CAAN Newsletter

Nepal Strengthens Regional Aviation Cooperation at the 61st DGCA Conference in Kuala Lumpur



61st DGCA Conference

A six-member Nepali delegation led by Mr. Mukesh Dangol, Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), participated in the 61st Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation, Asia and Pacific Region (DGCA/61) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The main Conference was held from 7 to 11 September 2026 at the Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur, preceded by pre-conference activities on 6 September.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol and Nepalese Delegates at DGCA/61

Hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM), DGCA/61 was organized under the theme: **"Smart Skies: Emerging Technologies for Safe, Secure, Sustainable & Efficient Aviation."**

The Conference brought together more than 500 participants from 35 countries, including Directors General of Civil Aviation, senior government and regulatory officials, ICAO representatives, aviation-industry leaders, and 12 international and regional organizations.



Group photo of Delegates of DGCA/61

The CAAN delegation participated actively in the Conference deliberations covering major regional aviation priorities, including aviation safety, air navigation, aviation security, and facilitation, economic development of air transport, aviation and environment, and capacity development and implementation.

Nepal shared its perspectives and implementation experience during discussions on papers presented by participating States and organizations. The delegation highlighted the importance of strengthened regional collaboration in areas such as fatigue risk management, domestic air carrier

liability, climate resilience, aviation safety planning and capacity development.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol addressing 61st DGCA Conference

Nepal also emphasized the need for continued support from ICAO and international aviation partners to help States build institutional and technical capabilities and develop practical mitigation and contingency measures for aviation risks arising from climate-related disasters.

One of Nepal's important contributions to DGCA/61 was the submission of Information Paper: **IP-03-19-NEP *"Management and Coordination of Rescue Operations in the Mountainous Terrain of Nepal."***

The paper shared Nepal's experience in managing search and rescue operations in exceptionally challenging mountainous terrain. It highlighted the operational difficulties associated with high-altitude environments, capricious weather, difficult terrain, limited accessibility, and coordination among multiple stakeholders, while presenting Nepal's regulatory and management arrangements for conducting rescue missions.

Through the paper, Nepal was able to share practical experience gained from operating in one of the world's most geographically demanding aviation environments and contribute to regional knowledge on effective Search and Rescue (SAR) coordination and management.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol during MOU signing ceremony

The Director General of CAAN, Mr. Mukesh Dangol, signed an MOU on the Flight Procedure Programme to enhance sustainable Instrument Flight Procedure Capability in the Participating States (Phase 6 Extension) for a period of 4 years, from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol signing MOU on the Flight Procedure Programme

An important feature of Nepal's participation was Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol's role as moderator of a session of Discussion Papers under Agenda Item 5 – Aviation Security and Facilitation.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol as moderator of a session of Discussion Papers under Agenda Item 5 – Aviation Security and Facilitation

The role provided Nepal an opportunity not only to participate in the Conference but also to contribute directly to facilitating substantive regional discussions among States and international aviation organizations.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol honoured for outstanding moderation at 61st DGCA Conference

The Nepali delegation interacted with senior ICAO leadership during the Conference. The delegation paid a courtesy call on Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma, President of the ICAO Council, and Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol with Mr. Toshiyuki Onuma, President of the ICAO Council

During the interaction, Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol reiterated Nepal's commitment to strengthening aviation safety and security and progressively enhancing compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol with Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary General of ICAO

The delegation also held discussions with Mr. Tao Ma, Regional Director of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office, and other ICAO officials on regional cooperation, implementation support, technical assistance, and capacity development.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol with Mr. Tao Ma, Regional Director of the ICAO Asia and Pacific Office

On the sidelines of DGCA/61, the CAAN delegation held bilateral interactions with civil aviation authorities and representatives from several States, including DGCA India, CAA China, DGCA France; UKCAA; CAA Singapore and attended EU-SA Aviation Partnership Project Management Board Meeting.

Discussions focused on areas such as:

- aviation safety and regulatory cooperation;
- enhancement of air navigation service capabilities;
- institutional and human-resource capacity building;
- exchange of technical expertise;
- emerging aviation technologies;
- regulatory innovation; and
- opportunities for stronger bilateral and regional cooperation.

The meetings provided CAAN with an important platform to strengthen existing partnerships and explore new opportunities for technical collaboration.

DGCA/61 serves as an important regional forum for exchanging experience, considering common aviation challenges and developing coordinated approaches among ICAO Member States in the Asia-Pacific Region. The Conference addressed regional priorities ranging from conventional safety and air-navigation issues to digitalization, sustainability and emerging technologies.

Nepal's participation provided an opportunity to: represent national aviation interests; share Nepal's experience; strengthen cooperation with ICAO and other States; pursue technical and capacity-building opportunities; and remain engaged with emerging regulatory and technological developments.

The Conference also demonstrated the growing importance of collaborative approaches as the aviation sector moves toward smarter, more connected and sustainable operations.

Participation in DGCA/61 reinforces CAAN's commitment to safe, secure, efficient, resilient and sustainable civil aviation and to strengthening Nepal's engagement with the international aviation community.

The experience and partnerships developed in Kuala Lumpur are expected to support future cooperation in areas including aviation safety oversight, air navigation modernization, human-resource development, Search and Rescue, climate resilience and emerging technologies such as Advanced Air Mobility.



CAA Nepal Director General Mr. Mukesh Dangol with Chairman of CAAM and CAA Malaysia Director General.

From substantive Conference deliberations to discussions on next-generation aviation technologies, DGCA/61 provided Nepal with an important platform to share its experience, strengthen partnerships and contribute to the future direction of civil aviation in the Asia and Pacific Region.