# . Role of IATA (The International Air Transport Association)

The International Air Transport Association was founded in **1945** by the airlines of several countries to regulate the world’s civil air transport. It is the successor to the International Air Transportation Association founded at Hague in 1919.

As a non-governmental organization, it drew its legal existence from a special Act of Canadian Parliament in December 1945. It closely resembles the International Civil Aviation Organization in term of its activities and organizational structure.

IATA is a voluntary, non-exclusive, non-political democratic organization and its membership is open to any operating airline which has been licensed to provide scheduled air services by the government.

In fact it, it has become a multi-facet industry that affects nearly all the sector of the international and national economy. To develop and promote tourism at global, there are several international, national and regional travel and tourism promotion organizations such as [**WTO**](http://tourismnotes.com/world-tourism-organization-unwto/)**,**[**PATA**](http://tourismnotes.com/pacific-asia-travel-association-pata/)**,**[**ASTA**](http://tourismnotes.com/american-society-of-travel-agents-asta/)**, IATA**, and **ICAO**.

Apart from these promotional organizations, there are several travel trade organizations, with specifically deal with [travel agency](http://tourismnotes.com/travel-agency/) and tour operation business at regional travel, national and global travel.

## Objectives of IATA

IATA is purely a non-political, commercial regulatory organization and has powers to regulate every act of its constituents. The main objectives of IATA are:

* To ensure the safe, regular and economical air transport for the benefits of people worldwide.
* To provides a means of collaboration.
* To prevent economic waste caused by unreasonable competition.
* To encourage the art of aircrafts design and operation for peaceful purposes.
* To promote and develop international tourism.
* To provide a common platform for [travel agencies](http://tourismnotes.com/travel-agency/) and [tour operators](http://tourismnotes.com/tour-operators/).
* To provide training and education facilities for members.
* To cooperate with the International Civil Aviation Organisation and other international and national organizations.

## Membership of IATA

IATA has **two types** of members:

1. Active Members
2. Associate Members

IATA stands for the International Air Transport Association and is the official trade organization for the world’s airlines (more than 85 participating nations).For air carriers, IATA provides a polled resource for scheduling, traffic and routes, standardizing services and the creation of a worldwide public service for the air industry.

For consumers, IATA sets the international standard for services and business practices amongst member airlines. As an example, the three-digit airport codes used internationally are an IATA convention. Additionally, IATA aims to achieve the following mandate:

* To promote safe, regular and economic air transport
* To foster air commerce
* To study problems connected with airline industry
* To provide a means of collaborating between air transport companies and agencies
* To co-operate with other international air transportation organizations Essentially, IATA is airlines working together to standardize and improve service internationally Due to the vital role played by IATA in air transportation issues, it is recommended that you ensure that your carrier/forwarder is an IATA agent.