

SPECIAL FEATURE:

THE ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES MULTINATIONAL AVIATION TRAINING CENTER.

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Last April, the city of Addis Ababa was full of jubilant events as Ethiopian Airlines celebrated its 60th year anniversary. During the various speeches and discussions reflecting on the inception and development of this magical Airline, a consensus has emerged that the secret of this Airlines excellent service for such a long time was the result of its exceptionally good training infrastructure.

Ethiopian Airlines has played the roll of a pioneer in the development of Aviation Knowledge and skill in Africa and the Middle East. Talking about pilots and technicians alone, the training center has trained and deployed around 2500 aviation maintenance technicians and over 700 commercial Airline Pilots. Out of these graduates, about 40% were third party trainees sponsored and sent by various nations and companies in Africa, Middle East and Asia. The geographical origin of these trainees was so diverse, that every nation in Africa and the Middle East had an employee or two trained by Ethiopian Airlines.

For many years, the Airline was forced to be self sufficient, because of its distance from the service centers of the developed world. As a result, the Airline dose a wide array of aviation service starting from the basic material processing like plating ,welding plasma spray etc to the overhaul of aircraft, engines and various components. In the area of marketing and finance, it does everything that an airline requires to function as a commercial airline. As a result, therefore, we have developed training capability for all of the requirements of a typical airline and also a typical maintenance base.

The first established training school was for cabin crew; and was immediately followed by a pilot training school. In the years 1957 to 1964, Ethiopian airlines training center immerged as a one stop shop for all core airline training services and had been further developing its capability for close to 50 years now.

To day aviation training has become a competitive business; and in many cases there is a concern that safety and regulatory preoccupation is being challenged and compromised by commercial objectives.

Ethiopian Airlines is an old company. Because of its traditional foundation, the classical concerns of reliability and safety are still very well knit in the very fabrics of its system. This is also true of its training philosophy

and instructional program. This is the reason why our graduates are truly seasoned commercial aviation professionals.

Because of this foundation, our training clients are always very pleased with the quality of the graduates produced by Ethiopian Airlines. This is actually proved by the high quality of overall services offered by Ethiopian Airlines and the testimony of many of our clients. Today, in the African continent, and in most parts of the globe for that matter, it is customary to see that most of the graduate technicians of Ethiopian Airline Training Center are at the top of technical profession.

In addition to the classical airline concerns it had carried through its long years of existence, there is yet an additional reason why the training center of the airline is among the few best of the world. And that is its association with an airline that does operations and maintenance by itself. Theory is everywhere in this era of information explosion; but practice can only be learned from a company that has accumulated a 6 decades century experience. Therefore Ethiopian Airlines Training center is one of the best training institutions in the industry because of its affiliation to a company of excellence in a wide range of aviation services, from maintenance to and marketing and operations.

Globally, the training business is taking new approaches. There are breakthroughs in training technology and in the technology of training. The business is becoming highly competitive. In realization of this, Ethiopian Airlines had appointed a French consulting firm to develop a business feasibility survey and prepare and identify up grade requirements.

In the year 2000, the consultant has confirmed that the Ethiopian Airlines Aviation Training Center has in deed business feasibility if upgraded and modernized.

Today, the airline is perusing the upgrade project intensively and welcoming partners in this regard.