

Under the patronage of **His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum**
President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports,
Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group



WOMEN
in **Aviation**
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 May 2019, Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

EVENT PROGRAMME

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[Women in Aviation General Assembly Dubai](#)

Aviation is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, doubling in size every fifteen years. It is also an attractive career path for millions, offering prestigious positions, excellent benefits and high salaries.

However, 50% of the world's population – women, are yet to receive their fair share of the opportunities this industry provides. In fact, recent research by global aviation consultancy firm, CAPA Centre for Aviation suggests that despite various efforts, little progress has been made over the past decade in advancing the aviation gender balance.

Nevertheless, the industry has committed itself to changing the status quo and inspiring examples are available of airlines, airports and aviation entities that have a high percentage of women across all departments. All three major industry associations - ICAO, IATA and ACI are also playing an active role in promoting the employment of women amongst their members, with ICAO and ACI even headed by female Secretary and Director Generals respectively.

Launched in 2016, the [Women in Aviation General Assembly Dubai](#) has become an annual meeting place for international aviation leaders, female industry role models and hundreds of college and university students looking to join the industry. As a young and rapidly growing aviation economy, the Middle East is committed to ensuring equal opportunities for women across all sectors and the Women in Aviation General Assembly Dubai plays a powerful role in bringing the industry together to discuss the challenges and how to overcome them.

Continuing the excellent work being done by ICAO, IATA and ACI so far, the Women in Aviation General Assembly Dubai will highlight best practise to regional aviation HR leadership to bring about positive change.



Agenda: 1st May 2019

9am to 10am	Registration / Welcome Coffee
10am to 10:10am	Welcome Address / Opening Ceremony Mervat Sultan, President, Women in Aviation Middle East Chapter
10:10am to 10:20am	Keynote Address HRH Prince Fahd bin Mishaal Al-Saud, Vice Chairman of the Board, Saudi Aviation Club (SAC) and Chairman of GCC Aviation Authority
10:20am to 10:30am	Keynote Address Bernie Dunn, President of Boeing Middle East, North Africa & Turkey
10:30am to 11:30am	Panel Discussion 1: Preparing for the Future Aviation Gender Equality is Here to Stay

Women are vastly under-represented in the aviation and aerospace sectors and while change has been rapid in recent years, new education policies, regular training, well laid out career development programmes and decentralised decision-making can help women achieve even more in these high tech industries.

In our opening session, we will look at some of the most successful case studies from around the world where specific initiatives have helped women succeed in the aviation workplace and enabled organisations to meet their gender equality goals. Experts will share strategies that have worked and identify which stakeholders should be on board to ensure there is complete commitment to delivering results.

Key themes in this session will include:

- The influence of social media in the changing workplace
- The hundreds of skills that support the aviation industry
- Why should non-aviation professionals consider aviation as a great career option
- What are aviation leaders looking for in their new hires

Moderator: Suaad Al Shamsi, Senior Manager - Midfield Programme, Etihad Airways

Panellists:

- **Captain Feras Malallah**
- **Captain Ahmed Bel Fakih**
- **Lisa Holzmann, Deputy General Manager, MSI Air**
- **Barbro Bolander, HR Director, LfV Consulting**

11:30am to 12:30pm

Panel Discussion 2: Building Female Aviation Leadership
Creating the Right Environment for Women to Succeed

Although there is a huge opportunity for more female leaders in the aviation industry, the growth of women in leadership positions has been slow and does not meet the current demands of the market. The industry has shown overall that it is committed to improve this status - however, there is still a long way to go.

Specific coaching, mentorship and leadership training programmes have to be put in place, unconscious bias have to be removed and company stakeholders have to be committed to the initiative as well. In this session, we will look at the obstacles women have to overcome to reach to the top of their organisations and the role top management and HR play towards removing these.

The session also looks at work-life balance issues in the light of female leadership positions and the wider role the society, community and family must play.

Key themes in this session will include:

- An introduction to flight dispatch, fuelling, catering, FBOs and the multiple other sectors that support the aviation industry
- The benefits of an inclusive organisation
- Securing stakeholder buy in for gender equality
- The role of HR in building gender equality through training programmes that work

Moderator: Nadine Fanous, Associate Director Industry and Government relations, Boeing

Panellists:

- **Haifa Hamedaldeen, Transformation and Project Manager, Saudi Air Navigation Services**
- **Robert J. Gerritsen, General Manager, Air BP Mena**
- **Lisa Marie Heaney , First Officer: Bell 412, Falcon Aviation Services**
- Airbus Speaker TBC

12:30pm to 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm

Keynote Address

Rana Dajani, Associate Professor, Hashemite University of Jordan

1:50pm

Video message from **H.E. Captain Aisha Al Hamli**

2pm to 3pm

Panel Discussion 3: Women in Space
Building Gender Equality in Your Workplace

Since 1961, women have been an integral part of space expeditions. From space travel and micro experiments on the ground to engineering modern space stations and algorithms on planetary missions, women have played an important role in making space exploration possible, albeit behind the scenes sometimes.

Females make up over 50% of STEM students in the Middle East and 77% of computer science students in the UAE, well above global averages. The greater hiring of women in the Middle East's space and aerospace sectors will see benefits across businesses and communities as a highly qualified and talented pool of resources will help the region achieve its space ambitions.

Our expert panel will discuss successful programmes that can help you plan your gender equality strategy and provide a systematic guide on how to enhance gender equality in your workplace and ensure the buy-in of all your leading stakeholders.

Key themes in this session will include:

- First hand insight into the region's ambitious space programmes
- Women taking the lead in the space sector – globally and locally
- Creating greater opportunities for the region's STEM graduates
- The next step - How to apply?
- Young female engineers/ aviation sharing their experience

Moderator:

Panellists:

- **Tina Ghataore , Yahsat**
- **Al Jwahrah Al Theyeb, Saudi Arabia HR Manager, Boeing**
- **Sheikha Al Maskari, Chief Innovation Officer, UAE Space Agency**
- **Lisa Lyons, Vice President Trading, Dubai Aerospace Enterprise**
- **Maryam Al Buloushi, Manager - Environment Studies, General Civil Aviation Authority**

3pm to 4pm

Panel Discussion 4: Women in Aerospace
The Competitive Value of Gender Equality and Successful Youth
Engagement Programmes

Historical evidence shows that organisations that promote gender equality see a positive impact on their bottom lines. While aerospace businesses globally have encountered challenges in implementing successful gender equality strategies, there are established ways to overcome these and create a competitive advantage for your firm.

In this session, we will discuss some of the key benefits of embracing gender equality and how it can position your firm ahead of your competitors. From greater market attractiveness to customers, employees, shareholders and the community to attracting better talent, being more innovative, creating a stronger brand value and delivering better financial results, the competitive value of gender equality has never been a more powerful tool.

The session will also host some of our most outstanding Generation Z delegates of last year, who will share what they are looking for in their future employers and how aerospace organisations can reach out to them.

Key themes in this session will include:

- Creating a stronger brand value and greater market attractiveness
- Attracting better talent and encouraging higher creativity and innovation
- A look at future opportunities in the region's aerospace sector
- Generation Z – leading the change

Moderator: Zeina El Hakam, Communications Manager, Boeing

Panellists:

- Strata
- **Filiz Hayirli Tepebasi, Turkey Strategy Manager, Boeing**
- **Sonja Strand, Vice President / General Manager – Global Airports, Honeywell**
- **Patrick Natali, General Delegate Middle-East, Safran**
- **Hamda Al Shehhi, UAE Space Agency**

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