

# Innovations in Airport Operations – Pitfalls and Success Factors

Asia-Pacific Regional Innovation & Capacity Building Symposium 2023

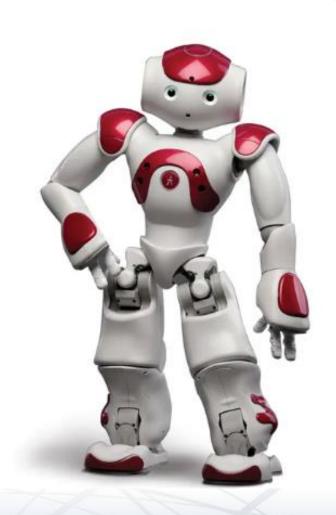
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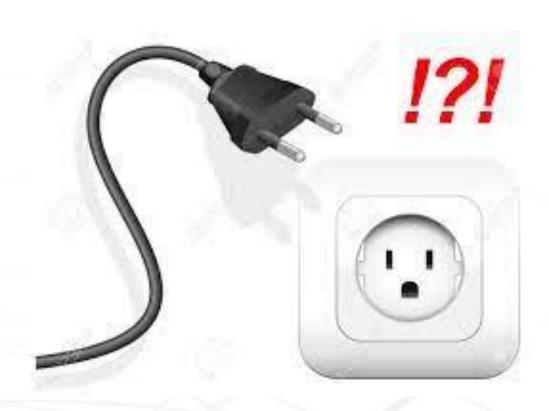


# Innovations could be an expensive toy if not properly applied





## Why? It may not be solving the problem





# A Sound Business Case Is always Based on Problem Solving



**Reduce Cost** 



**Improve Quality** 



#### In the Context of Airport Operations

#### Cost

- Improved operational efficiency
- Reduced manpower requirements
  - Automation (decision making, manual process)
  - Mechanization (heavy duty work)

#### Quality

- Safety
- Reliability
- Resilience
- Predictability



#### **Problem Definition of Paramount Importance**

- What is present situation?
- What is the problem?
- How may we solve it?
  - Explore alternative solutions
- What is the best solution?



#### **Problem Analysis**

- Qualitative and quantitative analyses
- Traffic forecast
  - Volume
  - Type (fleet mix)
- Operational and CAPEX analyses



## **Examples of Ground Ops Problems**

- Faster turnaround needed
  - for better economic efficiency of stands
- Manpower costs
- Safety



## **Most Promising Technologies**

- Cloud based computing and Al
  - Optimized resource allocation (aircraft stand, baggage belt)
- 5G communication
  - High speed real time data transmission
  - For optimization and automation
- Machine vision
  - Image analytics
  - Data collection



# "There is no machine that has common sense",

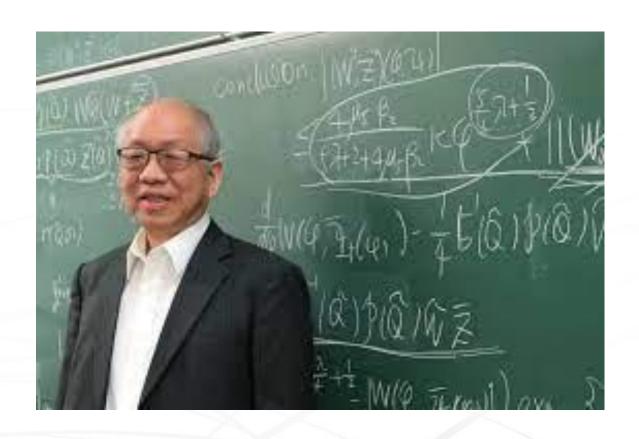


Alicia Troncoso

President of the Spanish Association of Artificial Intelligence



#### Al No Match for Innovative Human Minds



Yau Shing Tung, Fields Medal Winner 1982



#### **Common Pitfalls in Applying Technologies**

- No sound business case nor clear and agreed problem statement
  - Not fit for purpose
  - Under-designed or overdesigned
  - Sometimes a simple solution could have solved the problem
- Poor project management
  - Cost and time overruns



#### **Common Pitfalls (cont')**

- No feedback or review after implementation
  - Did not defined KPI
    - Operating costs
    - reliability
  - System falls into disuse
- Didn't <u>Optimize</u> system before implementing technology
  - Automating an inefficient system = Doing something inefficient in an efficient manner



#### **Key Success Factors**

- Collaboration
  - Operator, regulator, technological suppliers, research institutes
- Stakeholder engagement
  - Agreed problem statement and KPI
- Encouragement and sharing
  - ACI APAC & MID Award for Innovations in Airport Safety
  - ACI World Technology Innovation Awards



#### **Sharing Fosters Innovation**





<sup>\*</sup> ACI APAC & MID Award for Innovations in Airport Safety will be launched in 2024



#### **Key Success Factors (Cont)**

#### Cultural change

- Characteristics of innovative teams\*
  - Adequate delegation of power and decision making
  - Knowledge sharing
  - Opportunity to debate
  - Team work and trust between team members
  - Respect for individuals and differences in values
  - Dare to ask dumb questions

<sup>\*</sup> How to be Innovative to Improve Safety? ACI Asia-Pacific, 2020



### **Concluding Thought**

Innovative technologies may help solve problems but ingenuity is the exclusive domain of the human mind