

**ICAO TRIP Regional Seminar Hong Kong SAR, China 2017
11 - 13 July 2017**

Venue: Civil Aviation Department (CAD) Headquarters, 1 Tung Fai Road, Hong Kong International Airport, Lantau

**Welcome Remarks
Sarah Mathews
Chairperson, PATA**

- At the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), we believe that travel and tourism is a force for good. It is an industry that provides vital income and employment to local communities whilst creating a pathway towards understanding and empathy across borders and cultures.
- The issue of safety and security is always a topic of discussion and one that is often discussed between our partners at the Global Travel Association Coalition (GTAC), which also includes ICAO, in addition to UNWTO, WTTC, WEF, ACI, IATA, and CLIA
- We understand that safety and security is the number one priority for the travel and tourism industry and one that can only be addressed through the strong and concerted efforts of the world's governments and the international community.
- The ICAO Traveller Identification Programme (ICAO TRIP) Strategy offers a coordinated approach to contributing to border integrity not only for air transport, but also maritime and land. In addition, it provides significant steps forward for the future of the travel and tourism industry.
- One of the Association's advocacy themes is the issue of visa facilitation and the push for countries to either remove visa restrictions or enable e-visas. The ICAO TRIP Strategy strengthens traveller identification management and can allow destinations to reexamine their visa policies to encourage more international visitor arrivals.
- Furthermore, the Strategy would help with accurate collection of data which provides better resources for both the public and private sector to plan and develop accordingly.