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THE HONG KONG
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

Department of
**LOGISTICS
& MARITIME
STUDIES**
物流及航運學系

4th Workshop on “Aviation in Africa”

18th November 2021 – online

In cooperation with GARS, Bergamo University, Bremen University of Applied Sciences and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Huddersfield Business School Behavioural Research Centre will host the 4th Workshop on “Aviation in Africa” to be held online on **18th November 2021**.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Discuss the current state of commercial aviation in the region;
- Identify key factors that help shape the current air transport environment;
- Contribute towards a deeper understanding of air transport in Africa.
- Assess the role of air transport in a modal transport perspective
- Discuss the role of air transport as part trade, tourism and economic integration

The keynote speaker and panel members for the workshop have been confirmed and we are proud to present them.

Keynote speaker:

Professor Kenneth J. Button – Georges Mason University

Panel members:

- Dr Megersa Abate, Transport Economist – The World Bank
- Dr Panayotis Christidis, Senior Researcher – European Commission, JRC
- Mr Charles Ngwalla, Key Account & Alliances Manager – Astral Aviation Limited
- Professor Gianmaria Martini – University of Bergamo

The topic of this year’s workshop is ‘The African aviation industry a year after the covid-19 pandemic’.

It is well-documented that the aviation and hospitality industries have been hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic; this is no different in the African context. The continent is characterised, with few exceptions, by inefficient state-owned carriers which have been unable to compete prior to the crisis. On the other hand the majority of capacity across the continent is provided by state-owned carriers. While there have been substantial amounts of cash injection into the airline industry in advanced economies, little support has been mobilised for airlines in Africa. The

uneven support witnessed so far in the sector has the potential to distort the level playing field. At the domestic and regional level, while the recent years have witnessed the emergence of privately owned airlines, the operating environment remains arguably uncompetitive for these airlines, owing to high operating costs. This raises the question of the long-term viability of the african aviation industry. Thus, the potential structure of the industry post-Covid-19 and the impact of the Covid-19-induced aviation crisis on the african economies have hiterto been the subject of limited research.

Potential topics include:

- African air transport network contraction during the Covid-19 pandemic and its wider economic implications
- Impact of the Covid-19-induced tourism crisis on African economies
- Potential structure of the African aviation market post-Covid-19
- African's aeropolitics in a post-Covid world
- Domestic and regional air transport in Africa and their potential to relieve the tourism industry
- Impact of Covid-19 on airports and ATC
- Airline competition in Africa

We kindly invite you to contribute a paper or presentation to the workshop.

Your submission shall include:

- Title
- Authors' details (names, affiliations and email addresses)
- Up to 5 keywords
- A 200-word abstract, including your research goal

- Please send your submission to e.njoya@hud.ac.uk by 18th October 2021

The registration link will follow shortly!