

# Inspirational



## Kigali



As the wheels of the Kenya Airways Embraer touched down in Kigali, I got increasingly excited about this landmark visit: taking the Foundation's program to yet another country.

One of the younger members of the East African Community, Rwanda proved to be a welcoming country. With clear, concise communication being one of the key ingredients of a mature safety culture, the omen's for my trip had been good. Rwanda's performance on the ICAO eight critical elements of safety oversight is close to the global average on most points.

And its airline Rwandair is doing its bit to support the government's ambitions to turn Kigali into a centre for the country's knowledge based economy. A major convention centre is under construction to turn Kigali into a preferred venue for international events and thus bring international knowledge to this tiny country.

It was Rwanda's Gaston Buramba's lively participation in our 2009 Airport Wildlife Management course at Kilimanjaro International Airport that had sown the seed for our deployment to Rwanda.

From the moment of my arrival, Rwanda's inspirational status became apparent. As a former student of African studies, reading Stephen Kinzer's book 'Thousand Hills', gave me an insight in the remarkable story of this country. Kinzer also gave a remarkable insight in the aspirations of Rwanda's government.

Rwanda saw the second deployment of our safety campus this year.

Increasingly, the Foundation bundles its events in what we like to call a safety campus. We will pitch

up the Foundation's expertise in one location for three or four events. That reduces deployment costs for the Foundation and makes it a true 'shot of safety updates'.

This year, we added a number of courses to the campus. In May, we added our IATA Dangerous Goods course to the safety campus.

I am also quite excited about the aviation English course that we have added from our Rwanda deployment. Very few of such courses are available in the region. As it was our first time to deploy this course, I sat in for the duration to verify its quality. I must admit I had to get used to this course as another beast. It doesn't have power point at its heart but is all about talking, conversing and understanding. The trainees had to present. The

In the coming year, we hope to expand with a short introduction in airworthiness certification too. That would be added to the safety campus from 2014 onwards. Then we are also exploring options for an airport medical course and a marshaller's course.

Over the coming years, we will continue to expand the events in the safety campus as well as hopefully increase the number of safety campuses per year.

As with most of our courses, we make available most of the training materials to the participants to help them build the training capacity in their own organization too. From there, those organizations can proceed to getting their courses certified if they want. Get in touch with us on Facebook to let us know what short courses you would like the Foundation to offer as part of the campus and we'll look into it.

The trip to Rwanda was also a landmark in another way. It signaled the start of our partnership with Turkish Airlines for the provision of transport to the Foundation.

Welcome on board, Turkish Airlines!

Tom