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

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

AviAssist completes training of 70 African professionals in best practices

Hoofddorp, Netherlands, 29th November, 2010 —

The AviAssist Foundation continues its support to the promotion of professional excellence in African aviation safety.

“Over the past 2 weeks, over 70 professionals from 5 countries in the region were trained in industry best practices under AviAssist programs at our partner host airport, Kilimanjaro International Airport in Tanzania” explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. “In partnership with Special Cargo Services (SCS) from the Netherlands, the Airports Council International (ACI) and Mweka Wildlife College, the Foundation delivered three training courses. With SCS we delivered an awareness course on the transport of dangerous goods. By working with ACI we delivered the airside safety & operations course. In partnership with Mweka Wildlife College and Kilimanjaro International Airport, we provided further Swahili – English training on wildlife hazards to aviation. With this training, we extended the training that we started in 2009 and September this year to people doing the actual wildlife patrols. Operational staff closest to the hazards quite often gets the least training of all. We will continue our efforts on these and other subjects by working with a number of aviation schools in the region under our Training Centre Capacitybuilding Program (TCCP) on embedding awareness courses on these subjects at those partner schools. With funds being limited in any industry, training for operational staff closest to the hazards will need such courses to be run at national aviation training centres. Under the TCCP we are aiming to complement ICAO’s effort to make States self sufficient in imparting soft skills safety training”.

“As part of our long term commitment to the region, we will continue our support to the professionals that attended these courses through regular email dispatches on recent developments in their profession through the Foundation’s large network. Many of them have been provided with a complimentary subscription to our quarterly safety magazine *SafetyFocus*” Kok said.” It was encouraging to see a large number of truly operational personnel participation in these two courses. We hope this may signal a move to include not just senior and middle management in training sessions throughout the region but also see the people closest to the hazards receive more training”.

Substantial financial support for the organisation of both training sessions was provided by the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines providing part of the air transport as kind support. The support by KLM is further proof of the fact that the Foundation addresses priorities identified or recognised by the aviation industry.

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The AviAssist Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that promotes professionalism in African aviation safety. It provides safety support to African countries and companies. As regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it identifies threats to aviation safety, analyzes the problems and works on practical solutions to them. It aims to replicate safety successes from elsewhere on the African continent and beyond. It does so in close coordination with ICAO, stakeholders and safety support providers. More at www.aviassist.org