago and the region.

As Aviation Ministers we are required to make decisions on aviation security matters. This seminar will provide us with an excellent appreciation our aviation security obligations under the Chicago Convention

Our objective is clear: When aircraft fly in our airspace or land at our airports, it must be done within a seamless civil aviation safety and security system that meets the highest international standards.

Finally, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority, CASSOS and the United States Transportation Security Administration for facilitating this important seminar

Do have a successful seminar.

Thank You.