



Message from the President

Welcome to the Holy city of Amritsar.

The 38th Annual Convention of ACAAI will be held between 3 to 6 November at Amritsar, the home of the Holy Golden Temple and one of the most ancient, fascinating, and happening metros in India. It is an important seat of Sikh history, heritage and culture. Being the gateway for travelers coming to India on the overland route from central Asia, it has become the centre of commercial activities including surface transfers.

ACAAI is privileged to hold its annual convention in such a vibrant location and the Theme for this Convention is “Indian Air Cargo – Conquest of the Skies”.

In the two days of six Business Sessions delegates would be presented with distinguished & eminent Speakers across all segments from around the world, with thoughts and experiences that will guide us to move forward to achieve our goals in the aviation industry. Indian industry is poised to grow further and become a global power centre in the near future. Our conquest is slowly but steadily expanding and sky is not the limit to us. It is in this background that the theme for the Convention was structured.

The Industry clearly appears to be turning the corner after the disaster called “the down trend of 2009”. But like a freight train, some forwarders have moved ahead while others are still trying to catch up. This traumatic experience has taught us a practical lesson and made us think more global and still be have local roots. It has given us the courage to sail through rough weathers and turbulent times.

After the unease of 2008-09 world over, India is one of the few countries that over came the slow down with 12 % increase in business traffic in 2010-11 bringing back good memories of the good old time – synonymous to the theme. However, there still is down turn, currency reevaluation, export uncertainties that may continue till the last quarter of 2011 or early 2012 resulting in average traffic increase between 3 to 4%.

I am happy to say that for now the Air Cargo Industry seems to have managed the threat from the competitive thread of ocean shipping which has been an ongoing concerned for a number of years. Recently released survey of Air Cargo executive states that customer buying preferences and patterns have permanently shifted, as a result of the global economic crises last year and this may have an impact on the aviation industry also.

It has always been ACAAI’s endeavor to invite top officials of the Ministries of Aviation, Commerce, Finance, Airlines, Airport Terminal Operators to be speakers and panelists

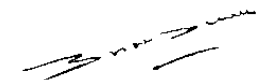
for the Convention along with experts and industry shapers from sectors like textiles, Automobile, Information Technology, Logistics, etc. including ranking economists, in aviation and stalwarts in restrictive practices and taxation which will rejuvenate delegates in serious deliberation and brain storming. This 38th Annual Convention follows the trend to offer you the best of brains to share their thoughts during the two day conference.

The spouses will get a chance to get a glimpse of a wonderful golden city of Amritsar for two days with various sponsors hosting tea, Luncheon, dinner, spouse tour & delegate visit to Wagah border which will provide the avenues of renewing old ties and create new relationship.

The beautiful Hotel, the pleasant climate and a surfeit of shared experiences will certainly ensure that the take away from this Convention will add value to each one of us.

I thank each one of the delegates and wish you an enriching stay at Amritsar.

With warm regards,



Bharat Thakkar
President
The Air Cargo Agents Association of India [ACAAI]