

Women in Aviation, International Launches India Chapter

Pioneers skilling and empowerment for women in Indian aviation

New Delhi, December 07, 2015: On the occasion of International Civil Aviation Day, Women in Aviation, International, (WAI) a non-profit organization that skills and empowers women in the aviation industry, today announced the launch of its India Chapter at the Embassy of the United States of America. The India chapter pioneered by Ms Radha Bhatia, Chairperson, Bird Group and mentored by Ms C J Collins, Senior Representative-South Asia, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will connect, educate and empower women across all verticals in the Indian aviation and aerospace industries.

“I believe that the Indian aviation sector offers immense opportunities for women to touch heights in their careers when provided with adequate guidance and support. With a firm belief to engage, educate and empower women through various initiatives to augment inclusive growth, I together with CJ Collins initiated the formation of India chapter of the Women in Aviation, International”, shared Ms Radha Bhatia, Chairperson, Bird Group. “The India chapter will provide women aspiring for a career in aviation to connect, engage and draw inspiration across all verticals such as commercial, operations, engineering, financial and human resource to achieve their dreams”.

Ms. CJ Collins, Senior Representative to South Asia, Federal Aviation Administration shared, “With the launch of WAI India chapter, we aim to educate, train and recognise women in aviation industry while empowering them with necessary skills and avenue of growth. Our goal will be to highlight career avenues in verticals which is largely dominated by men force such as manufacturing, leasing, law, engineering, MRO. ”

The India chapter of the Women in Aviation, International was jointly inaugurated by his Excellency, Mr. Richard R. Verma, the U.S. Ambassador to India and Secretary Rajiv Nayan Choubey, Ministry of Civil Aviation in the presence of its 15 founding members.

WAI was founded in 1990 as a non-profit organization to encourage the advancement of women in all aviation careers, and has more than 12,000 active members worldwide, with chapters located in eleven countries. This is the first WAI chapter in the South Asian region. The Ambassador and the Secretary congratulated the charter members of the WAI-India Chapter and reinforced their cooperation towards civil aviation, the empowerment of women, and India’s skills development initiatives. The Ambassador remarked that it is important that young Indian girls see these women in their aviation careers and see that aviation is a viable career path to pursue.

The members represent a diverse mix of professions related to aviation namely Neelam Pratap Rudy, Dr. Shefali Juneja, Director, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Neelam Mathews, senior correspondent Aviation and Defence, Travel and Tourism, and Engineering News Record, Dr. Ranjana Kaul, partner at Dua Associates, Chitra Sarkar Retired Executive Director Air India, Kiranjeet Jain, Vice President- Marketing, GMR, Captain Preeti Singh, pilot with SpiceJet and Shweta Singh, deputy chief flight operations inspector, DGCA.

About Women in Aviation

Women in Aviation, India chapter has been recognised by Women in Aviation, International with a view to promote women across various verticals in Indian aviation by providing networking, mentoring and scholarship opportunities for women who are striving for challenging and fulfilling careers in the aviation and aerospace industries. For more information, please visit: www.wai.org

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