

# MAKING THE PHILIPPINES MORE ACCESSIBLE

**Dexter Ampong,**  
General Manager,  
INAEC Aviation Corporation

Interview by Anthony Lam

Southeast Asia is home to some of the most beautiful islands and seas anywhere in the world. Often, access to these islands is limited to travel by sea or by smaller, more agile aircraft. Throughout the Philippines, in particular, there are hard to reach locations that are desirable not only for offshore oil and gas companies, but also to the tourism industry and aerial photographers. INAEC has made these and other sites in the region more accessible to its clients by providing services including contracted offshore (OGP) air transport, aircraft operations and management, aircraft maintenance,



medical evacuation, high-value cargo transport, and charter aircraft for banks, aerial photographers, and corporate executives.

Though it was officially founded on November 9, 1993, INAEC Aviation Corporation has roots that reach all the way back to 1932. Dexter Ampong, General Manager of INAEC, says,

“INAEC goes back to its founding in 1932 as Iloilo-Negros Air Express Corp. It was the first Filipino-owned civil airline in the Philippines, founded by sugar and shipping magnate Don Eugenio Lopez. After all of its aircraft were destroyed in World War Two, it was revived and eventually sold to another group that started Philippines Airlines. From then on, the company became the first Filipino airline to go international, offering routes to Hong Kong, Bangkok, San Francisco, Shanghai, and India. In 1993, INAEC was reincorporated and is now serving the oil and gas industry. Its other main businesses are corporate charter, aircraft management, FBO, and aircraft maintenance.”

Born from the heritage established by the ingenious INAEC, INAEC Aviation Corporation began in 1993 with one King Air 200 airplane and one Bell 206L3 helicopter. Today, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lopez Inc., a Filipino owned company, its fleet includes three SKA 350 turboprop airplanes, two AW139 helicopters, one Bell 429 helicopter, two EC135 helicopters, two AS355 F2 helicopters, and two AS350 B2 helicopters.

The company’s growth over the years is obvious just from the expansion of its fleet. “INAEC offers reliable aircraft, with a deep pool of aircraft to back up our commitment to clients,” said Ampong. Of course, on the road to such success, many challenges will crop up along the way. “INAEC is heavily involved in

the Oil and Gas industry which is growing, but with the current low oil price, potential clients are putting on hold their projects that require helicopter services,” noted Ampong.

INAEC is also driven by the vision of becoming the preferred air charter provider in Asia. With this guiding ethos, its concentrated mission is to provide safe, reliable air charter services that comply with both local and international standards. These values, handed down as part of the Lopez heritage, are a source of great pride to the women and men at INAEC, inspiring great dedication in all who work with the company.

The future looks bright for charter air service businesses in the Philippines and the ASEAN region, and even the entire Asia-Pacific. INAEC is committed to the long term potential of the industry, and will be keeping a keen eye on developmental opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

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