



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ENGLISH ASSOCIATION
supporting the use of English for aviation safety

CONFERENCE 2019

Exploring the Aviation English training needs of:

- Ab-initio Pilots and Air Traffic Controllers, and,
- Aircraft Maintenance Personnel.

hosted by



8 - 10 May, 2019
Chiba – Tokyo, Japan

EVENT REPORT

The ICAEA International Conference 2019 was generously hosted by *All Nippon Airlines (ANA)*. The conference took place over two and a half days at *Hotel The Manhattan* in Chiba, near Tokyo. The venue provided ideal facilities including a main conference room and workshop/break-out facilities with coffee breaks and lunches provided in close proximity. This enabled delegates to move between sessions easily and socialise during breaks in the programme.

With over 100 participants from more than 35 countries, this was ICAEA's first event in Asia for seven years. Considering the interest and enthusiasm for the event, it was generally agreed that the Association should plan a follow-up event in Asia in the near future, especially as the region leads growth in aviation globally.

Thirty-four speakers presented or delivered workshops on topics related to the theme – some based on academic research and others on implementation and training experiences.

Topics included:

- the communication training needs of pilots and controllers,
- the influence of culture in training and communication,
- the role of operational knowledge in providing training,
- teacher training needs for aviation English instructors,
- issues in applying ICAO LPR assessment approaches for the selection of ab-initio pilots,
- use of online and face-to-face media for provision of training,
- the role of standard phraseology in training,
- English as a lingua franca, and,
- the responsibilities of native speakers for effective radio communication.

Day 1 focused on issues related to emerging issues in aviation communication and the language and communication training needs of ab-initio pilots and controllers. ANA hosted a sake tasting experience and Japanese banquet for all delegates to round off the first day of the programme.

Days 2 and 3 extended the theme to include the training and curriculum needs of aircraft maintenance personnel, and the challenges of scheduling and motivating this important group of personnel for language proficiency training.

The conference closed with an update by ICAEA on the ICAEA Test Design Guidelines and Workshops scheduled in Europe, Asia and South America for later in 2019.

Following the conference, an excursion to the *Mihama-en Garden* was provided by ANA, so that delegates could experience a traditional Japanese tea ceremony at the *Shouratei Tea House*.



ICAEA CONFERENCE 2019 - EVENT REPORT (cont.)

Delegates' feedback was collected in a post-event survey, and showed that attendees had a very positive experience. A number of themes were proposed for future ICAEA events. The most requested topics by attendees were related to professional development, including aviation English curriculum development, aviation English teacher training, and communications training beyond language proficiency. Some interest was expressed in the training needs of maintenance personnel, demonstrating this is indeed an emerging field that needs cultivating.

The ICAEA Board would like to express its thanks to the speakers, workshop leaders and all delegates, who together made this an exceptionally dynamic and engaging event.

Our particular thanks go to ANA – for their generous hosting and careful planning of the event, which ensured the smooth running and success of the conference.

Michael Kay
ICAEA President

