

### ***Turkmenistan's Civil Aviation at a New Development Stage***

One of the key directions of the Turkmenistan's Transport and Communication Infrastructure Development Program is development of the civil aviation transport system.

In this connection the nation's leader initiated large-scale projects, which include both construction of new airports, terminals, engineering structures, as well as upgrading and rehabilitation of existing facilities, including regular replenishment of the aircraft fleet. With this regard, according to instructions by the President of Turkmenistan, the SNS "Turkmenhavayollary" has developed the National Program for Development of Civil Aviation of Turkmenistan for 2012-2030.

Establishment of a well-developed transport and communication system is one of the priorities of the state policy of Turkmenistan aimed at progressive social and economic development of the country and development of broad regional and international cooperation for the sake of universal well-being. Having an exclusively beneficial geographical location and being at the cross roads linking East and West, North and South, our country has a great transit potential, which it strives to realize to obtain maximum benefits.

Today the aircraft fleet of the State National Service "Turkmenhavayollary" is replenished by aircraft and helicopters of the latest generation from leading world's manufacturers. In recent years it was augmented by the most reputable types of Boeing aircraft and aerotechnics of other world-famous brands.

The choice of these types of aircraft by Turkmenistan is preconditioned by positive experience accumulated by the country when using them in international, regional and domestic flights, which is indicative of the competence of national civil aviation. This decision is also preconditioned by the striving to achieve high international standards of passenger services and ensure flight safety on all the routes of SNS "Turkmenhavayollary".

During the implementation of the National Program for Development of Civil Aviation of Turkmenistan for 2012-2030, the number of such aircraft will be 39. It should be noted that this is the number of the newest aircraft. The aircraft, which exhausted their operational lifetime will be removed from the structure of the aircraft fleet and replaced with the recently purchased ones.

As the obsolete fleet is replaced with the new types of aircraft and as the modern equipment is procured, there will be a need for well-trained specialists. Therefore, an important task

addressed by the aviators is personnel training. Turkmen specialists have been trained in United Kingdom, the USA and France. Specialists of SNS “Turkmenhavayollary” studied the experience of German and British airlines operating various types of aircraft, including more comfortable new generation aircraft – Boeing 737-700 and Boeing 737-800, which are the most popular models among all NG aircraft. They have earned a good reputation both on local routes and on medium-distance civil aviation routes.

At present, aircraft of SNS “Turkmenhavayollary”, in addition to domestic flights, operate regular flights to dozens of cities of the world: Moscow and London, Frankfurt and Birmingham, Bangkok and Delhi, Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Amritsar, Minsk and Almaty, Istanbul and Beijing. The geography of flights is continuously expanding. New flights have been opened to Paris, Saint-Petersburg and Kazan.

The National Program for Development of Civil Aviation of Turkmenistan envisages opening new air links along cost-effective routes in three phases. During the period till 2020: from Turkmenbashi airport to Ankara (Turkish Republic), Moscow (Russian Federation) and Aktau (Republic of Kazakhstan); from Ashgabad city airport – to Urumqi (People’s Republic of China), Novosibirsk (Russia), Antalya (Turkey), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Hanoi, Ho Shi Min (Socialist Republic of Vietnam), Riga (Republic of Latvia), Tbilisi (Republic of Georgia), Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan), Teheran (Islamic Republic of Iran).

Currently SNS “Turkmenhavayollary” operates flights along the new route Ashgabad – Kazakhn – Ashgabad and is preparing to launch flights to Milan, and is planning to link Novosibirsk and other cities of Russia with East Asian countries. Necessary conditions are created to start operating international air routes from Ashgabad to Munich, Rome, as well as Jeddah (Saudi Arabia).

Development of international passenger air services with many countries and continents is first of all linked by Turkmen aviators with operations of Boeing 777-200 LR. This will be a new step in development of air passenger services. Such aircraft will provide our travellers with an opportunity to fly to South, North Americas and other continents.

Civil aviation has been assigned a significant role in development of the national economy, expanding cooperation with other states. In recent years national civil aviation is developing at a fast pace, having become one of the leading sectors of the transport system economy of our

country. Performing the tasks specified by the National Program for Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan for 2011-2030, the workers of the air transport sector of the country successfully meet the targets on passenger and freight transport operations. Besides, they provide considerable assistance to farmers, stock-breeders, oil and gas workers. The growth rates of the volume of air services provided by the State National Service “Turkmenhavayollary” are increasing annually.

One of the key directions of the above mentioned Program is establishment of modern transport and communications infrastructure as the most important condition for diversification of the national economy, continuous progress of the state. In this connection the nation’s leader initiated large-scale projects in all transport sectors, including in civil aviation. They include construction of new airports, terminals and engineering and technical facilities, and upgrading and rehabilitation of existing ones, including regular replenishment of the aircraft fleet with new NG aircraft. The National Program for Development of Civil Aviation of Turkmenistan for 2012-2030 has been developed in this context.

The program consists of three phases: phase one - 2012-2015, phase two - 2016-2020 and phase three - 2021-2030. Its implementation envisages an expansion of existing production capacities, providing the newest equipment to the sector, training of highly-skilled specialists, procurement of super-modern aircraft, enhancing the culture and quality of services provided to passengers, as well as flight security and regularity, and, of course, construction and rehabilitation of existing airports, which shall correspond to all modern requirements set up for such facilities.

In general, when speaking about Turkmenistan’s commitment to further enhancement of mutually beneficial partnerships with representatives of leading international business circles in development of transport and communication infrastructure, one should note a specific focus of these large-scale plans on innovative technologies, advanced engineering and technical ideas and best global experience.

The new international airport in Ashgabad city was opened on September 17, 2016. Its air terminal has the optimal comfortable conditions for passengers arriving in Ashgabad and departing by local and international flights. They have at their service cozy waiting and registration halls, information boards, information bureaus, a sensor information system, ticket offices, internet cafes, post offices, public phones, rent-a-car and hotel booking services, exchange offices, ATMs, left-

luggage services, cafeterias, restaurants and duty-free shops. Besides, there are hotels for pilots and transit passengers, mother and child rooms, special play grounds for children, first-aid offices, newspaper kiosks and retail sales outlets, a conference room, etc. All conditions have been created to serve passengers with limited abilities.

Currently the areas for migration, border-guards and customs procedures, baggage claim areas, as well as offices of national and foreign airlines, ground handling and airport security services, customs, transport police, sanitary and quarantine control, the methodological center are all provided with necessary equipment.

The air terminal complex includes a fashionable VIP-building with all the conditions to receive high-level guests, to conduct meetings and conferences.

It is worth noting that the new international airport of Ashgabad city has a complete set of relevant auxiliary facilities, including a high-capacity cargo terminal with warehouses capable to process 200 thousand tons of cargo per year, a centralized refueling station for aircraft refueling, hangars for aircraft and helicopter maintenance.

The territory of the harbor is a home for a number of various facilities and administrative buildings, in particular, the enterprise of aviation transport “Turkmenistan” and the pilots’ department of the State National Service “Turkmenhavayollary”. Besides, a school has been opened to educate specialists for the aviation sector, where 600 people can study at a time, which also has a simulation module to train crews, and a medical and sports-and-health promotion centers, underground and open parking lots – for staff and for passengers.

You may know that in April 1993 Turkmenistan became a fully-fledged member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which is a specialized UN structure performing the role of a coordinator of international cooperation in all spheres related to civil aviation. This largest organization establishes international norms, standards and requirements needed to ensure air transport operations safety, reliability and efficiency. The very cooperation with the ICAO in many aspects contributed to successful integration of national civil aviation into the international system of air transport operations.

Social support to aviation sector workers is still one of the key issues. The State National Service “Turkmenhavayollary” has an up-to-date medical center, which provides prevention and health promotion services to pilots, cabin crews, ground staff and air controllers. Five 12-story

residential buildings with improved comfort and design, as well as nine four-story residential buildings have been commissioned.

Aviators of Turkmenistan are doing all they can to provide complete, modern, quality services to meet the needs of the national economy and the population in air services, improving cost-efficiency of their operations.

It is worth noting that in September Turkmenistan will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Games. And at present the international airport of Ashgabad city and the aviation enterprise “Turkmenistan” undertake great efforts to welcome sportsmen, coaches, journalists and guests of the capital city at a high level.

Implementation of the air transport infrastructure modernization project will contribute to further dynamic development of national aviation, stepping up mutually beneficial trade and economic and fruitful human relations, tourism and sports.