

# Roberts International Airport



Liberia's Only International Airport  
*"A potential engine for economic growth"*

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# LOCATION

- Liberia, West Coast of Africa; pop: about 2.5 million; 43,000 sq. mi. (size of OHIO)
- RIA is located approximately thirty-five (35) miles from the capital Monrovia and approximately seven (7) miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean at about six degrees above the equator.
- Average elevation is 9 m above sea level
- Very scenic



# Airport Development Cont'd.

- Secondary rwy has long been abandoned, but part remains to date in use as an off-duty parking area for military aircraft.
- Two initial apron constructed in asphalt pavement measured around 57,000 sq. meters. Later extended by roughly 28,000 sq. meters in concrete pavement to comprise a total area of approximately 85,000 sq. meters.
- The terminal building, ancillary buildings and other facilities have been constructed in the area between the runway and Farmington River. A dual carriage way connects RIA with the city of Monrovia.

# Civil War / Post War Situation

- In 1990 the country became engrossed in a civil war which lasted until 2003.
- Airport like many other institutions suffered severe damage to the point that operations had to be suspended for several years. Rwy became inoperable due to craters and other damage as a result of bombings. Main terminal building was burned down and terminal operations transferred to a smaller building and currently being carried out in a converted cargo building.
- 1998 – 2002 rehabilitation works were undertaken under a grant from Republic of China on Taiwan; rwy pavement surface repaired; new navigational equipment installed and 3 fire trucks delivered.
- 2003 after peace agreement UN mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established; secured RIA and stationed troops which are still operating. Drafted standard operating procedures (SOP) which is a comprehensive guideline for UNMIL, BCA and RIAA to operate.
- GOL re-established the RIA Agency (RIAA) to manage the airport and its operations and maintenance.

# World Bank Sponsored Reports

- In 2005 the World Bank appointed NACO – Stewart Scott International Airport Consultants JV (NACO-SSI) to undertake an assessment of the airport so as to reinstate efficient operations as part of Liberia's Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program (LIRP).
- Two separate reports emerged: 1) Emergency Works required to meet minimum international standards per ICAO requirements: 2) Airport Master Plan Report
- Various items in the emergency works report were combined into six bidding packages in order to derive at a manageable implementation.

# Current Situation at RIA

- The World Bank has pledged and confirms to undertake bidding package No. 1 with a total grant of US\$500,000.00
- The US Government through USAID has also committed to fund the remaining bidding packages, the urgent measures and recommendations, and other pressing projects of RIA amounting to over US\$3.1 m.
- Process of implementation for the two grants thru international competitive bidding is ongoing.
- Liberian Government has provided US\$200,000.00 for the renovation and reconfiguration of the existing terminal building; Local contractor has been selected and works in progress.
- Every effort is being exerted in the short term to elevate RIA to meet minimum acceptable international standards.
- Legalization of RIA through articles of incorporation is in process so as to enable RIA attract private sector partnership and capital investment to undertake long term developmental projects, key of which is the reconstruction of a new modern terminal building.

# Airport Potentials

- Major gateway to Liberia
- Potential Engine for economic Growth
- Ideally Located; suitable location for Business Park – industries, offices, hotels, entertainment, water sports etc.; Export oriented – fisheries, flowers, rubber products etc. etc...
- Runway remains one of the best in West Africa
- Firestone Rubber Plantation just next door
- Regional hub; cargo hub. Potential to regain prewar status as a West African hub for many major airlines.
- Aviation training; Flight school; vocational / technical schools
- Airport City; modern airport surrounded by a thriving airport city.

# Liberia's New Democracy

- After 14 years of political dormancy and international isolation, the government of Madame Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first democratically elected female President, in a relatively brief period has committed itself to establishing a system of governance based on transparency, efficiency and accountability. This government has been highly instrumental in formulating and implementing domestic policies which have maintained our hard earned peace necessary for motivating investment and exhilarating the process of nation building.

# Private Sector Partnership

- Given the high cost of capital investment for airport development, government's financing is increasingly difficult due to pressure to finance other high priority services: social services etc.
- Global trend; commercial entity; improved management
- Source of tax revenue from profits
- Airport cities and market places; commercial activities



THANK YOU