ALPHA TANGO NEWSLETTER

SCAA

Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority Newsletter

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seychelles international airport

CEO's Message

Dear Team,

I hope that you all welcomed the new year safely and in good spirits, surrounded by your loved ones. As we reflect on 2022, I am pleased to say that we ended the year in good financial strength, whereby our revenue performance represents 93% of 2019 figures. This is a remarkable achievement, following two previous years where our industry faced many challenges. In addition, we have made headway with our projects, namely the ICT Network & Server Infrastructure and the Air Traffic Management modernisation. Both projects will spearhead the Authority into delivering more efficient services. We acknowledge that you all played a part in those achievements and for that, the Management team and I, want to thank you all for the hard work and support throughout.

2023, is set to be an exciting and transformative year for us, with the imminent separation of SCAA. This separation will allow both entities to further strengthen its mandate and pave ahead with plans to modernise our civil aviation industry and continued success for the future. Rest assured, that this process is being undertaken in a way to ensure that there is as little disruption to our business. We can expect the process to materialise by mid-year, if not sooner. Airport development planning of Zone 21 is also expected to take centre stage with the signing of an MOU with a potential investment partner to review our Airport Master Plan. Nonetheless, we will still be pursuing other short-term refurbishment works to cater for immediate improvement to our facilities and infrastructure alongside this major development. Planning is underway for the departure lounge refurbishment following completion of the international concourse project.

I have dedicated this year's theme to 'Service Excellence'. As reflected in our vision, 'excellence' in service is what we are aspiring to deliver in all aspects of our business. I would like to encourage all our staff to continue living this service culture and to give our utmost as we interact and serve our internal and external customers. This year, we will continue implementing the many initiatives to deliver the best services, as well as an outstanding customer experience in our organisation and at our airports. Each and every one of us has an important role to play in the work ahead and I'm confident that together we will achieve great things.

I look forward to a fruitful year, and I look forward to more accomplishments with you all.

Thank you!

Mr. Garry Albert
Chief Executive Officer

Concourse Project modernized the International Airport

After the Domestic terminal underwent a significant refurbishment changing the façade of the Seychelles International Airport, it was the dream of many airport users and passengers to see an improvement at the international concourse. The concourse refurbishment project, which started in October last year, aimed to improve the flooring, ceiling, general ambience and comfort at the international concourse. The project is progressing well, and already many changes can be seen and appreciated.

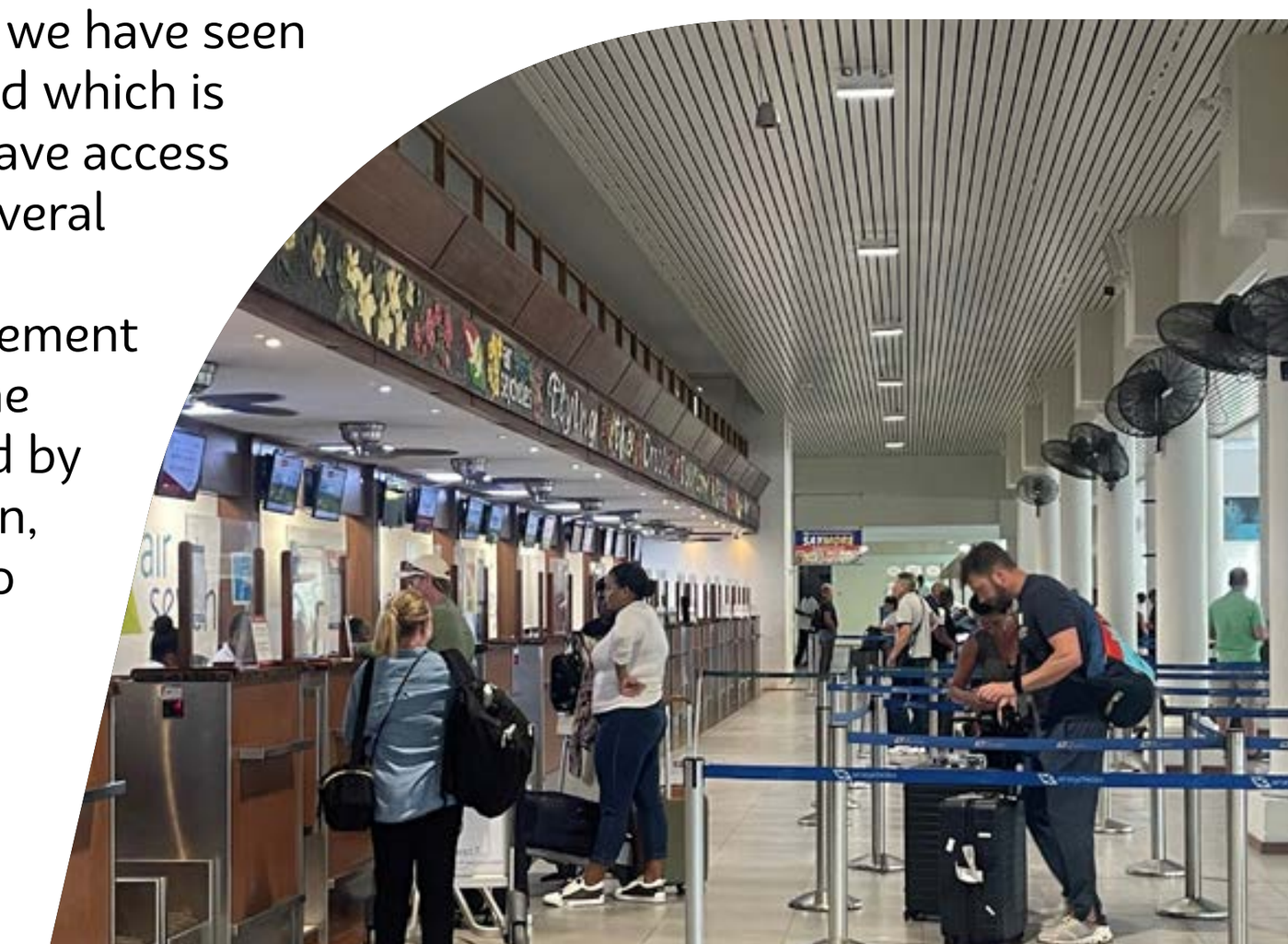
After witnessing swarms of passengers for several decades, the dilapidated ceiling structure is being replaced with modern ones painted white, bringing more illumination under the terminal. Whilst it does make a huge difference, for many people, it is the flooring that has been the most significant relief, as before the tiling surface, we had to content ourselves with the bare concrete underneath our feet whilst we checked in to catch our flight. Today the tiling flooring is an extension of what was placed at the domestic terminal.

With the latest phases of the projec, we have seen a new customer service desk installed which is frequently used by all travellers to have access to information or to be guided on several matters.

Also new are the Destination Management Companies (DMC's) kiosks outside the arrival concourse, all freshly branded by the respected DMC's, looking modern, professional and very much visible to the relief of their clients.

As works continue toward its final phases, the car hire kiosks which have been temporarily relocated will be back to their original space.

In addition, additional ceiling fans will be added before the project's completion to help with air ventilation.



Commemorative Airport Stamp launched

Seychelles International Airport's 50-year inauguration stamp was launched in a small but impactful ceremony on the 7th of December as we celebrated international civil aviation day. This project was one of the activities planned by the SCAA as part of the golden jubilee celebrations since the opening of the Seychelles International airport in March 1972. The stamp is an artist's impression of the airport today, showing the airside part of the aerodrome with its operating apron and surrounding landscapes. The design originally comes from a painting of a local artist, Jude Barallon, which he did in collaboration with SCAA about six years ago. The uniqueness of our small Indian ocean airport, which is by the sea, its mountainous backdrop with exciting rock formations, and the extension of green fields alongside it, is well portrayed in the design. It is not the same airport as in 1972, and indeed not the airport we expect to see in the future. The stamp captures the present moment at this milestone anniversary, which is also a crossroad for future developments. Collectors can add this new stamp to their collection, especially to the aviation batch, which development in Seychelles has been well captured. As we embrace a new era in the development of civil aviation, whereby a new terminal building looms on the horizon, we are happy that our present moment has been immortalized into such a beautiful and valuable stamp. This is the airport that, indeed, many of us will remember.

ICAO Assembly at a glance

SCAA team forms part of Seychelles' delegation at the ICAO assembly led by Minister of Transport, Mr. Antony Derjacques.

Joining over 2,500 delegates from the 193 Member States of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and accredited international organisations, the delegation took part in the 41st triennial ICAO Assembly, hosted at ICAO headquarters in Montréal late last year Seychelles has been participating in the ICAO Assembly since 1998, making last year's participation its 32nd. Seychelles' participation has enabled the country to make significant progress in its aviation industry by implementing policies, plans and programs endorsed by ICAO. During their time in Montreal, the delegation attended and participated in the main assembly, various work groups, side meetings and also had the opportunity to vote on few resolutions.

Take a look

1. Minister's Message
The Seychelles reaffirmed its commitment to stay in line with international standards and to give prominence aviation compliance, safety, and security. The Minister for Transport, Antony Derjacques highlighted the accomplishments of the Seychelles Aviation industry as a small island developing state and its ability to set examples to the world.

2. Agreements signed- Kazakhstan, Qatar
Seychelles and Kazakhstan initialled a new air services agreement to allow airlines to operate direct flights between Mahé and Kazakhstan for the first time, clearing the path for a surge in tourism between the two countries.

The signing of this important instrument strengthens and formalises our relationship with the State of Qatar. The agreement has and will continue to facilitate the movement of people, goods, and services, via Doha which provides access to many markets across the globe, and the boom in numbers of travelers on the route show how important Doha has been in recovery efforts both in tourism and trade following the challenges of the pandemic

3. Courtesy Calls

The delegation was involved in various courtesy calls promoting discussions between different international bodies, to foster the cooperation required to elevate the aviation sector in Seychelles.

4. ADACEL

The SCAA team took this opportunity whilst in Montreal to visit the Canadian company Adacel which will be supplying equipment for the ATM modernization project

5. CORSIA

Seychelles submitted confirmation of its Voluntary participation in CORSIA for the periods (2021-2023) and (2024-2026). CEO Albert presented the confirmation letter to the Secretary General of ICAO Dr. Juan Carlos Salazar in the side lines of the 41st ICAO General Assembly.
This important step attest to Seychelles commitment to mitigate CO2 emissions from its aviation activities.

6. ACI

CEO Albert met with Director General of the Airport Council International, Mr. Luis Felipe De Oliviera to discuss airport cooperation avenues and Seychelles participation in the Airport Quality Programme.

The Seychelles delegation achieved what they were set out to do on this mission. SCAA and the government aims to continuously improve its position and contribution to global aviation.

Did you know about the L3 Runway Inspection?

L3 inspection is an annual audit/inspection carried out by the airside management team which may include other professionals such as engineers and technicians. It is more or less similar to the FOD walk conducted on the apron, except this one is carried out on the full runway and normally targeted towards the end of the year so that we have an idea of the condition of the runway after each year of operations. This allows management to gain a perspective of the operational condition of the airfield, in this case the runway pavement condition and its markings and runway light.

It provides an overview of the quality of the daily Inspections conducted by Airside Operations and the quality of the maintenance work conducted by other stakeholders such as Engineering Technical Services.
Additionally, the inspection provides an open platform for Stakeholders to voice their concerns on any Safety issues or provide positive feedback on any improvements relating to the condition of the Airfield.
The inspection is normally conducted by foot along the entire length and width of the runway.

The importance of doing such inspection is to thoroughly assess the condition of the runway pavement to ensure that any findings are addressed for continuous and long-term serviceability of the runway for safe operations.
For the L3 inspection conducted at the end of 2022 there was a total of 22 participants including an external engineer for the inspection. Different types of FODs were collected such as loose concrete from runway pavement and grass overgrowth, they are then separated and calculated to determine the level of contamination of the runway and allow us to find ways to try and improve on the result.

Mass Tree Planting on Praslin

As part of Carbon Offsetting Initiatives

Mass tree planting activity organized on Praslin to commemorate International Civil Aviation Day on the 07th of December. SCAA collaborated with Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles (TRASS) for this event, and over one hundred trees were planted that day at Pointe Chevalier in the Baie St. Anne district. This is the first mass tree planting by SCAA and TRASS, which is expected to become an annual environmental activity on the calendar of both organizations. The activity is one amongst many initiatives signifying SCAA's commitment to participate in the Carbon Offsetting Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

Modernization of SCAA ICT Infrastructure & Systems Projects

The Seychelles Civil Aviation Authority has the vision to deliver five-star ICT services using the latest technologies (Infrastructure & systems).
Accordingly, it has embarked on a project to replace its obsolete server, network, and application architecture to bring it to the next level with the support of a highly competent ICT team.

BIRGER INTERNATIONAL LTD has been awarded the five-year contract after an international bidding process for this project which will cost the company USD 1,986,362.00. The latter has been contracted to replace and modernize the entire ICT infrastructure, including disaster recovery sites, in a turnkey project to cater for adequate resource capacity, availability, resiliency, and security while ensuring future growth, development, and business provisions continuity.

It is essential to note that as this is an infrastructure project, not all individual users might see the change, using their respective technological tools. Whereas for the organization, such a project will have the following benefits:

- **Increase resiliency, performance, and availability of ICT systems/services**
- **Increase ability to accommodate Business unit's technological needs**
- **Increase end-user productivity and overall satisfaction**
- **Closure of Information Security audit findings**
- **Increased compliance with Information Security standards and best practices**
- **Reduced costs from repair and maintenance**
- **A more competent and efficient ICT support team**

For our end users, the most noticeable differences would be the flexibility in working collaboratively and remotely from anywhere if an internet connection is available through the Microsoft office 365 tools, including Microsoft word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, SharePoint, OneDrive, and others. This modernization project will also Increase the performance and speed of accessing network resources. Finally, users will gain access to more space and capacity to store company data.

ATM Modernization Site acceptance completed successfully

The project to replace the Air Traffic Management system, often called the ATM modernization project, is well on track following another visit by the ADACEL team from December 2022 to February 2023. Staff from ANS Department have been rolling up their sleeves to ensure that all equipment installations and training were completed on schedule before site acceptance tests.

The team from ADACEL, a Canadian-based company that was awarded the contract for this project, worked side by side with our team to ensure the completion of the first phase of the project, which was to replace the existing Air Traffic Management system and simulator. After installations, configuration and training for technical and operational staff, the team was better equipped to tackle the site acceptance test, completed at both SIA and Praslin airport air traffic control facilities.

Additionally, the hard work and support from other Departments within the SCAA, namely Maintenance Section, ETS, Finance and Fire Service, has led to the successful revamping of the SIA tower and simulator room.

The new technology from ADACEL is called the Aurora ATM system, a 4D flight profile-based ATM system incorporating all available surveillance sources with advanced automation capabilities for oceanic, en-route, approach, and tower control. It will revolutionize and modernize SCAA's air traffic management system and enhance Air Traffic Service's delivery by providing surveillance capability with space and ground-based ADS-B sensors.

The ANS team will work on the third-party integration to further support the automation capabilities. Training of Controllers will start in March in preparation for commissioning targeted before the end of 2023.
Phase 2 will involve the implementation of ground-based surveillance sensors. Surveillance control service is planned to start towards the end of 2023, a year that our CEO dedicates to 'service excellence' in the aviation business.
Installations and training were completed on schedule before site acceptance tests.

SCAA's Young Innovator's Challenge

Belonie Secondary School Team 1 clinches 1st place

Five teams from three secondary schools, Belonie, Anse Boileau and Independence School, received their prizes on the 20th December 2022 in a short prize giving ceremony at the Payanke CIP Lounge.

The prize giving ceremony follows the launch of the Young Innovator's Challenge by SCAA in June 2022, in collaboration with the Division for Science Technology and Innovation (DSTI).

The competition aimed to tap into the brilliant young minds of students from secondary and post-secondary levels to think outside the box and give them the opportunity to come up with green innovative solutions that can be implemented at the Seychelles airports, to mitigate the adverse effect of climate change.

The judges panel included 3 representatives from SCAA, DSTI and Seychelles Energy Commission respectively. They stated that they were quite impressed with the submissions and effort by the participants, it eventually came down to who wanted it more; who stood out the most. The participants were all rewarded accordingly with some very interesting prizes, thanks to SCAA and all its generous sponsors – Air Seychelles, Zil Air, Seypec and Cable & Wireless.

Bravo to all the participants and thank you to all our sponsors!

African Airport Safety Week 2022 involving our Stakeholders in Airport Safety

Safety Exhibition Praslin & Mahe

The safety week kicked off with an interesting exhibition displaying equipment and certain procedures related to Safety in the aviation industry, on both Mahe and Praslin.

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SCAA

School Visit

We had the pleasure of hosting a school visit with the help of Zil Air, IDC, Seychelles Air Force, Seypec and Skychef.

30 Students from Cascade Primary School and 30 Students from Pointe Larue Secondary had the exciting opportunity to participate in a few site visits aimed at promoting the importance of Safety at and for these different divisions & organizations.

The children were greeted by Airside Operations team for a safety briefing prior to proceeding to their respective sites. Site visits included ZilAir, Seychelles Air Force base, Air Traffic Control tower, and Bay6 where a SEYPEC fueling bowser, AFRS fire tender, Air Seychelles Twin Otter, and an IDC Beechcraft were stationed. The highlight of the visit was a short plane ride in the IDC Beechcraft for the students.

Executive Safey Forms

On the last day of an eventful week commemorating the African airport safety week, the SCAA organized a safety forum between executive members from Seychelles Airports stakeholders.
The panellist consisted of Garry Albert- CEO SCAA, Sandy Benoition- CEO Air Seychelles, Joe Mondon- Compliance and Safety Manager Zil Air, Laureen Andre- Standards, Compliance & Regulatory Manager as well as Captain Pedro Junca- Compliance, Monitoring & Safety Manager IDC.
Each panellist had the opportunity to present
their stance on Safety management to the audience; safety advocates from the various stakeholders- Air Seychelles, IDC, Zil Air, Skychef, Seypec, and within SCAA. The importance of safety across the operations and organization as a whole were highlighted, as well as the contributions and efforts when it comes to the various safety aspects at the airport.
The forum ended on a positive note with an agreement between the SCAA and the participating stakeholders to form a safety management action team, that will not only consist of ordinary members but executive members also. The main aim will be to meet frequently to discuss safety issues, come up with solutions collectively as well as share expertise for a safer airport.

FOD Walk

To conclude the African Airport Safety week, a Foreign Object Debris walk was last on schedule. The aim of this activity was to sensitize and reiterate the importance of the FOD inspections to the executives of the airport operators, and to also encourage them to continuously promote safety aspects in their daily practices.

National Safety Week in Pictures

Airline Performance Report

Number of Airlines: **14**

Number of scheduled flight movements for arrival: **2,708**

Top three Airlines
Emirates – 624
Air Seychelles – 438
Qatar – 365

Total passengers: **394,592** Arrivals

Most passenger entering
Emirates - 138,211 *(36 %)*
Qatar - 72,096 *(19 %)*
Air Seychelles - 36,927 *(9%)*

Average number of flights per day: **7** scheduled flights for arrival

Average passenger load: **65%**

Total Transfer passengers: **6,032**

SPOTLIGHT ON

Marjorie Belle

"Be more responsible, more confident in yourself and your abilities. Believe that you can achieve anything you set your mind to."

How long have you been working with SCAA?
I've been with the company even before it officially became SCAA, so 42 years this year.

What do you love the most about your job?
I am very passionate about cleaning. I enjoy everything from sweeping to mopping. Oh, but I especially enjoy deep cleaning the toilets.

If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be and why?
I'd still love to clean, but I'd love to clean houses rather than the office space.

What is your favourite memory at SCAA?
If you ask me about a moment that I'll never forget then it is certainly the day the mercenaries came and the rebellion. Favourite memories I would say any staff gatherings, any social activities... I am at my happiest when I am having a good time with my colleagues, especially the end of year gatherings.

Q: How would you describe yourself?
I am a happy person. I am kind, friendly and quite an open book.
I enjoy conversation. I'm a peoples person and I believe I get along very well with others.

When is your birthday?
14th June.

What do you usually do for fun?
I enjoy cooking, listening to music and just having a glass of wine. Doing all three on Sundays is an absolute joy! I have a love for planting also.

What is your biggest fear?
I have a great fear of lizard and worms. I remember how I panicked once when a lizard jumped on me while I was doing some gardening work. I am extremely scared of them.

Tell us about your hidden talent.
I don't know If it is hidden, but I am quite good in the kitchen. I am especially well known for my 'lafarin Mai'; Everyone enjoys them, even my colleagues ask me to make it for them every now and then.

What is your favorite TV show / Movie?
I love to watch Wrestling and Boxing matches. It always gets me excited; I can't explain it!

If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Kat kat bannann ek latet karang any day for sure.

Who/What inspires you and why?
My children, they're my support system, but my son pushes me more. He is very encouraging, and he is my biggest supporter. He is always making sure that I achieve my goals & to never give up. Seeing how they are towards me inspires me to be better.

If you could give your past life some advice, what would it be?
Be more responsible, more confident in yourself and your abilities. Believe that you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Do your best, do more with your kids and spend more time with family.

What are you looking forward to this year?
I have a personal project at home, I must complete it this year no matter what. So, I am looking forward to see it through.

Any words of motivation for your fellow colleagues?
Unity and teamwork creates a happier and more productive work force. Let us learn to uplift each other rather than bring each other down. Let us focus more on giving each other support rather than a hard time. Do everything with love.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Winnie Leon

"You are never stuck, keep pushing yourself to achieve your dreams and always remember that nothing is impossible."

How long have you been working with SCAA?
In service 12 years as of May this year.

What do you love the most about your job?
Having close interaction with staff and customers.

If you could do another job for just one day, what would it be and why?
Hotel Sales and Marketing (a job I was previously doing).

What is your favourite memory at SCAA?
There is quite a few but most memorable one is participating in social activities SCAA used to organize such Christmas Fair.

How do you think others describe you?
Friendly, a people's person, I can adapt in any environment easily, funny, sarcastic, a comedian, I can socialise well.

How would you describe yourself?
I am an outspoken, amiable, and honest person.

When is your birthday?
9th October.

What do you usually do for fun?
Reading, watching stand-ups/ comedies, sightseeing.

What is your biggest fear?
Failure in not meeting my goals.

Tell us about your hidden talent.
Counselling – I find many of my colleagues are drawn to talk to me about anything!

What is your favorite TV show / Movie?
Standup, Comedies, Reality Crime Series.

If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Grilled fish with saffron (Diguoise style).

Who/What inspires you and why?
My mother, she is the strongest woman I know.

If you could give your past life some advice, what would it be?
Don't stress over the small matters and know that things tend to work themselves out.

What are you looking forward to this year?
A well-deserved bonus hahaha!

Any words of motivation for your fellow colleagues?
You are never stuck, keep pushing yourself to achieve your dreams and always remember that nothing is impossible.

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Editor: *Ms. Alisha Jean-Louis*
Reviewing Editor: *Ms . Lina Laurence*

Seychelles International Airport,
Pointe Larue, P.O. Box 181, Mahé, Seychelles
t *+248 4384 000* • f *+248 4384 009*
e *secretariat@scaa.sc*

SCAA

www.scaa.sc

www.seychellesairports.sc