

SIXTH GAIN WORLD CONFERENCE

June 18-19, 2003 – Rome, Italy

Summary Report

The Sixth World Conference of the Global Aviation Information Network (GAIN) attracted over 195 aviation safety professionals from 23 countries around the world to discuss the collection, analysis, and sharing of information to improve aviation safety. Alitalia hosted the two-day event at their Conference Center in Rome on June 18-19, 2003. Conference delegates represented 118 different organizations, including 69 airline personnel from 40 different airlines, making this the largest number and percentage of airline representatives of any GAIN World Conference.

In addition to Alitalia, the Italian Flight Safety Committee was the Premier Sponsor that provided other conference support. Airbus generously sponsored a luncheon and contributed the printing of the conference proceedings binder and a number of GAIN products. Boeing generously sponsored a conference reception. The other companies and organizations that provided financial or in-kind support to the conference include:

- Airclaims
- Air Line Pilots Association, International
- Air Transport Association
- Aviation Daily
- Battelle
- CEFA Aviation
- Delta Air Lines
- Flight Data Services, LTD
- Flightscape
- JetBlue Airways
- SAGEM
- Superstructure

Plenary Sessions and Workshops

The conference theme was “Safety Information Sharing: Exploring Solutions to Technical, Legal, and Economic Challenges.” Attendees listened to speakers from around the world describe strategies for addressing legal impediments to the collection and sharing of safety information, and approaches for improving safety management in an uncertain economic environment. Delegates also had an opportunity to learn about the many products of the GAIN Working Groups and Government Support Team, and participate in workshops where tools and processes for collecting, analyzing, and sharing safety information were discussed and demonstrated.

Mr. Ed Fell, Vice President Safety and Regulatory Compliance, Pinnacle Airlines, and GAIN Steering Committee member, served as Master of Ceremonies for the conference. Ing. Fausto Cereti, Chairman Associazione Nazionale Vettori e Operatori del Trasporto Aereo (Assaereo)/ Italian Air Carrier Association, and Ing. Benedetto Marasà, Director of Safety Regulation Area, Ente Nazionale per l'Aviazione Civile/Italian Civil Aviation Authority, welcomed conference delegates and emphasized the non-punitive management and sharing of safety information as a means to help improve aviation safety.

Dr. Steve Predmore, Chair of the GAIN Steering Committee and Vice President of Safety, JetBlue Airways, then provided a report on GAIN accomplishments over the past seven years, illustrating what the many diverse organizations working together have been able to achieve through collaboration. Dr. Predmore encouraged those not currently participating in a working group to become involved and emphasized the need for participants to share their requirements for future GAIN activities.

Products and reports introduced at the conference by the joint industry-government GAIN Working Groups and the Government Support Team include:

- Role of Analytical Tools in Airline Flight Safety Management
- Guide to Methods and Tools for Airline Flight Safety Analysis, Second Edition
- Guide to Methods and Tools for Safety Analysis in Air Traffic Management
- Guide to Automated Airline Safety Information Sharing Systems
- Pilot/Controller Collaboration Initiatives: Enhancing Safety and Efficiency
- Status of Safety Management Systems and Related Reporting Methodologies in Government Support Team Member Organizations
- Updated List of Major Current or Planned Government Aviation Safety Information Collection Programs

These documents and other GAIN products are available free-of-charge at www.gainweb.org.

In addition to briefings and presentations by the Working Groups and Government Support Team on these products, there were many other conference sessions covering such interesting topics as IATA's Safety Trend Evaluation, Analysis and Data Exchange System (STEADES), the European Coordination Centre for Aviation Incident Reporting Systems (ECCAIRS) and the draft European Union Directive on occurrence reporting in civil aviation. Italian representatives also briefed on the proactive use of aviation safety information in Italy.

Conference delegates gathered in smaller groups during the two-day conference for presentations and discussion on the following topics:

- Analytical Requirements to Support Airline Flight Safety Management
- Implementing Near-Real Time Airline Safety Event Sharing Systems
- The Application of Text and Data Mining Tools to Airline Safety Data

- Tools for Analysis of Air Traffic Safety
- Successful Approaches to Managing Risk
- Improving Flight Safety Through Accident Investigation Tools
- Managing Risk Through Incident Reporting and Analysis
- The Added Benefits of Cost Savings from Safety Management
- Aviation Safety Information and the Media
- Assessing Costs and Benefits of Aviation Safety Measures

One of the liveliest conference sessions was a panel discussion on strategies for addressing the criminalization of aviation accidents, moderated by Mr. Christopher Hart, Assistant Administrator for System Safety, FAA. Panel members included Capt. Stu Julian, New Zealand Air Line Pilots Association; Capt. Claude Guibert, Judicial Expert for French Courts; Mr. Jim Burin, Flight Safety Foundation; and Professor Ernesto Stajano, Former President of the Italian Parliament Transportation Commission. There were varied and interesting views on this topic, including a discussion of the diverse needs of the aviation community and the general public.

GAIN Outstanding Leadership Award

Another highlight of the conference was the presentation of the GAIN Outstanding Leadership Award by Dr. Steve Predmore to Captain Shuichi Okada, Director, Safety Planning Group, Corporate Safety, Japan Air Lines, and member of the GAIN Steering Committee. Dr. Predmore thanked Captain Okada for his leadership and support of GAIN and, in particular, for his role in the planning and execution of the first regional conference of GAIN in Tokyo in November 2002. (Previous recipients of the GAIN Outstanding Leadership award were Mr. Christopher Hart, FAA, June 2000; Mr. Yves Benoist, Airbus, December 2001; and Mr. Jack Wojciech, FAA GAIN Team Lead, June 2002).

Conference Wrap-Up

The conference concluded with Dr. Predmore and Mr. Hart thanking Capt. Silvano Manera, President Italian Flight Safety Committee and Vice President Alitalia Group Flight Safety, and members of the Alitalia Group Flight Safety Department for being such wonderful hosts and providing the world-class facilities of the Alitalia Conference Center. Dr. Predmore and Mr. Hart thanked the conference sponsors for their support and the attendees for their participation in ensuring a productive and quality conference. They also acknowledged the contributions of the members of the GAIN Steering Committee, the Working Groups, the Government Support Team, and the GAIN Program Office in making the conference a resounding success!

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All materials from the Sixth GAIN World Conference, including briefings, speaker biographies, and GAIN products, can be found on www.gainweb.org.