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*Contact: Tom Kok
Director, AviAssist Foundation
Tel: +31 (0)207143148/12
tom.kok@aviassist.org*

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

Foundation's information session brings State Safety Program to Zambia

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In a first for Africa, the AviAssist Foundation brought an information session on State Safety Programs (SSP) to Zambia. The session provided a first introduction to the concept of the SSP. More than 30 staff members from the Zambian Department of Civil Aviation attended the session. The information session is part of the Foundation's assistance to the preparation of Zambia for the ICAO audit at the end of January 2009. At the same time, the information session helps Zambia prepare for its work on implementing a SSP.

The State Safety Program (SSP) is the State's equivalent of the Safety Management System (SMS). The implementation of an SSP will map toplevel safety concerns. At the same time, safety data collection and analysis will then have to start measuring the aviation department's effectiveness in dealing with the issues surrounding and supporting these toplevel safety concerns.

"Safety promotion is a crucial part of the mission of the AviAssist Foundation" explained AviAssist Director Tom Kok. "The Foundation's remains committed to bring knowledge on crucial safety subjects such as State Safety Programs to the African region. A move towards a just culture in Africa simply requires that such critical sessions and workshops are not only available to senior management at workshops abroad but are also made available in country. The AviAssist Foundation is building a toolkit to assist in the implementation of State Safety Programs. The toolkit can be applied by the Foundation in other countries in the region through its regional representation in Zambia. This ensures a solution that is affordable to safety regulators in the region. Working with SSP components such as safety data collection & analysis, performance based regulations or acceptable level of safety performance starts with staff getting an appreciation of those components".

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AviAssist Foundation is an independent, non-governmental organization, providing safety support to African countries and companies. It aims to replicate safety successes from elsewhere on the African continent and beyond. As the regional affiliate of the Flight Safety Foundation, it identifies threats to aviation safety, analyzes the problems and works on practical solutions to them. It does so in close coordination with the International Civil Aviation Organization, stakeholders and other safety support providers. More information at www.aviassist.org