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# U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **USTDA FORMALLY LAUNCHES U.S.-INDIA AVIATION COOPERATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT INDIA'S CIVIL AVIATION PRIORITIES**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – To promote greater collaboration between the U.S. and Indian aviation sectors, USTDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) today with the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) establishing the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP). The ACP is a public-private partnership between USTDA, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and U.S. aviation companies that will serve as a forum for unified communication between the Government of India and U.S. public and private sector entities active in India. The ACP is designed to work directly with the Indian Government to identify and support India's civil aviation sector modernization priorities.

The MOU was signed during a ceremony held at the Department of Transportation following a meeting between Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters, FAA Administrator Marion C. Blakey, USTDA Acting Director Leocadia I. Zak and MOCA Minister Praful Patel. Acting Director Zak, Secretary Peters and Minister Patel signed the MOU on behalf of the U.S and Indian governments.

“Today represents yet another clear step in the growing U.S.-India relationship,” said Acting Director Zak. “We are building directly upon the foundation established two months ago in New Delhi where more than 250 senior representatives of the U.S. and Indian public and private sectors met for the U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit.”

The extraordinary growth of India's economy has placed increased demands on the nation's aviation infrastructure to accommodate rising passenger and cargo volumes. As a result, India is facing enormous infrastructure development challenges as it strives to further enhance air service quality, airport efficiency, flight security, and air-space management.

The ACP will respond to these challenges by: (i) promoting enhanced safety, operational efficiency and system capacity in the Indian aviation sector; (ii) facilitating and coordinating aviation industry training and technical ties between the U.S. and India; and (iii) strengthening overall U.S.-India aviation cooperation. USTDA is providing funding for training and technical assistance programs with matching funds from the U.S. aviation industry and in-kind support from the FAA.

(More)

The ACP is established to identify government and industry priorities and develop programs that will provide the framework to ensure India is able to cope with dramatically increasing air service into and out of the Indian market. Initially, the ACP intends to focus on activities that support air traffic and air space management enhancements. Project development has been underway since the initialing of the MOU in New Delhi in April 2007 at the U.S.–India Aviation Partnership Summit. The ACP secretariat will likely be housed at the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce headquarters in New Delhi. Specific programs will likely include on-the-job training and personnel exchange programs in both India and the United States for Indian aviation officials.

For further details on the ACP, contact FAA Senior Representative Randall Fiertz ([Randall.Fiertz@faa.gov](mailto:Randall.Fiertz@faa.gov)), Boeing India Commercial Airplanes Managing Director Dr. Vivek Lall ([vivek.lall@boeing.com](mailto:vivek.lall@boeing.com)), or USTDA India Country Manager Marian Bassett ([mbassett@ustda.gov](mailto:mbassett@ustda.gov)).

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, early investment analysis, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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**Remarks of Leocadia I. Zak**

**Acting Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency  
U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program MOU Signing  
U.S. Department of Transportation West Building  
Washington, D.C.  
June 22, 2007**