



# WATS Exhibition

**Above, and below:** AAPA Chairman Chris Hine presenting on AAPA's experience in delivering a successful Rex cadet program; the AAPA exhibition booth.

The World Aviation Training Symposium (WATS), a conference and trade show event held in Orlando, Florida, is the largest aviation training tradeshow in the world. Held over a period of three days, from 19 to 21 April, this event drew more than 1,000 delegates from 100 airlines, nearly 400 companies and attendees from 50 countries. The Australian Airline Pilot Academy (AAPA) team, this time comprising AAPA Chairman Chris Hine, Chief Flying Instructor & GM Flight Operations Geoff Cook and Chief Operating Officer Jacqueline Pak, got a respite from cold and rainy Sydney and Wagga Wagga to fly halfway round the world to the sunshine state of the USA for this event.

Due to fast advancing aircraft and training technologies, unprecedented regulatory change, and continued commercial and environmental pressures in the aviation training industry, WATS 2011 was aptly themed 'A New Era in Global Aviation Simulation and Training'.

Besides the usual booth setup in the exhibition hall, AAPA Chairman Chris Hine was also invited to speak at the conference to share Rex and AAPA's experience in delivering a successful Cadet Program.

Some of what Chris Hine shared with the audience included the development of effective and stringent selection procedures customised to the needs of individual airlines, the development of an innovative syllabus that addresses the needs of the airline industry, and the incorporation of airline operating procedures into the cadet training in a comprehensive aviation training environment. The findings from studies done on the performance comparison between direct entry pilots and Rex Cadets generated significant interest from the crowd, especially in the light of the USA's Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010, which requires a minimum of 1,500 flight hours before a pilot is able to operate on regular public transport services.

It was definitely great exposure of the relatively young brand name of AAPA on the global front. ●

