



CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AUTHORITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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MEDIA RELEASE

CASA PNG Advances Aviation Career Pathways and Future Workforce Development Through PNG Aviation Career Expo

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The Civil Aviation Safety Authority of Papua New Guinea (CASA PNG) is strengthening its focus on developing the next generation of aviation professionals by translating workforce discussions from the 11th PNG Annual Aviation Safety & Security Conference (ASSC) into practical career-development initiatives through the 3rd PNG Aviation Career Expo (ACE).

Today's Expo registered around 500 young Papua New Guineans together with aviation organisations and professionals and exposes students to career opportunities across the wider aviation system, including aircraft engineering and maintenance, air traffic control, aviation safety and security, airports, accident investigation, flight operations, information technology, cybersecurity, policy and administration.

From Conference Discussion to Practical Workforce Action

As Secretariat to the PNG Aviation Safety & Security Conference, CASA PNG is using the ASSC and Aviation Career Expo as platforms for more structured aviation workforce development and engagement.

Practical strategies proposed following the Conference and Expo include:

- establishing an ACE attendee database to support future career engagement and workforce-development initiatives;
- encouraging students and other Expo attendees to complete an ACE Survey Form, providing information on career interests, education and training aspirations;
- using the survey results to inform the development of PNG aviation career pathway guidelines, giving young people clearer information on aviation occupations, entry pathways, education and training requirements;
- facilitating stronger collaboration between Government, aviation industry, schools, universities and training organisations around aviation career pathways; and
- exploring public-private partnerships that can support future aviation workforce-development programmes, education, training and career opportunities.

These are proposed practical strategies building on the Conference discussions and are intended to help establish a stronger evidence base for future aviation workforce planning.

Vision 2050: Investing in PNG's Greatest Resource

The initiative is closely aligned with PNG Vision 2050, which places Human Capital Development, Gender, Youth and People Empowerment among the country's strategic pillars. The Aviation Career Expo opening address also recognises public-private partnership in education as an important mechanism for human capital development

Vision 2050 states:

“The success of Vision 2050 is contingent upon the competencies of the country's workforce.”

It calls for a workforce that is well educated, healthy, appropriately skilled and honest, and committed, proactive and innovative.

This direction is particularly relevant to aviation, where safety, security and operational performance depend fundamentally on the competence and professionalism of the people working throughout the system.

Vision 2050 further recognises that our people are the most valuable resources in our development aspirations and ongoing nation-building efforts, supported by the values of Integrity, Excellence, Discipline and Christian Values-Based Leadership.

For PNG's aviation sector, these principles provide a strong foundation for developing professionals who possess both the technical competencies and the values required to operate within a safety-critical industry.

Supporting ICAO's NGAP Vision

PNG's approach also aligns with the International Civil Aviation Organization's Next Generation of Aviation Professionals (NGAP) strategy.

ICAO recognises that the smooth functioning of global aviation relies heavily on a highly trained and skilled workforce. Its NGAP Strategy identifies four key focus areas: advocacy and outreach; workforce forecasting, planning and monitoring; education and training; and resource mobilisation, implementation support and capacity development.

ICAO's current NGAP direction also encourages the integration of aviation workforce strategies into national and regional frameworks, greater access to aviation careers, future skills and innovation in training, stronger coordination and sustainable resource mobilisation.

ICAO has further emphasised collaboration between States, educational institutions and industry as an important response to aviation workforce challenges.

This collaborative approach closely complements PNG's proposed use of Government-industry partnerships and public-private arrangements to develop sustainable aviation career pathways.

Building Career Pathways, Not Just Promoting Careers

A key future objective is to ensure that the Aviation Career Expo develops beyond simply showcasing aviation occupations.

Through the proposed attendee database and ACE Survey, CASA PNG can develop a clearer picture of the interests and aspirations of young Papua New Guineans attending the Expo.

The survey findings can then help inform proposed career pathway guidelines explaining how students can progress from school into aviation education, training and employment opportunities.

The broader objective is to connect:

Awareness → Interest → Education → Training → Career Pathway → Aviation Profession.

This approach reflects the message delivered to students at the Career Expo that they should not simply ask,

“What job can I get?”, but rather, “What skills do I need to develop to become valuable to PNG's aviation industry?”

A Shared Responsibility for PNG's Future Workforce

The development of PNG's aviation workforce cannot be delivered by Government or the aviation regulator alone.

The Career Expo recognises that sustainable workforce development requires cooperation between Government, aviation organisations, industry, schools, universities and training institutions.

Public-private partnerships therefore provide an important opportunity to explore practical support for future initiatives such as career awareness, education and training programmes, industry exposure, professional development and other workforce-development activities.

Most importantly, the approach creates an opportunity to connect the aspirations of young Papua New Guineans with the future capability requirements of PNG's aviation system.

Preparing the People Who Will Lead Tomorrow's Aviation System

The message emerging from the 11th ASSC and Aviation Career Expo is clear:

PNG cannot build the aviation system of tomorrow without investing in the people who will operate, maintain, regulate and lead it.

As stated in the Career Expo opening address:

“The future of PNG aviation will not simply be determined by the aircraft we acquire or the infrastructure we build. It will be determined by the people we prepare.”

The proposed workforce initiatives therefore provide a practical opportunity for CASA PNG, Government, industry and education partners to convert the aspirations of Vision 2050 and ICAO NGAP into sustainable aviation career pathways for Papua New Guinea.

For students attending the Expo, the message remains:

Explore. Ask. Learn. Be inspired.

And for PNG's aviation community:

Invest in our people today, so they are ready to safely operate, regulate and lead the aviation system of tomorrow.

This reflects the theme of the 11th PNG ASSC:

“Smart Skies, Safe Future Through Collaboration and Innovation

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