

GIORGIO BUFFA

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Purpose-driven and results-oriented senior aviation leader with more than 20 years of experience in structured and complex international business contexts. My unique combination of knowledge and expertise in airport operations, strategy, sustainability, and piloting planes, give me both a big picture and tactical perspective on aviation challenges.

Leveraging strong interpersonal skills, I am able to build trust with colleagues and stakeholders in order to facilitate coordination across agencies and make things done.

Passionate about sustainability and awarded a distinction from Warwick Business School (WBS) for a MBA's yearlong research on how the airport industry can manage its complex business while delivering a better world to future generations.

Currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration at WBS focusing on Strategy Implementation.

CAREER HISTORY

SENIOR MANAGER OPERATIONS

Jun 2023 – present

Hamad International Airport – MATAR Airport Operator

- Leading and managing Doha Airports' operations to ensure accountability and coordination across Safety, Security, Terminal, FM and BHS functions.
- Leader of the Operations Management Team, to assure that Doha airports operate with efficiency and in compliance with all regulatory requirements and established policies and procedures.
- Responsible for creating the "Matar Road map for Sustainable Development"; the blueprint for the long-term Airport Operator's sustainable growth.
- Responsible for creating, under C-suite sponsorship, the Matar's first sustainability strategy.
- Working with the Executive Committee to operationalize Corporate strategic change.

REGISTERED INSTRUCTOR

Mar 2014 – present

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

- Delivering expert instruction on Advanced Airport Operations.
- Delivering expert instruction on Emergency planning and response for airports, airlines, and GSPs.
- Designing and developing the training syllabus of the above-mentioned IATA courses.

MANAGER OPERATIONS

Oct 2017 – Jun 2023

Hamad International Airport

- Leading and managing HIA Airport operations, to ensure accountability and coordination across Safety, Security, Terminal, FM and BHS functions.
- Leader of the Operations Management Team, to assure that HIA operates with efficiency and in compliance with all regulatory requirements and established policies and procedures.
- Steered and amended plans and procedures in the interest of safety, security, and passenger experience, by COO authority, in particular during crisis and emergency situations.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Feb 2016 – Sep 2017

Hamad International Airport

- Achieved the full implementation of the Operations Management Team in the organisation.
- Conceived and designed the planning, training, and deployment phases of the Operations Manager role.
- Enhanced HIA safety performances by supervising the Airport Emergency strategy.

HEAD OF OPERATIONS

Nov 2012 – Jan 2016

Airgest, Trapani Airport

- Provided strategic leadership for all Airport Operations departments, including AOCC, Safety, Security, FM, BHS, and Terminal.
- Paved the way to the transition of the Aerodrome Licence under new EASA rules (CAR 139).

HEAD OF AIRSIDE

Sep 2010 – Oct 2012

Airgest, Trapani Airport

- Organised all aspects of airside operations, including airfield compliance and aerodrome manuals; achieved the first approval of the Aerodrome Manual from Italian CAA.
- Created a Bird Control Unit of 8 members, which reduced the number of bird-strikes by 75% in the first year of operations.

AIRLINE PILOT

Dec 2008 – Mar 2010

Alitalia Compagnia Aerea

- 1200 Hours on A32X family.

AIRLINE PILOT AND GROUND INSTRUCTOR

Nov 2003 – Dec 2008

Airone Airlines

- 4200 Hours on B737 2/3/4/800.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Warwick Business School (UK), DBA

2024 – 2028

Research focus: Strategic change

Warwick Business School (UK), Executive MBA

2017 – 2020

Strategic Leadership Specialism - Awarded with Distinction

Dissertation: *Developing a framework to evaluate Airport Operators' contribution to the UN Sustainable Agenda 2030 - Turning the SDGs into actions relevant to the Airport Industry.*

Parthenope University of Naples (ITA), BSc in Aeronautical Sciences

2011 – 2017

110/110 Summa cum Laude

Thesis: *Airport Emergency Readiness; Operational and Business analysis.*

The Wharton School, Executive Presence and influence

Jun 2024

HEC Paris, Leading the organization

Feb 2022

HEC Paris, Strategic leadership

Apr 2021

UBC Sauder School of Business, Business and Sustainability

Jun 2018

MIT Sloan Boston, Fundamentals of Finance for Technical Executives

Oct 2016

ICAO, Aerodrome Inspectors Certificate

Sep 2016

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sep 2012 – Jan 2016

Fly for Peace Organisation

- Founded in September 2012 the Fly for Peace Organisation, to promote peace, cooperation, intercultural and interreligious dialogue between different peoples of the Mediterranean.
- Conceived and conducted the Fly for Peace (FfP) event in July 2014, leading 80 personnel plus 280 volunteers. Specifically managed:
 - One humanitarian flight to bring humanitarian helps to the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
 - One International Air Show with five national aerobatics teams and 40 aerobatics pilots.
 - On Trapani promenade 30 stores, 2 concerts and 6 talk shows, with 2 planes on display. Impact: 200,000 visitors, 5 hours of live broadcast on RAI UNO (with 16% of audience share).
- FfP has been awarded in 2014 as best Italian No-profit event and third European best No-profit event, by the Italian (BEAit) and European (EuBEA) Best Events Awards.