

A3iR Con 2015 COMMUNIQUÉ

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERTS CONVENE IN PHOENIX TO DISCUSS ISSUES AFFECTING AVIATION AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

The 2nd annual Aviation/Aeronautics/Aerospace International Research Conference recently concluded at the University Conference Center/Hilton Airport in Phoenix, AZ. Leaders from across the globe gathered to address matters of critical research import to the aviation and aerospace community.

[Press Release](#)

Delegates from Australia, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey and the United States presented their latest research during multiple days of concurrent sessions, networking and dialogue.

Conference outcomes and recommendations:

- **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS).** The United States is falling behind in the development and integration of UAS into the National Airspace System. Subsequently, A³iR Con leadership issued a UAS collegiate challenge, inviting teams to gather at A³iR Con 2016, compete and further address timely UAS issues.
- **Diversity.** A³iR Con 2015 was attended by a multitude of presenters with diverse backgrounds and disciplines. Delegates cited that a lack of diversity is restricting the ability to be competitive and a need for improvement with regard to diversity and inclusivity within the industry. A recommendation was made to move forward on the development of an international center for diversity in aviation under the umbrella of A³iR Con.
- **Safety and human factors.** Experts in the field of safety and human factors addressed conference participants. NTSB Board Member Robert Sumwalt joined Drs. Harry Robertson, Richard Bloom and Vahid Motevalli engaging the audience in an interactive discussion on the state of global security and safety. Hon. Sumwalt also presented a review of aviation safety in 2014. Additionally, attendees were able to attend a recently unveiled post-crash survivability presentation by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA).
- **MH 370.** Multinational experts considered what happened to Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, while cautioning attendees against the belief and diffusion of conspiracy theories.

- **Emerging technologies and the prevention of cyber attacks.**
Sessions explored the role of UAS in proxy warfare, UAS threats, and consumer perceptions, among other incipient research.
- **Research.** A³iR Con highlighted the critical nature of aviation/aeronautics/aerospace research at all levels of the collegiate experience. Undergraduate and graduate student research poster competitions were held. Expert research attendees dialogued with student participants and awarded prizes in each category. Additionally, a session was held for top high school students on Saturday, January 17, which emphasized the need for aspiring students in the field to embrace research in every facet of their educational experience. These students were able to engage top-performing undergraduate researchers.

A³iR Con is presented by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University- Prescott, AZ in support of global scholarship and research. A³iR Con 2016 will be held January 14-17 in the Phoenix area. More information can be found at Commons.erau.edu/aircon. To receive information about upcoming conferences and research symposia, please contact praircon@erau.edu.

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