

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Rosemarie S. Andolino, Acting Commissioner



News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION HOSTS CHINESE DELEGATION AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Top-ranking officials from Civil Aviation Administration of China visit Chicago

CHICAGO - The Department of Aviation hosted members of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), along with airport leaders from Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Yunnan, and Xi'an, on April 20, 2009 at O'Hare International Airport. The delegation visited Chicago to learn and to share information and best practices regarding sustainable initiatives, as well as airport operational systems and procedures.

On April 7, 2009, the Chicago Airport System joined five other U.S. airport authorities in agreeing to participate in the U.S.-China Airports Environmental Partnership Program. The Program is designed to provide a forum for these airports to exchange best practices on airport environmental issues such as aircraft and vehicle emissions, terminal and airfield energy conservation, airport green construction projects, waste management and water quality. The goal is to promote aviation safety, environmental protection, and trade between China and the United States.

Director General of the CAAC, Zhang Guanghui, was among the distinguished guests to visit Chicago. He was joined by many of his top-ranking colleagues from various divisions of the CAAC, including safety, security and regional divisions. During their visit, the delegation toured O'Hare's airfield, which included a demonstration of the airport's state-of-the-art fire training facility and snow removal equipment. Acting Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie Andolino met with them and provided an overview and update on the O'Hare Modernization Program and its sustainable initiatives.

"I want to thank Director General Zhang Guanghui and his distinguished colleagues for coming to Chicago today, and agreeing to continue our dialog and information sharing," said Andolino. "We look forward to sharing our successes and learning from others through our involvement in the U.S-China Airports Environmental Partnership Program."

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration will provide policy guidance to the U.S.-China Airports Environmental Partnership Program, while the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP) will help identify priority environmental issues for joint cooperation, provide necessary personnel, and help design a U.S. study tour. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency, in cooperation with the ACP, provided development, coordination, and funding for an Airport Environmental Best Practices study as well as a study tour of U.S. airports that are leaders in environmental best practices.

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The other U.S. airport authorities participating in the U.S.-China Airports Environmental Partnership Program include the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

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The Chicago Airport System is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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Attached: Photo from press conference



Photo caption: On April 20, 2009, the Department of Aviation (DOA) and Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) held a press conference at O'Hare International Airport to announce their intention to work cooperatively to exchange best practices and approaches to mitigating environmental impacts of airport development.

Pictured: (speaking at the podium) Dr. Zhao Hongyuan, Deputy Director, Safety Division, Airport Department, CAAC; (behind from left to right) Geoffrey R. Jackson, Director, Policy and Program, U.S. Trade & Development Agency; an interpreter with the Chinese delegation; Rosemarie S. Andolino, Acting Commissioner, DOA; and Zhang Guanghui, Director General, Airport Department, CAAC.

Photo credit: Department of Aviation