



Keilir
Aviation
Academy

Atlantic Conference on EYJAFJALLAJÖKULL AND AVIATION

Keflavik Airport, Iceland, September 15.-16. 2010

WELCOME

Keilir Aviation Academy, in cooperation with the Icelandic Ministry of Transport, the Civil Aviation Administration, ISAVIA, the Meteorological Office, the Institute of Earth Sciences, Icelandair, the Association of European Airlines and the US Embassy in Iceland, will convene a **Conference on Eyjafjallajökull and Aviation** at Keflavik Airport, Iceland, on September 15-16, 2010.

Fundamental themes of concern to the air transportation industry today will be addressed in eight sessions covering the following topics:

- **What happened in Eyjafjallajökull?**
- **Why was Europe's airspace closed?**
- **What procedures were followed?**
- **What has been learned?**
- **What are the effects of volcanic ash on airplanes and can they be reduced?**
- **What steps are to be taken and by whom to minimize the threats that volcanic ash poses to aviation?**

Invited speakers come from civil aviation authorities in Europe, Russia, China and the US, the European Commission, OECD, EASA, FAA, Eurocontrol, airlines, airport and air navigation service providers, meteorological offices, as well as personnel from research organizations directly involved in supporting the aviation business, such as manufacturers like Boeing and Airbus and international and regional organizations. Top scientists will address the issues of volcanic eruptions and volcanic ash detection and distribution.

Patron of the Conference is the President of Iceland, Mr. Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson. Guest of Honour and invited speaker is Capt. Eric Moody, British Airways; *The captain who glided his B747 to safety out of volcanic ash over Java on 24 June 1982*. Conference Chairman is Dr. Thorgeir Pálsson, Professor at the University of Reykjavik and former Director General of the Icelandic Civil Aviation Administration and ISAVIA.

There will be opportunities for meeting colleagues during the two days, including the gala dinner on Wednesday 15 September, kindly hosted by Diamond Aircraft. Sightseeing tours to the "scene of the crime," Eyjafjallajökull, will be organized on the days before and after the conference, on the 14th and 17th of September.

We recommend that you enter these dates into your calendar and confirm your participation without delay by contacting the Conference Secretary. Please refer also to the conference website for details and to download the latest program; <http://en.keilir.net/keilir/conferences/eyjafjallajökull>

For more information please contact:
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**An Invitation
from
the President of Iceland
Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson**

In the middle of the Atlantic, at the crossroads of European weather systems, the youngest country on Earth has recently reminded the world how, through a combination of a volcanic eruption and enormous quantities of glacial ice, the forces of nature can produce huge ash clouds, impacting on nations far away, even disrupting for a while the travel plans of millions in different continents. For the first time since modern aviation became the pillar of international transport, a volcanic eruption has reminded all of us that our technological and economic systems must take into account the will of nature and how the Earth is capable of ultimate surprises.

Aviation stakeholders must now understand and adapt to this kind of potential disruption. Eyjafjallajökull has become a symbol of this situation, and thus it is appropriate to invite aviation leaders, experts and policy-makers to assemble at the recently established Keilir Aviation Academy at Keflavík International Airport, to discuss the lessons learned and how technology, rules, regulations and aviation training must be improved.

For us in Iceland it is important to make a contribution of this type to the constructive international dialogue that is now needed. Therefore we invite you all to participate in the Atlantic Conference on Eyjafjallajökull and Aviation. It will certainly be a worthwhile experience.



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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson".