



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact AviAssist Foundation  
Tel: +44 (0)1326-340.308  
[info@aviassist.org](mailto:info@aviassist.org)

Contact: Emily McGee  
Director of Communications, FSF  
Tel. +1 703.739.6700 (ext. 126)  
[mcgee@flightsafety.org](mailto:mcgee@flightsafety.org)

**AVIASSIST LAUNCHES AFRICAN AVIATOR AWARD**

**Hoofddorp, Netherlands, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 –**

Every day, thousands of professionals in Africa contribute to making commercial aviation the safest form of transportation. They do so not because they expect special recognition. They think safety and act in ways that promote safety because they know the aviation industry depends on it, and because it is the right thing to do.

However, aggregate data for the entire continent masks the gains from their professionalism and the role of safety champions among them. The AviAssist Foundation cannot salute all these men and women individually, although it pays tribute to them through its work.

“From 2012 onwards, the AviAssist Foundation will single out individuals or teams that have made especially outstanding contributions to risk reduction, often during long periods or entire careers and award the African Aviator Award” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “Each year, the AviAssist Foundation will select a particular aviation profession as the focus for the award. For 2012, the selected profession for the award is Air Traffic Management/Control in its widest sense, with the award being offered in co-operation with the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation CANSO.”

The African Aviator Award aims to reward safety champions and promote entry of Africans in the aviation industry. The prestigious award will include a trip to the awarding event, US\$500 in cash and a hand-lettered citation. The recipient of this prestigious international award is selected by an independent selection board from among candidates nominated by aviation professionals and organizations worldwide.

“The winner of the 2012 award will be selected from the nominations. Deadline for nominations for the African Aviator award is **September 1, 2012**. The award will be presented during an award dinner and awards ceremony at the 2012 CANSO Global ATM Safety Conference in Cape Town, South Africa on October 29– November 2, in front of an audience of industry leaders and colleagues” Kok said.

The 2012 award is instituted by the AviAssist Foundation in co-operation with the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation CANSO with sponsoring from among others CANSO, ATNS South Africa and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

###

**The AviAssist Foundation** is an independent, non-profit organization that promotes professionalism in African aviation safety. As regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it provides safety support to African countries and companies and aims to promote professionalism in African aviation safety. It does so in close coordination with ICAO, stakeholders and safety support providers.

More at [www.aviassist.org](http://www.aviassist.org) & <http://www.facebook.com/pages/AviAssist-Foundation/165826106812721>