
U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

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USTDA SPONSORS U.S.-INDIA AVIATION PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT

USTDA to Launch U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program at Summit to Support India's Civil Aviation Priorities

NEW DELHI, INDIA – The continued tremendous growth of India's economy has placed increased demands on the nation's aviation infrastructure to accommodate rising passenger and cargo volumes. To address the challenges and opportunities presented by this rapid growth, USTDA, in partnership with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA), Government of India, is sponsoring the U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit. The event, which will take place April 23-25, 2007, will promote a high-level dialogue between U.S. and Indian government officials and private sector representatives regarding the development of India's aviation sector and the growing relationship between the two nation's industries and governments.

Recognizing the potential for further cooperation between the United States and India in the aviation sector, USTDA plans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MOCA at the Summit to establish the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP). Under the ACP, USTDA, MOCA, FAA, and other U.S. and Indian public sector entities will partner with the U.S. industry in identifying and supporting India's civil aviation sector modernization priorities.

Who: The Honorable Thelma J. Askey, Director, USTDA
His Excellency Praful Patel, Minister, MOCA
The Honorable Marion Blakey, Administrator, FAA

When: April 23, 2007 – Media registration will take place from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The Opening Plenary will take place at 12:00 noon, followed by the signing of an MOU between USTDA and MOCA at 1:00 p.m. to launch the ACP. An opportunity for questions from the media will take place at 1:30 p.m.

Where: The Taj Mahal Hotel
1 Mansingh Road
New Delhi, India 110011

(More)

Background:

India's civil aviation sector is experiencing fast-paced growth in response to the country's rapid development. Given the rising demand for air passenger and cargo service, India is facing an enormous infrastructure challenge as it strives to balance air service quality, airport efficiency, flight security, and air-space management.

Specific plans for upgrading the sector are outlined in India's Policy on Airport Infrastructure, in which MOCA states that the establishment of a technologically advanced and systematically reliable air traffic control system is a key priority. Other objectives include expanding airport facilities, installing airport security and monitoring systems, establishing an information technology network to synchronize airport operations, and enforcing airworthiness certification and regulatory systems.

The U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit will take place in cooperation with the Airports Authority of India, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce, the U.S. Commercial Service, and the Confederation of Indian Industries. The Summit seeks to generate discussion between representatives of the U.S. and Indian aviation sectors regarding industry growth opportunities and challenges. Topics that will be addressed at the Summit include air traffic management and airspace utilization, and the promotion of commercial collaboration in the development of new airborne systems.

Conference press passes will be given to all those that qualify as members of the press or analyst community. Credentialed members of the media will have access to the opening session, MOU signing, and press briefing on April 23, 2007. Please note that photo identification may be required to obtain a press credential. USTDA reserves the right to screen all requests, including on-site registration, and if necessary, refuse to register individuals who do not qualify.

For additional information on the U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit, visit <http://www.us-indiaaviationsummit.com>. For further details on the ACP, contact FAA Senior Representative Randall Fiertz (Randall.Fiertz@faa.gov), Boeing India Commercial Airplanes Managing Director Dr. Vivek Lall (vivek.lall@boeing.com), or USTDA India Country Manager Marian Bassett (mbassett@ustda.gov).

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