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PIONAIRS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 1/2019

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15 May 2019

Dear PIONAIRS,

Please find herewith the newsletter referring to our 69th PIONAIRS Association meeting and get-together during the 119th IATP conference in Athens, Greece. Due to its location a great number of PIONAIRS and spouses could make it there. They all enjoyed their stay during the conferences, during the Sunday Tour and also around Athens. It was a great place to choose for a conference as Athens has one of the deepest foundations within Europe and there is a lot to see.

Herewith I would like to advertise already for the next conference in Rome. Also here, the geographical position and the attractions of Rome offer most of you easy access and it will be very likely that many of you could make it there.

So, please enjoy this newsletter and do not hesitate to get back to us if you are looking for more details on the subjects presented.

Kind regards,



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1. 119th IATP Conference in Athens, Greece

The 119th IATP Conference was organised by the M.C. at the Athenaeum InterContinental Athens Hotel in Athens, Greece. The conference was held 9 - 13 Mar 2019. After 1968, 1989 and 2000 it was the 4th time that the IATP conference took place in Athens. The conference was hosted by Aegean Airlines. After many of the recent IATP conferences were sponsored by associate members, this was the first one again sponsored by an airline.

The **Sunday Get-Together Tour**, sponsored by Aegean Airlines, departed the Intercontinental Hotel at 12:30 hrs by coach to visit the first the Panathenaic Stadion from which the Olympic torch departs for the Olympic Games.

Then the whole crowd walked for 2km all the way through the old city of Athens “Plaka” and then up the hill to climb the Acropolis. The biggest building on the hilltop is the Parthenon, which was erected within only 11 years during the 5th century BC under Perikles. Actually not much has changed after an explosion took place when the Osmons used the Acropolis as storage for gun powder and a Venetian bomb hit the building on 26 Sep 1687. Apparently it is the aim to keep this latest status of the Parthenon as is.

After circling the Acropolis for 2 hours we all walked down again to see the Acropolis museum for 1,5 hours with a very informative guided tour.

Following that visit we all walked further back to gather at the Zappeion for a superb buffet dinner reception. This building, with its large open inner court, was used during the first Olympic games of the new age that took place in Athens in 1896. After the dinner the buses left from there heading for the Intercontinental Hotel.

During the **Consolidated I Meeting** held on Monday, 11 Mar 2019, a welcome speech was given by the hosting Company. Mr. Vasileios Kardasis, Aegean Airlines (A3) Technical Director thanked IATP Management Committee for giving Aegean Airlines the opportunity to host the 119th Conference in Athens. He introduced Aegean Airlines and its history and provided some facts and figures, presented the airlines’ network and its fleet expansion. He concluded by emphasizing Aegean Airlines’ focus on safety, comfort, and sustainability.

As the next subject during the Consolidated I Meeting Mr. San Lucktong (TG) continued his speech and reminded the audience that this 119th Conference marks the **15th anniversary of the Associate Membership in IATP**. The first Associate Members joined IATP during the 89th Conference held in Mexico in March 2004. He greeted all Associate Members with ‘Happy Anniversary’ and thanked them for being part of the organization and for their continued support.

In the **Q&A session** in the end of the Consolidated Meeting Mr. Saud Alahmadi (PIONAIR ex-SV) suggested promoting IATP conferences better in order to attract new members. He also suggested having media partners covering the events as it is the case for MRO Conferences. The MC confirmed that they will discuss both topics.

IATP conference attendance in brief

- 96 Airline members with 245 delegates present.
- 32 Associate members with 101 delegates present.
- 14 OEMs/vendors (non-associate members) with 49 delegates present.
- 17 PIONAIRS represented the PIONAIRS Association.
- 1 new applicant:
 - Neos S.p.a. (NO/NOS)
(Italian carrier based in Milano, subsidiary of Alpitours, 6 x B737, 3 x B767, 3 B787)
was accepted as a new Airline Member.

- 6 Observers with 10 representatives from:
 - Cebu Pacific (5J/CEB),
(Philippine low-cost carrier based in Pasay City, 40 x A320, 39 x A321, 8 x A330, 22 x ATR72)
 - Air Italy (IG/ISS),
(Italian airline based in Olbia, 5 x A330, 6 x B737)
 - Portugalia (NI/PGA),
(Portuguese airline based in Lisbon, 9 x EMB 190, 4 x EMB 195)
 - European Air Transport Leipzig GmbH (QY/BCS),
(German cargo airline based in Schkeuditz, 21 x A300-600, 7 x A330, 10 x B757)
 - Flynas (XY/KNE)
(Saudi Arabian airline based in Riad, Saudi Arabia, 2 x A319, 106 x A320, 2 x B747)
 - Zipair Tokio (no IATA 2-digit-code yet/no ICAO 3-digit-code yet)
(Japanese low-cost carrier based in Narita from Mid 2020 onwards, subsidiary of JAL, 2 x B787)

- Total attending participants: 437.

2. Minutes of the PIONAIRS ASSOCIATION Meeting with the IATP Management Committee

The meeting took place on Monday 11 Mar 2019 from 14:30-15:00 in the Acropolis Boardroom of the Athenaeum InterContinental Athens Hotel in Athens, Greece.

Meeting participants:

MC: San Lucktong, Brian Scary, Giorgio Pietra, Essam Hanafy, Audrey Felix
(Missing: Danny Boulanger David Boatright, Cleomenis Bontiotis, Francesco Teti)

PA: Peter Buchfeld, Gillian Lewis, Yoshihiro Yawata

Agenda

- 1) PA in IATP conference handbook with proper mention of PA org with decent picture in a decent place or complete deletion of the PA.
[Apparently it was not possible for the MC to find a better position for the PIONAIRS Association \(PA\) in the conference booklet, the entry was deleted eventually. This was done on request of the PA because it was considered better be deleted than being placed in the rear of the booklet as a two-line entry without picture below the list of non-members.](#)

- 2) PIONAIRS registering difficulties this time, if any.
[This time everything went fine. One last-minute registrant slipped in without knowledge of the PA. The request goes to the IATP secretariat to think of informing the PA in such cases, if still possible.](#)
[MC response:](#) The MC acknowledged the request.

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- 3) Access to other meetings in addition to Cons1 and AIB/BOE meeting on the basis of “invitation”.
- Mr. Peter Buchfeld requested the MC to have the possibility to attend additional meetings by invitation. Mr. San Lucktong listed the meetings that cannot be attended by the PIONAIRS at the moment; Mr. Peter Buchfeld requested approval of attendance of Introduction sessions (Intro to Parts Pooling, Intro to Aircraft Recovery).
- MC response: The MC confirmed they would discuss during their next meeting and inform about their decision.
- 4) Brief overview on PIONAIRS “recruitment” action as discussed last time in JOG.
- Mr. Peter Buchfeld reminded the MC of the PIONAIRS’ request to inform when a delegate steps down so their Association is aware. He also highlighted that one of the requirements to become a PIONAIR is to have attended 8 consecutive conferences; however, not so many delegates reach 8 conferences. Therefore, the PA will discuss very soon the possibility to review the conditions in order to make it easier to become PIONAIR.
- 5) PIONAIRS participation fee level.
- Mr. Peter Buchfeld requested the MC to consider reducing the participation fee of the PIONAIRS (e.g. 70€, 45€, 0€). As a sign of recognition to the PIONAIRS who bear all travel cost, visa application and accommodation cost on their own the MC was asked to reduce or even waive the PIONAIRS participation fee for the conference.
- MC response: The MC confirmed they would discuss during their next meeting and inform about their decision.
- 6) AOB
- A) Mr. San Lucktong informed that several PIONAIRS tried to attend meetings which they are not allowed to attend. He requested the PIONAIRS to ask permission in advance so the MC can discuss and advise.
- Post Meeting Note: One of the meetings in question was the 15th birthday of the Associate Members as the first members (including e.g. Airbus) joined IATP in April 1994 in Mexico. Horst Schrader tried to participate but was excluded from the event. Without Horst’s years-long engagement and creativity, as a member of the MC at that time, the Associate Members would still not exist today. It was unfortunate that the founder of this all was excluded from this event. Also the Associate Member participants of 1994, who are now in other functions within the IATP, could have been invited at this occasion.
This should have been given more attention by the organizers who prepared this event. It will certainly be planned better for the 20th birthday in 5 years.*
- B) Mr. Yoshihiro Yawata requested the MC the permission for Mr. Peter Buchfeld in his function as the Chairman of the PA to attend Chairs/Co-Chairs Meeting on behalf of the PIONAIRS Association, in order to share knowledge and experience.
- MC response: The MC confirmed they would discuss and advise.

3. Minutes of the PIONAIRS Association Meeting

The PA meeting was held on Monday 11 March 2019 from 15:00 - 16:30 hrs in the Omega Meeting Room of the Athenaeum InterContinental Athens Hotel at Athens, Greece.

Those in attendance:



1 - Horst Schrader (ex-LH)	10 - Peter Buchfeld (ex-AIB/ITL) <u>Chairperson</u>
2 - Colin Williams (ex-VS)	11 - Wolfgang Urich (ex-X3)
3 - Isa Toorani (ex-GF)	12 - Abdullah Al-Sandi (ex-KU)
4 - Anthony Randall (ex-KL)	13 - Gillian Lewis (ex-BA) <u>Co-Chairperson</u>
5 - Per Thynebjerg (ex-LX)	14 - Mara Lianopoulou (ex-OA)
6 - Ingo Griem (ex-LHT)	15 - Arie Shilansky (ex-LY)
7 - A.S. Peter (ex-MH)	16 - Nick Klouvatos (ex-OA)
8 - Yoshihiro Yawata (ex-NH) <u>Standby-Member</u>	17 - Giancarlo Murri (ex-AZ)
9 - Saud Alahmadi (ex-SV)	18 - Stavros Mavroidis (ex-OA) <i>(registered but not present at the meeting)</i>

Agenda

- 1) Chairman's welcome
Out of the registered 21 PIONAIRs only 16 arrived in Athens plus one who appeared in the last moment. In the end it was a real large meeting with 17 members including 3 "First-timers".
- 2) New PA members presentation round
The PIONAIRs personal presentation round took quite a long time due to the many participants but shows how active they all are in their private/business lives.
- 3) Memories
This time we held a minute of silence for Alejandro Vasquez (ex-AM) who passed away in 2018.
- 4) Subjects discussed with MC
Content of the meeting with the MC was presented. Please refer to the main minutes above, chapter 2 (page 3/8).
- 5) PA registration procedure
Registration process and "quality of entry data" was discussed again. Like last time and the times before there were entries made that did not correspond to the registration procedure as per the PA newsletter sent before this meeting. It was noted, that the mistakes are becoming less. That is a good sign. Wrong entries always lead to synchronization problems during the registration process which need to be manually corrected to make the process run smoothly.
It is advisable to adhere to the "how to register" information in the newsletter sent around by Gillian to all PIONAIRs whenever a conference registration is open.
- 6) Communication
Communication that is being sent around before the next conference starts is appreciated and should be kept up as is. We will however delete the hints for transportation between airport and hotel as it was virtually impossible to find about how it works in Athens due to the fuzzy info in internet.
The conference related whatsapp-group was set up again. It is however less efficient than one could think as not everyone is on whatsapp and many of those who have it use it only sporadically. We will continue with it and improve this way to communicate.
- 7) PA membership list status
List was distributed in the meeting but nothing needed to be amended. Everything was in order. A clean copy was sent to all participating after the conference.

8) Attendance history – statistics

The current average age of all active PIONAIRS still stands at 68 years. The 3 newcomers' age pattern held the average at that level, because otherwise without them it would have gone up by one notch.

At this occasion some PIONAIRs were mentioned who did not reply on various e-mails for long; therefore we turn to all of you now:

“We are asking the whole community of the PIONAIRS whether someone knows the whereabouts of:

Haraszti, Jenó (ex-MA)
Budapest, Hungary

Leung, Cheuk Hung (Albert) (ex-HAE)
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

Keenan, Ed (ex-EZ)
Gray, USA

Strange, Jean (ex-BA)
Woking, England

Koskinen, Liisa (ex-AY)
Haukovouri, Finland

Please give us some feedback should you know how to get hold of these people. Your feedback is our last possibility to make connections before we need to update our files.”

9) Contact cards handling

Handling of the cards was briefly explained to the newcomers but it has become a well known device by now.

10) Financial statement 2018 / Fee collection

The financial statement 2018 was explained in detail and handed out to each participant personally. Two fees were collected. There are no outstanding fees for now.

11) Next conference sites

120th IATP, 70th PA-Meeting will be held in Rome, Italy from 28 Sep - 2 Oct 2019

Outlook (*not confirmed*):

121st IATP, 71st PA-Meeting, Mar 2020, maybe somewhere in the USA,

122nd IATP, 72nd PA-Meeting, Oct 2020, Copenhagen, Denmark,

123rd IATP, 73rd PA-Meeting, Mar 2021, Bangkok, Thailand.

More details will be given once the registration for the 120th conference is open. This will be announced in the next newsletter.

12) Any other business

This time it was extremely difficult to organize a suitable place for the PIONAIRS to gather after the Sunday tour. The vicinity of the conference hotel did not have any place where we could go and due to the high amount of PIONAIRS we wanted to avoid transport. In the end the “PIONAIRS hotel” (5 mins walk from conference hotel) offered their breakfast open roof top lounge and provided great Greek finger food dishes under the stars of Athens.



13) Closing remarks and Photo

It was a very nice IATP conference in a place easy to reach. As expected the number of PIONAIRS was quite high and luckily we had a decent PIONAIRS hotel around the corner that offered good living standards. For the next conference in Rome the chance to meet many PIONAIRS is high again, as Rome is well accessible. Also we would then celebrate our 70th PA meeting, 35 years after Mr H. T. Bankcroft founded the PIONAIRS Association in Mainz, Germany.